July 7, 2016

Time to fix the M1 mess

Jo Coghlan, Dr
SCU expert tips Elliot to win in tight race

Northern Star, Lismore NSW, General News, Sue Gardiner 02 Jul 2016

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Early poll


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Labor is tipped to hold seat


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LNP saw Forde danger

Gold Coast Bulletin, Gold Coast QLD, General News, Andrew Potts 04 Jul 2016

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Hanson eyes Coast seat
Gold Coast Bulletin, Gold Coast QLD, General News, Andrew Potts
05 Jul 2016
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Time to fix the M1 mess
Albert & Logan News, Brisbane, General News
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74,451 CIRCULATION
SCU expert tips Elliot to win in tight race

Sue Gardiner
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LABOR’S Justine Elliot is likely to retain the marginal Federal seat of Richmond with a 1-2% increase in her two-party preferred vote, according to Southern Cross University Australian Government lecturer Jo Coghlan.

That’s if the Roy Morgan Research released on June 15, which had the Greens nearly doubling their support to 29% locally, was inaccurate as Ms Coghlan believes it was.

“It just doesn’t ring true,” she said.

But if the polling was correct, Ms Coghlan said Labor and the Greens would battle it out on a two-party preferred basis with about 1000 votes between them.

She said nationally, support for the Greens had remained steady.

“The Greens should be happy with 15% of the primary vote which would give Elliot a 1-2% increase in her two-party preferred vote,” Ms Coghlan said.

She said this election was likely to see many previously rusted-on Labor voters across the country drift back after experiments with minor parties at previous elections, consolidating Labor-held seats like Richmond.

Ms Coghlan said Nationals’ candidate Matthew Fraser had largely pushed the federal line of “jobs and growth” during the campaign, which lacked emotional punch and localisation.

“On the ground, what does jobs and growth mean if I live in Tweed Heads?” she said.

She said by contrast, families could relate to Labor’s campaign against Medicare “privatisation”.

“Fraser needed to localise his campaign a bit more,” she said.

“She hasn’t articulated well how the national policies are going to be very beneficial.

“Jobs and growth isn’t emotional. People understand it on a theoretical level, they get it, but it doesn’t resonate.”

Mrs Elliot, who is backed by Sportsbet punters at $1.15, said she was not counting on a win.

“I honestly don’t take anything for granted,” she said this week.

She said threats to Medicare under the Coalition had been the main issue this election.

More than 12,000 Tweed Shire residents have already pre-polled for this federal election.

However, some voters were upset by “Medi-scare” with nasty feedback posted on Mrs Elliot’s Facebook page.

Mr Fraser said he was sensing a mood for change and limited grassroots campaigning by Mrs Elliot indicated she expected to win.
Early poll

12,000 have already made their pick for Richmond

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THE Tweed Shire goes to the polls today after a marathon eight-week federal election campaign.

It’s finally safe to answer your landline again after a raft of electioneering robo-calls have pestered residents for days.

But thousands of us have already cast our votes.

As part of a national trend, more than 12,000 enrolled voters have pre-pollled at Tweed Heads, Tweed Heads South and Murwillumbah over the past couple of weeks.

“It is a significant increase (on past years),” said Richmond Divisional Returning Officer Vicki Kapernick.

There’s also been more than 7000 local applications for postal votes.

That means if the result is close tonight, it could take days to count all the votes and until an official result is known.

Pre-poll voting usually favours the incumbent candidate, said Southern Cross University Australian politics lecturer Jo Coghlan.

Nearly 2.2 million Australians had cast their votes before today compared to 1.5 million for the same period at the last election in 2013.

Justine Elliot is the frontrunner to retain the seat of Richmond which takes in the Tweed Shire and in which six candidates are standing.

Voting booths are at most public schools plus Tweed Heads PCYC and Seagulls Club.

Fines of up to $180 apply for failing to vote.
Labor is tipped to hold seat
Fraser says he's in the race

Sue Gardiner
Sue.Gardiner@tweeddailynews.com.au

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But if the polling was correct, Ms Coghlan said Labor and The Greens would battle it out on a two-party preferred basis with about 1000 votes between them.

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Mrs Elliot, who is backed by Sportsbet punters at $1.15, said she was not counting on a win.

"I honestly don't take anything for granted," she said this week. She said threats to Medicare under the Coalition had been the main issue this election.

However, some voters were upset by "Medi-scare" with nasty feedback posted on Mrs Elliot's Facebook page.

Mr Fraser said limited on-the-ground campaigning by Mrs Elliot indicated she expected to win comfortably.

However, he said he was sensing a mood for change, even among previous Greens voters, who realised the Coalition was likely to be returned to office, so were supporting a candidate that would be in government.

Mr Fraser said at the Byron Bay pre-polling, a tough area for conservative candidates, he had sensed far more support than his 2013 tilt at the seat.

He said after Mrs Elliot's 12 years in office, some thought it was time to give another candidate a go.

"We think we're in contention to win," he said.

The battle for the seat, held by just a 1.6% margin, has attracted national and even international attention.

The Tweed has had visits from most of the major political players including Greens leader Richard Di Natale, One Nation's Pauline Hanson, Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce and Labor...
leader Bill Shorten.

On Wednesday, comedian Shaun Micallef featured an amusing parody of Greens candidate Dawn Walker on his program, Mad As Hell, sending up her party’s policy to pay artists in between jobs.

Animal Justice Party candidate Angela Pollard was interviewed by a Japanese media outlet this week, while Sky News and 7.30 Report have featured Richmond.
LNP saw Forde danger

Coalition fears believed to have been behind Turnbull visit to announce M1 funding

ANDREW POTTS

A TOP political expert believes Malcolm Turnbull’s last-minute visit to the seat of Forde showed the Liberals knew the seat was in danger.

Only 149 votes separate Labor challenger Des Hardman and LNP incumbent Bert van Manen in the seat, with counting due to resume tomorrow.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited the electorate in the dying days of the campaign to pledge $115 million towards the upgrade of the congested motorway north of the Gold Coast, including a fifth lane from the Gateway Motorway merge past Rodeldale Rd off-ramp in Brisbane.

Mr Turnbull also promised a further $110 million to widen a 5km stretch of the MI between Mudgeeraba and Reedy Creek.

In contrast, Labor leader Bill Shorten failed to visit, despite committing to putting up $168 million to upgrade the merge.

Southern Cross University political expert Dr Jo Coghlan said the late campaign appearance in Forde by Mr Turnbull showed the Coalition feared for the seat.

“The fact that Turnbull turned up showed that the Coalition felt they needed his presence in the seat because it was in danger,” she said. “Parties make strategic decisions for visits by the leader based on whether they think it would help and a lot of careful thought is put into where these resources are deployed.”

McPherson MP Karen Andrews took aim at Labor for failing to match the Coalition’s promise of funding to improve the southern section of the MI.

“The outcome of the election may not be known for several days but the Coalition has promised $110 million to continue the upgrade to the MI while federally Labor has not committed any funding,” she said.

State Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey has promised to work with whichever party forms the next government to secure funds for the works.

The Palaszczuk Government is demanding the federal government pay 80 per cent of the cost, as opposed to the 50/50 split proposed by Mr Turnbull.

“I will go in to bat for the Gold Coast no matter who forms government because there are two key upgrades which need doing,” Mr Bailey said.

“The MI is clearly a big issue at this election and if the Turnbull Government does hold power they must reassess their attitudes to the Gold Coast and in particular, the funding of their own road by their own rules, just like it is done across the border.”
Labor ahead by just 149 votes as country's gaze turns to Coast

VOTERS from the northern edge of the Gold Coast may determine our next Prime Minister.

Labor is ahead in the seat of Forde and should the swing play out, along with 10 other seats around the country, it will topple the Turnbull Government.

The stunning turnaround could see Des Hardman replace the LNP’s MP Bert van Manen.

Political experts said late polling may have suggested Forde was a danger, with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull appearing two weeks ago to promise M1 upgrades.

“The fact that Turnbull turned up showed that the Coalition felt they needed his presence in the seat because it was in danger,” Southern Cross University political expert Dr Jo Coghlan said.

Hardman has 50.13 per cent of the vote on a two-party preferred basis. He was 149 votes ahead yesterday.

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Hanson eyes Coast seat

One Nation plans to run candidates for State Parliament after high federal vote

ANDREW P OTTS
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POLITICAL experts tip the Gold Coast’s traditionally conservative voting base could be split by a resurgent One Nation as Pauline Hanson plans a polling blitz along the Glitter Strip.

The triumphant Senator-elect is celebrating her return to Parliament after 18 years and now is eyeing up bringing the party back to state politics.

One Nation will run candidates for Parliament at the state election, due in 2018, with the Gold Coast set to be a major battleground.

The city’s 10 seats are all held by the LNP but leading conservatives are on edge after One Nation polled better than expected at local federal booths on Saturday.

In the northern seat of Fadden, candidate Brendan Ball raked in 11.3 per cent of the vote to come a surprising third behind incumbent Stuart Robert.

Mr Ball, who spoke with Ms Hanson on Saturday night, is now being courted to contest a state seat at the next poll.

“I need a break now but people are on to me about running at the upcoming election,” he said.

“There is every chance we will keep the momentum going and make a real showing of it.

“I think the high vote for One Nation showed strong disillusionment with the major parties.”

One Nation won a shock II seats in State Parliament in 1998, a move which left the Borbidge Coalition government devastated and helped deliver government to Labor.

And it could happen again according to leading political expert Professor Steven Stockwell.

“Typically if the conservative vote is split then Labor does rather well out of it so it will be interesting to see what happens,” he said.

“If they run there is the potential for One Nation as a third party to pull a few seats (in State Parliament) in a number of electorates where people are dissatisfied with the economic situation.

“The chances of One Nation in the State Parliament cannot be dismissed.”

Ms Hanson is expected to be joined in the federal Upper House by at least one other One Nation senator, with some experts tipping a third candidate could join them by the time counting is finished.

The former MP for Oxley yesterday fronted the media in Brisbane and called for a royal commission into banking.

The weekend turnaround on the Gold Coast came three years after the party managed to secure just 503 votes in Fadden.

Southern Cross University political expert Dr Jo Coghlan said One Nation’s high Gold Coast vote reflected the departure from the electoral scene of the Palmer United Party as well as a frustration with the major parties.

“There is a lot of support for third-party conservatives here while the other states often favour centrists and Left candidates,” she said.

“This is the Palmer factor in play here and these voters who went with One Nation this time do not have a political home anymore ...

“A little bit of the vote came back to Labor at this election but many went back to Hanson after the end of Clive Palmer.”
Time to fix the M1 mess

STATE Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey has called on the Federal Government to “reassess their attitudes” to M1 funding if the Coalition retains government.

As the News went to print, the key federal seat of Forde remained on a knife edge, with postal votes set to determine the outcome.

The ALP’s Des Hardman was just pipping LNP MP Bert van Manen, but a final result might not be known for weeks.

“The M1 is clearly a big issue at this election and if the Turnbull Government does hold power, they must reassess their attitudes,” Mr Bailey said.

“In particular, the funding of their own road by their own rules, just like it is done across the border.”

Mr van Manen had held a 4.4 per cent margin in Forde entering the election.

However, Southern Cross University political expert Jo Coghlan said Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull’s 50-50 M1 funding announcement in Loganholme 10 days from polling day was a sign the seat was in danger.

“Parties make strategic decisions for visits by the leader based on whether they think it would help and a lot of careful thought is put into where these resources are deployed,” she said.

In contrast to the Coalition’s demand for a 50-50 funding split with the State Government, Labor had come to an 80-20 funding agreement to upgrade a 4.5km stretch, southbound, from the Eight Mile Plains merge.

Mr Hardman said the result was “out of my control now” and he had to “sit tight”.

TO PAGE 4

MARSDEN

Race for Forde

FROM PAGE 1

Mr van Manen, who was confident postal votes would see him retain the seat he first won in 2010, said voters rewarded Labor for running a negative campaign “which is sad for the country”.

Federal LNP MP for Wright Scott Buchholz and federal Labor MP for Rankin Jim Chalmers were returned comfortably.