

John Robertson MP

NSW Opposition Leader



November 19, 2011

MAJOR BOOST FOR LABOR IN CLARENCE BY-ELECTION

VOTERS SEND A MESSAGE TO BARRY O'FARRELL

Voters in the Clarence have sent a strong message to the O'Farrell Government tonight, delivering a 19 per cent primary vote swing towards Labor in the Clarence by-election.

This represents a tripling of Labor's primary vote since the March state election and should deliver a 17 per cent two-party preferred swing away from the Coalition.

This is the largest 2PP swing against the National Party in a by-election ever recorded.

Opposition Leader John Robertson is in Grafton tonight, celebrating with Labor's candidate Peter Ellem and campaign supporters.

"This is the first step on the long road back for Labor," said Mr Robertson.

"The people of the Clarence have sent a strong message to Barry O'Farrell tonight.

"They've said no to privatisation, no to service cuts, no to cuts to the Police Death and Disability Scheme and no to the rampant expansion of the Coal Seam Gas industry in Northern NSW.

"Labor ran a back-to-basics campaign in the Clarence, on issues that matter to regular people.

"Tonight's result proves that when Labor listens to the community and works hard to earn their trust, voters will respond.

"Labor has performed better in this by-election than anyone could have expected only eight months after the devastating state election loss.

"Tonight is a big win for Peter Ellem and Labor."

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