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MEDIA RELEASE

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Nick McKim MHA
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LIBERAL'S SECRET COLLUSION WITH EXCLUSIVE BRETHREN

The Tasmanian Greens today responded to revelations that the Liberal Party colluded closely with Exclusive Brethren members in an anti-Green smear campaign which vilified minority groups at the last state election, saying that this year's Federal election would feature similar attacks on the Greens.

Greens Acting Leader Nick McKim MHA said that Liberal Director Damian Mantach, and the Liberal Party's advertising agent Mr Chris Guesden, previously attempted to claim that three Tasmanian newspapers billing Mr Guesden's Liberal Party account for Exclusive Brethren advertisements had been 'an administrative error', but that the *Mercury* and the *Advocate* newspapers have both confirmed that in fact specific instructions were issued to that effect.

Mr McKim said that the episode reinforced the need for stronger disclosure laws in Tasmania so that voters know exactly who is paying for political advertising.

"Moderate Liberal supporters should be outraged that their party would vilify minority groups by colluding secretly with an organisation like the Exclusive Brethren which does not allow its members to vote or use computers."

Mr McKim called on Liberal Leader Will Hodgman to come clean on the full extent of the collusion between the Exclusive Brethren and the Liberal Party.

"Mr Hodgman needs to explain exactly why the Liberal Party effectively outsourced their smear campaign to the Exclusive Brethren at the last state

election, and commit to ensuring that it does not occur next time.”

Mr McKim said that the Greens are proud of their policies of tolerance, inclusion and respect for diversity, and that attacks from organisations like the Exclusive Brethren and the Liberal Party would only strengthen the Greens’ determination to continue to promote these policies.



Source: http://tas.greens.org.au/News/view_MR.php?ActionID=2338

