



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR DENISON

13 AUG 2013

The Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you in your capacity as leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) to express my concern with advertisements being approved by the Tasmanian Branch of the ALP.

Very similar advertisements (the Objectionable Advertisements) have appeared in print and on at least one billboard featuring an image of me and the Hon Tony Abbott MP shaking hands with the slogan "Vote Wilkie = Get Abbott". This comment is highly objectionable for at least the following reasons:

1. It is personal defamation. Through the words and image the Objectionable Advertisements imply that I would make a deal with Mr Abbott after the election to install him as Prime Minister, even though I've stated publicly on numerous occasions that I would do no deal with any party to help them form government. To imply I would act contrary to what I have stated publicly is to imply I have lied. This is dishonest and defamatory.
2. It is misleading. The use of similar colours and layout to my own election material could be interpreted as me running the Objectionable Advertisements, in order to publicise me having an intention to support Mr Abbott after the election, or having some other association with the Liberal Party. The prominence and widespread circulation of the Objectionable Advertisements have resulted in this misleading message being seen by many people and may lead to misinformed voting.

I ask that you instruct the Tasmanian Branch of the ALP to immediately cease running all Objectionable Advertisements and remove any existing Objectionable Advertisements, such as billboards, including any similar variations thereof.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Denison
cc Mr John Dowling, State Secretary of Tasmanian Labor