

FEDERAL ELECTION

Battle for top job heats up

CANDIDATES EYE THE SEAT OF MENZIES

Andrew Rogers

A LABOR candidate and an independent who describes himself as a “pro-Turnbull moderate Liberal alternative” will be battling it out with Kevin Andrews for the seat of Menzies.

And with only six weeks until the July 2 Federal Election, the battlegrounds are being drawn by Labor candidate Adam Rundell and independent candidate Stephen Mayne as they head out to the hustings to meet the voters.

Mr Mayne, a Melbourne city councillor who lives in Templestowe, hopes his candidacy will help make the electorate a marginal seat.

“I’m aiming for Kevin Andrews to have one of the biggest swings against him in the country, I want to push his vote down in to the 40s from 59 last time,” Mr Mayne said.

“He’s stayed too long. He’s probably going to wind up as the longest serving MP in the whole parliament – he’s a serial candidate.”

Mr Mayne said Mr Andrews was “a hardworking local member” but was critical of his record on advocating for funding for local works.

“In terms of delivering capital for projects his



Labor candidate Adam Rundell talks to locals Dina and Adam Gacovski. Candidate Stephen Mayne (top) and Kevin Andrews.



record has been pretty sparse over the years,” he said.

Mr Mayne said Federal funding had not been forthcoming because Menzies was “so safe”.

“Roads are crumbling, and there’s little federal support for any council infrastructure projects.

“I think you’ve got to make Menzies matter by

making it a marginal seat because it gets taken for granted,” he said.

Mr Mayne said he would present himself as a pro-Turnbull moderate Liberal alternative, unlike Mr Andrews who he said still supported Tony Abbott.

St Kilda resident Rundell failed to crack into the Victorian State Parliament in 2014 when he unsuccessfully stood for the seat of Bulleen.

He feels he has since gained some traction in the area stemming from his earlier campaign. And he says

he’s familiar with the area having lived in Doncaster previously – and plans to move back.

Mr Rundell said he wanted to offer voters a progressive option.

“I am trying to present another option for the people of Menzies who are not quite as far to the conservative side as Kevin Andrews.”

Mr Andrews said he had a strong record of delivering for the electorate including; hundreds of extra aged care beds, funding for roads and for local community groups.

“I have been and will continue to be a strong advocate for building the East West Link and I’m fighting for the missing North East link between the Metropolitan Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway or EastLink.”

Mr Andrews said he still worked with Manningham Council and was working closely with Mr Turnbull for the re-election of the Coalition Government.

Who do you think will win the seat? Email us at manningham@leadernews.com.au

fast lane

Reserves’ future

Have your say about the future of Dorney Reserve in **Park Orchards**, and Lawford Reserve in **Doncaster**. Manningham Council wants to know what you think. Details: 9840 9129

Business awards

The **Manningham Business Excellence Awards** are now open. Entries close on July 29, and all Manningham businesses are invited to enter the life-changing awards, which showcase excellence in local businesses. Details: 9840 9333


Chief appointed

The Eastern Domestic Violence Service Board has appointed Jenny Jackson as its new chief executive. Ms Jackson brings more than 20 years’ experience in the women’s, health and community sectors. The group is a specialist and responsive family violence service, providing services to women and children who have experienced domestic or family violence.

Nominate now

Now’s the time to recognise those making exceptional contributions to social justice in Australia, by nominating them for a HESTA Community Sector Awards. The awards close on August 19. Finalists will be announced on October 18.

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