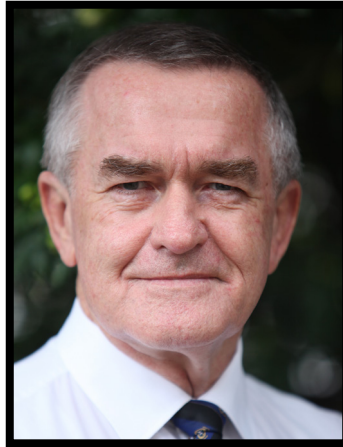


# *media release #1*



## **GREG McMAHON**

**INDEPENDENT SENATE CANDIDATE for QUEENSLAND  
FEDERAL ELECTION - 2 JULY 2016**

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### **Whistleblower advocate, anti-discrimination campaigner, army officer and engineer to stand as an Independent candidate in the July 2 Senate election**

One of the University of Queensland's most widely credentialed graduates, and a man with a distinguished career as an engineer, leadership and management consultant, army officer and anti-discrimination campaigner in the Defence Force, has nominated as an Independent Senate candidate for the forthcoming Federal election.

With Bachelor degrees in Engineering, Science, Commerce and Economics, and Masters degrees in Engineering Science and Economics, as well as a significant range of other qualifications, Greg McMahon has decided to take his skills and experience into the political arena.

In announcing his decision to run for the Senate as an Independent candidate, Mr McMahon says his election as President of Queensland's Whistleblower Action Group, the encouragement of the whistleblower community, friends and colleagues gave him the impetus to stand.

"Systemic wrongdoing, and the politicised response of many institutions to disclosures of such wrongdoing, have caused people from all walks of life to lose confidence in those institutions," Mr McMahon said. "In too many cases, the public interest is not being served. Voters are dissatisfied with their politicians and governments. They want and deserve a better response."

"At our last federal election, it appears, despite our compulsory voting system, nearly 20 per cent of eligible voters, about 3 million Australians, 'opted out' by either failing to enrol to vote, not showing up to vote or voting informally.

"That is a vote of no-confidence in the system, which people see as broken and not being fixed."

"What I have in mind is more than giving voters an alternative. If one member of every family gives me a vote, I will be enabled to set out for fellow senators several alternatives with which the Senate, as a body, may rebuild government and trust, and become a House of Action and Reform. And your family will have helped in that turnaround."

"The Senate can be the engine room that produces better government in this country, and, by the way, in the case of Queensland, without an Upper House, the Senate is the only hope we have when some light needs to be shone on what happens in the dark corners of this State. And there is a great need for that to be done."

### **What needs to be done?**

Firstly, the courageous people who show leadership and integrity by disclosing wrongdoing within the government (involving very serious matters and even the waste of millions of dollars of taxpayers' money) need to survive the inevitable retaliations. To date, after more than 20 years of their existence, the efforts of Ombudsman Offices, various corruption commissions and other watchdog organisations have not achieved this. Retaliation rates against these people to whom we should be grateful are high and have been increasing.

**I will advocate a new legislative and funding regime for the protection of whistleblowers, which will be more successful in achieving their survival. If the whistleblower survives, then their disclosures will survive, and the public pressure to have the wrongdoing fixed will be sustained.**

Secondly, with the failure of the watchdogs, the only mechanisms that enable disclosures of wrongdoing to be addressed appear to be the inquiries established by the Senate, and the commissions of inquiry that the Senate can recommend and promote. But the processes involved need to be improved.

**The Senate is a suitable body for undertaking initiatives to reform inquiry processes. I will work to see these occur.**

Thirdly, there are areas of government, industry and community where instances of wrongdoing, within the Federal jurisdiction, have accumulated to such an extent that investigations are merited now.

**I will propose particular inquiries when elected.**

Fourthly, there are areas of government within Queensland that have sufficient connection with the Federal Government that an investigation into them should be undertaken now.

**I will move for such investigations to be undertaken when elected to the Senate.**

Fifthly, the Senate has the standing to lead the community of elected officers at Federal, State and Local government levels in developing the concept of public leadership. The Senate can lead the way and set the example and influence those in power to adopt a public leadership ethic and better serve the Australian community.

**Development of the notion of public leadership may reverse the situation in which politicians and the political process have lost the support of so many people in this country. There is an urgent need for this reversal to occur. A committed independent voice in the Senate can help bring this about.**

I will expand upon these initiatives in coming weeks, and I will deal with and respond to other issues as they arise during the campaign.

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