

NEWS

Minchin tells Liberals to vote no

ABOUT 25 people gathered at Tailem Bend's Riverside Hotel on Thursday night to hear why people should vote no in a referendum on Local Government.

Former Howard Government Minister Nick Minchin was the guest of honour and addressed the crowd as to why he thought people should reject calls to include councils in the Australian Constitution.

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick was one of the branch members at the meeting and said Mr Minchin delivered a well reasoned case, one that Mr Pederick said he agreed with.

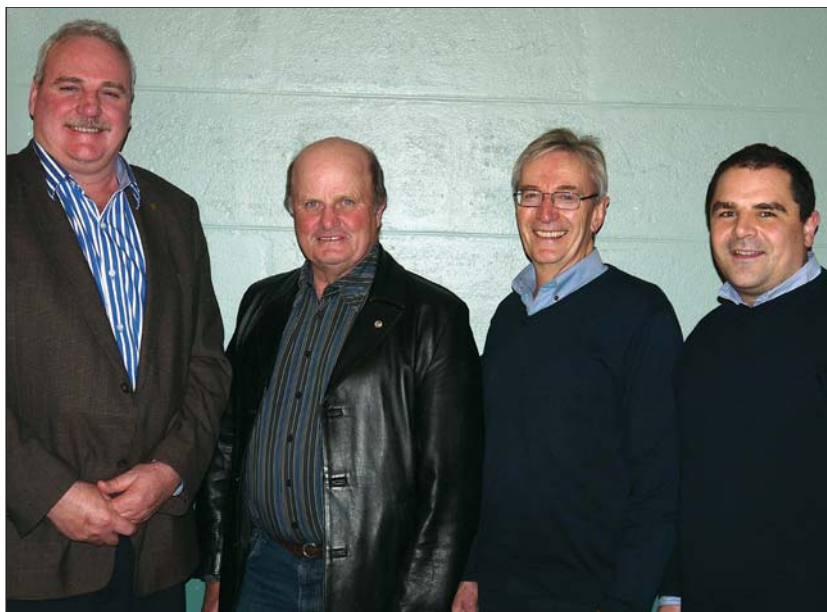
Mr Pederick said the meeting heard that including councils in the consti-

tution would undermine the federalist principles upon which Australia was founded and could be viewed as an attack on state governments.

The meeting also heard that threats to the ability of federal governments to fund local governments had been overstated and that the change could turn council funding into a political tool.

Local government representatives were invited to the meeting to put the yes case, however, none took up the offer.

The Federal Opposition has stated its support for a change to the Constitution, however, the South Australian Liberal Party's policy is to oppose the change.



A liberal party: Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, Lower Murray Liberal branch president Neville Mueller, former Howard Government Minister Nick Minchin and Liberal candidate for Barker Tony Pasin pictured after Mr Minchin's speech on Thursday.