

# Zed leaves Brindabella behind

## Bresnan says he lacked honesty

By Meredith Clisby  
 OUSTED Greens MLA Amanda Bresnan says while former Liberal leader Zed Seselja has not abandoned his electorate he could have been more honest about his plan to run for the Senate.

The former Member for Brindabella lost her seat in the 2012 ACT election after a surge in support for the Canberra Liberals.

Ms Bresnan said while there had been talk of the senate hopeful abandoning his electorate she did not think this was the case.

"I think he could have been a bit more honest about what his intentions were," she said.

"It's been the worst kept secret for months."

She said while there was no point looking back over the election results the popularity of Mr Seselja had certainly contributed to her loss.

"He got a high personal vote and that's carried Andrew Wall through ahead of me, even though I got a higher personal vote," Ms Bresnan said.

Outgoing opposition leader Zed Seselja has continued to say he only made the decision to challenge for the preselection during the Christmas break.

Upon announcing his intention to run for the senate he said he was not letting down the Brindabella electorate but wanting to represent more people.

"I also would make the point that I am seeking to serve the people of Tuggeranong along with the people of Woden and Weston Creek and Gungahlin and Belconnen and the inner north and the inner south as a senator for the ACT," he said.

"I'm looking for a new way to serve and this presents one of those oppor-



Former ACT Opposition Leader Zed Seselja chats to Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoulialis during the 2012 election campaign.

Picture: Elesia Lee

said the electorate should feel let down and used by the former opposition leader.

"In many ways I'm not surprised - this just confirms Zed as the opportunist he is," she said.

Tuggeranong residents have had a mixed reaction to the news with some commending Mr Seselja while others believe he has let Senator Humphries

Assembly until he officially nominates as a senate candidate.

The Electoral Commission will conduct a vote countback at this time in order to fill the vacancy in the electorate of Brindabella.

His replacement is likely to be Tharwa stalwart Val Jeffery who polled about 400 more votes than fellow contender Nicole Lawder.

The former opposition leader left his Molonglo electorate in 2011 to contest Brindabella.

Mr Seselja stepped down from the leadership position on Monday after announcing last week he would challenge Liberal Senator Gary Humphries for preselection.

If he is successful during the preselection vote later this month Mr

Tuggeranong Community Council president Nick Tsoulialis said he did not feel Mr Seselja had abandoned the community and the council would work with whoever ended up in the senate.

"It's not about the person it's about the role, the responsibility is a lot higher," he said.

"If Zed feels he can make a change to Canberra's lives then obviously we