

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

17 June 2008

## **John Hatton to work on Wollongong Charter**

Australia's leading anti-corruption fighter John Hatton is coming to Wollongong to work with Wollongong Against Corruption and the Wollongong community to draft a Wollongong Charter for Ethics and Good Governance. The Charter will be launched at a Community Democracy Conference to be held in Wollongong on 16 August 2008.

Wollongong Against Corruption has been leading a campaign to establish a Royal Commission into political corruption and to give the people of Wollongong a right to vote in local government elections.

The Charter is part of the campaign by WAC to insist on a return to democracy. This is the only way to fight corruption. WAC wants to take steps to ensure that corrupt elements in the Labor Party are driven out of public life and reforms are put in place to prevent corruption.

According to John Hatton the Wollongong Charter will set new standards in ethics and governance for people involved in public life and public servants.

“Highly paid General Managers and senior staff have neglected their duty to stand up against corruption. There has been a complete failure to introduce corruption prevention measures in NSW despite overwhelming evidence of abuse of political power for decades”.

“The ALP corrupted pre-selection system and mateship networks have destroyed the Labor Party in NSW. It will take a long time, if ever, for the Labor Party to restore its credibility with local communities” said John Hatton. “There is every indication that a grass roots movement is emerging in NSW and it is being pioneered here in Wollongong”.

John Hatton was the Member for the South Coast for 22 years and was instrumental in convincing Parliament to instigate a Royal Commission into Police corruption in 1994. He has received an Order of Australia for services to the community, and been acknowledged as a National Living Treasure.

John Hatton will be meeting representatives of WAC at 4pm before a General Meeting of WAC at 7pm on 17<sup>th</sup> June, and will also be available to do media interviews on 18 June.

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