

SE News
HD **Keeping Australia Australian**
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Murray Plains has its sixth state election candidate — Rise Up Australia's Laurie Wintle (pictured).

He wants to keep Australia Australian.

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"I rarely meet anyone who doesn't agree with that," Mr Wintle said.

"The Chinese have bought up a lot of land lately — billions of dollars worth — but we can't buy a square inch in China."

The retired Kyabram farmer said while dairy products were processed and exported and some farmers were happy to sell to foreign investors, we are losing control.

"It should be owned by Australia," he said.

"We've already lost our manufacturing business."

"We spend a lot of money on social security and things like that."

On the whole, he thought many governments borrowed too much money.

"The US have more than \$18 trillion in debt and \$80 trillion in unfunded liabilities," he said.

"They borrow 42c in the dollar and they spend with no sign of stopping."

"The world is so intertwined now that when something happens on the other side of the world, we are impacted by it."

Mr Wintle said water was also a huge issue for the region and the lifeblood of the community.

"There's talk we are the food bowl of Asia and we're going to double our productivity, but in the last 20 years just about every commodity we have is produced less now."

As for the Echuca-Moama bridge, a new one was too expensive and the problem would be solved if people simply got on their bikes, Mr Wintle said.

"We need to do what the Chinese do and ride a push bike," he said.

"Then we'd get fit and it's not a big distance."

"Commuters in Melbourne drive an hour and a half."

Mr Wintle said his thoughts on the new combined school for Echuca were "bigger is not necessarily better".

He is also strongly against the Safe Schools Coalition which he felt promoted acceptance of homosexuality.

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