

## The Hon Fran Bailey MP Federal Member for McEwen

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2009

### *Retirement of Hon Fran Bailey MP*

Member for McEwen and former Howard Government minister Fran Bailey today announced her retirement from Federal Parliament.

Fran, who was first elected to the marginal Victorian seat in 1990, will retire at the next election.

Much of the McEwen electorate was devastated by the Black Saturday fires in February.

"It has been a tremendous honour to represent all my communities in the Federal Parliament," Fran said.

"We have worked together for 17 years to improve each of our communities through enterprise, improved infrastructure and services and opportunities for young people.

"Where there have been challenges, we have met them to achieve the best result for the future of our communities."

Fran was the first woman from any political party to represent a rural electorate in the House of Representatives and the first Victorian Liberal woman to be elected to the House of Representatives.

Soon after being elected, Fran was promoted to Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs.

She was defeated in the 1993 election but never one to walk from a challenge, regained the seat at the 1996 election.

Every election has been a challenge with McEwen's population (now more than 108,000) increasing in Melbourne's outer growth corridor which is demographically Labor.

After regaining McEwen at the 1996 election, Fran served as Parliamentary Secretary for Defence between 2001 and 2004.

In 2004, Fran was promoted to Minister for Employment Services and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence and later Minister for Small Business and Tourism.

The 2007 election produced one of the closest results in Australian history when Fran retained McEwen by just 12 votes following a recount. Later challenged in the High Court, Fran's margin was increased to 31.

"It has been an absolute privilege to represent such a huge and diverse electorate as McEwen and serve our nation in our Commonwealth Parliament," Fran said.

"I thank everyone who has supported me throughout my Parliamentary career."

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