



**Jason Wood MP**  
Federal Member for La Trobe

## STATEMENT

12 August 2015

### Same-sex Marriage Referendum/Plebiscite

Thank you to all those who have shared their views on #LATROBEVOTES. I am proud to say that we have had over 5,000 local respondents - which is the largest response to any survey on same-sex marriage in Australia.

I have not publicly revealed until now that I have now changed my position on same-sex marriage.

In the past, I opposed same-sex marriage, however for a number of reasons I now support same-sex marriage.

As I have changed my position since the last election, I believed that rather than vote on my changed conscience, I would seek the conscience of my electorate.

After a marathon sitting of the coalition party room, The Prime Minister has announced that after next election there will either be a referendum or plebiscite on the issue.

This may upset many people who support same-sex marriage, however it should be understood that this is the best possible outcome in the current political climate. After listening to the vast majority of my coalition colleagues and knowing that a number of Labor MP's do not support same-sex marriage, it is clear that if a vote on the issue were taken today in parliament, same-sex marriage would be defeated.

I will continue to record responses to #LATROBEVOTES, but today will be the last day we post responses on social media. If you would like an update please contact my office.

Again, I sincerely thank all those who voted. I can assure you that your vote helped secure the result of a referendum/plebiscite where *all* Australian's will have the chance to vote.

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