



Confidential

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Coalition split over Hate Speech Bill

Following the passage through Federal Parliament of the *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Criminal and Migration Laws) Bill 2026*, three National Party shadow ministers tendered their resignations from the front bench for breaking with Shadow Cabinet and voting against the bill.

Senators Bridget McKenzie (VIC), Ross Cadell (NSW) and Susan McDonald (QLD) crossed the floor to vote against the Government's bill to outlaw hate groups. On Wednesday night, the three Senators submitted their resignations to Opposition Leader Sussan Ley.

On Thursday morning, the Leader of the Nationals, David Littleproud, and the remaining ten National Party frontbenchers resigned from Shadow Cabinet. Mr Littleproud declared that "...remaining in a Coalition with the Liberal Party under the leadership of Sussan Ley has become untenable and cannot continue."

As Mr Littleproud had been serving as the Shadow Minister for Agriculture, these developments leave the Opposition temporarily without an agriculture spokesperson. Under parliamentary convention, this responsibility would ordinarily revert to the Opposition Leader, Ms Ley, until a new front bench is appointed.

CropLife Australia will continue to work constructively with all parliamentarians and awaits further information regarding the reconstitution of the Opposition front bench.

- Link to the Leader of the Opposition's statement on the resignation of the three Nationals senators [here](#).
- Link to the Leader of the Nationals video statement [here](#).

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