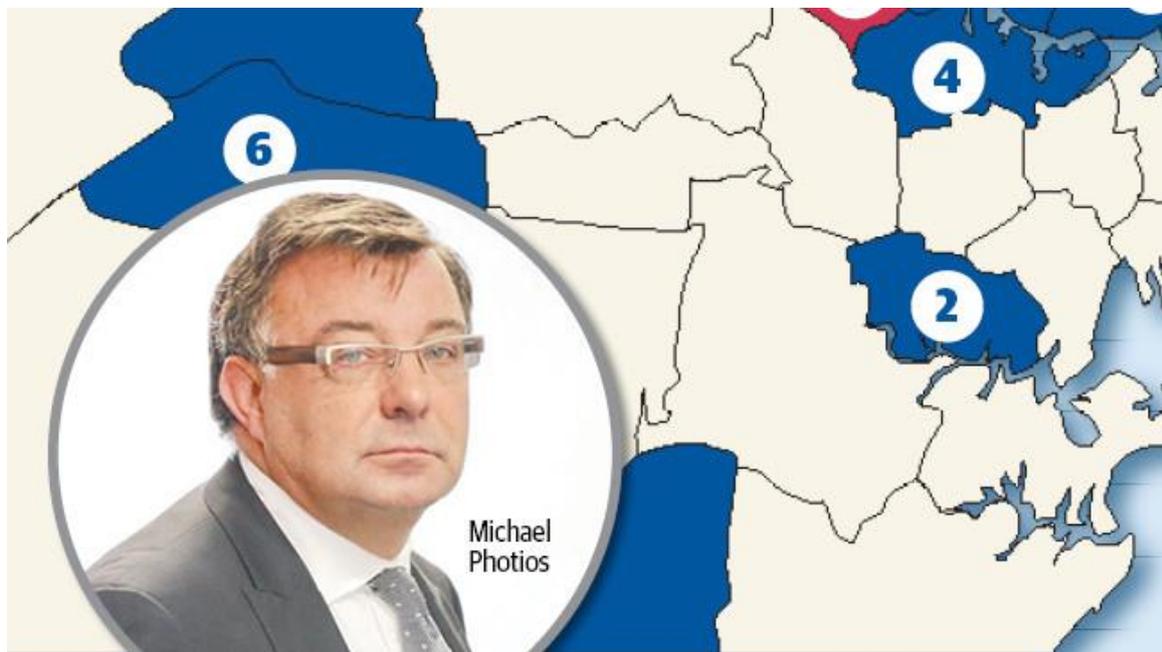


Kingmaker Michael Photios firms up control of NSW bloc

The Daily Telegraph April 21, 2016
Alicia Wood
Political Reporter



*Liberal heavyweight Michael Photios has already locked up several major electorates.
Picture Cameron Richardson*

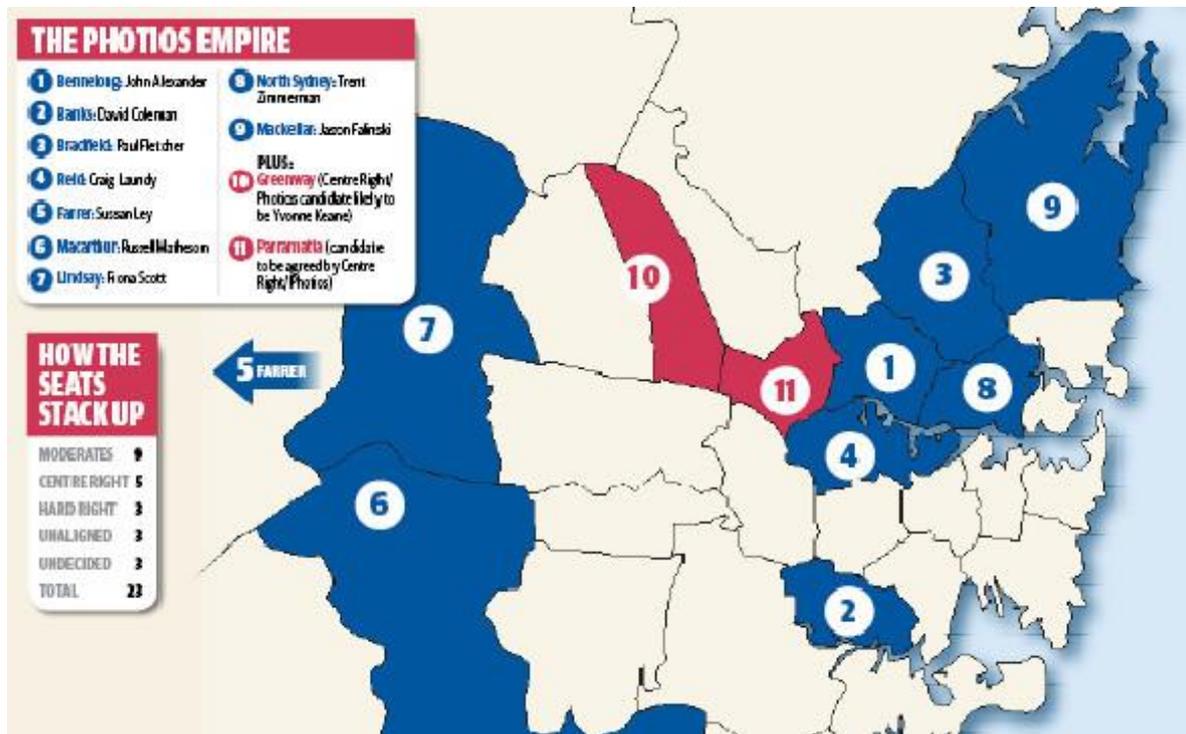
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NSW Liberal Kingmaker Michael Photios is tightening his hold on the federal parliamentary Liberal party — expected to control a bloc of nine out of 23 NSW MPs after the election, and cementing himself as a powerbroker outside of Macquarie St.

The move has conservative Liberals concerned that the federal party is becoming more factional than ever before, and the culture of NSW is seeping into the capital.

The lobbyist and former MP runs the dominant moderate faction in NSW, and has long exercised control over state parliament, but is now growing his empire in Canberra.

His faction count NSW lower house MPs John Alexander, Paul Fletcher, Craig Laundy, Sussan Ley, Russell Matheson, Fiona Scott, Trent Zimmerman and Jason Falinski as their bloc after the election.



The kingmaker's domain.

Out of federal NSW MPs, the Centre Right is expected to have five MPs after the election, and the hard right- three.

A senior conservative source said the party was concerned it would see MPs acting as lobbyists.

“It is extremely factionalised now, there is a concern these federal MPs will act as lobbyists for Michael Photios,” the senior conservative source said.

“We are becoming just like the ALP, and he is running around like he owns the place.”

A senior Liberal source said the rise in factionalism among NSW federal MPs coincided with the leadership of former Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

“There has been a slow and inevitable move to factionalism in the federal party,” the senior source said.

“It always prevailed at the state level, and under Abbott’s leadership there was a massive growth federally. He was our first factional Prime Minister.”



Federal MP for Lindsay Fiona Scott



Federal MP for Reid Craig Laundry

In the remaining unresolved preselections, Mr Photios in alliance with the Centre Right is expected to deliver Yvonne Keane as the candidate for Greenway, and their alliance is also expected to decide the 30 April plebiscite for the Liberal candidate for Parramatta.

Comments

Margaret

This bloke must have something on people in the Liberal party to wield so much power. NSW Liberals should do all in their power to rid the Party of this man so that the REAL Party, ie the members, have control. Factions are what has divided the Labor Party for decades. Why on earth would the Liberal party follow suit?

Mark

@Margaret

No, that can't be right, I remember young Malcolm telling us the NSW Liberals don't have any factions ... remember!

Jerry

Ban factions and ban Photios. They will spell the end of the Liberal Party in NSW. They will get their first hit at this Federal Election, and they deserve it.

Cheryl

So much for democracy and the value of our vote.

David

The rise of Factionalism was what got rid of Abbott- Abboot is the only Liberal Leader to take the Factions head-on by banning lobbyists from the state executive

Gary

the only thing that keeps the lib party in government is the lab party.

Will

Photios is everything that is rotten about the NSW Libs. All of this is a mute point if you lose the election and I reckon the Coalition are an even money bet at this stage. What a mess this party has become.

Ian

What is a mute point? A point which is silent?

Stephen

@Ian A mute is a moot by any other name. ha ha ha

Meg

Why don't the Lib members vote to rid the party of Photios If he is destructive influence. Surely that is possible.

Richard

Fancy any politician allowing it to be known they are controlled. The number of independent politicians will keep on growing.

Big John

No such thing as factions in the Liberal party Malcolm Said so last year :)

Phillip

What is it with politicians, they seem to have the attitude that they are someone special, in fact they are living and breathing in a complete fantasy world.

They are in one of the most despised areas of all professions, where lies and dishonesty abound. If they were as intelligent as they think they are, surely they would recognise the truth.

Glenn

@Phillip Their ego's have taken over any logical thinking.

David

Nah he doesn't control me as well as many people in NSW

Richard

Exactly who is Photios and why does he have this influence?

Paik

You would think they work for the labor party

Sandra

The stupidity of the NSW Liberal Party in allowing Photios any power whatsoever is mind-boggling. He's been pulling people's strings since he was a teenager (and he's now nearing 60). This is madness.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/kingmaker-michael-photios-firms-up-control-of-nsw-bloc/news-story/9be7e281668685fae1ea13c0ea8a4d73#load-story-comments>