

# Premier's independence spray in Wagga

**EXCLUSIVE**

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PREMIER Gladys Berejiklian will cast the independent candidate, who is threatening to steal the government's seat at the Wagga Wagga by-election, as powerless to deliver from the crossbenches.

A letter landing in the mailboxes of voters today will say a vote for anyone outside the government — such as high-profile independent Dr Joe McGirr — is a vote for someone who “won't be able to deliver”.

Party sources said this tactic will be a key attack line in the final stretch of the

campaign as government ministers and backbenchers continue to flood the seat in a bid to drum up support.

The Daily Telegraph revealed yesterday the government had poured a massive \$130 million in promises into the seat ahead of the Saturday week vote.

Losing Wagga Wagga would bring the Berejiklian government back to a margin of just six seats in the lead-up to the March state election.

The Premier's letter to Wagga Wagga constituents, obtained by The Daily Telegraph, is free of traditional NSW Liberal Party branding but is headlined “Gladys Berejiklian and the

Liberal team”. “The choice is yours,” it says. “A vote for Julia Ham and the Liberal team that is getting things done locally, or a vote for someone not

in the government who won't be able to deliver for you.”

The letter points to a range of services the government has delivered for Wagga Wagga, including building stage three of the local hospital and upgrading schools.

Mr McGirr was not aware of the letter but labelled the tactic of claiming only government members could deliver “almost bullying”.

It comes as Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack said he would have liked the National Party to field its own candidate. “I can understand why we didn't but I would have liked to have run a candidate and I think we would've stood a good show.”

