



Youth versus experience

**ELISE SNASHALL-
WOODHAMS**

IT'S a battle between youth and experience in the Farrer electorate, with incumbent Liberal Sussan Ley going up against 20-year-old Labor candidate Christian Emmery.

Ms Ley has represented Farrer since 2001 and Mr Emmery will need a swing of more than 11.2 per cent to oust her.

Mr Emmery, a sales assistant and army reservist, has been a member of the Labor Party for five years and said he jumped at the chance to represent his community.

Yet to vote in a federal election himself, Mr Emmery said he could help redress the age imbalance in politics.

"It means I can represent everyone in my community including the youth," he said.

"I have a fresh outlook."

Ms Ley said she was not concerned about her opponent's relative youth.

"I don't think youth or age is really a factor," she said.

"If someone is up to the job, they're up to the job."

"He has to show what Julia Gillard is going to do for our electorate and I think that will be the hard part."

The top issues, according to Mr Emmery, are climate change, water and health.

He said the Labor Party's federalisation of health care was an im-



Christian Emmery



Sussan Ley

portant step in improving rural services.

"Towns like Albury and Deniliquin always find it hard to get health funds because they're so close to the border... it always seems to be someone else's problem," he said.

"I think federalisation can help that."

Mr Emmery also spruiked Labor's multi-million dollar investment in renewable energy, and said he would make sure farmers were properly represented in the development of water policy.

Water is also an issue Ms Ley has her eye on.

"There's a lot of work to do to fix up the national plan for water," she said.

"The Basin Plan has been delayed... farmers don't know what to expect... and water allocations are close to zero."

But Ms Ley said her constituents were most concerned about the rising cost of living.

She said if voted into government, the Coalition would make the

economy its top priority.

"Unless we manage the economy properly prices will rise and the cost of living will keep going up," she said.

Both candidates will be racking up some serious mileage on the campaign trail — Farrer covers from Albury across the Murray to the South Australian border and up past Broken Hill to the Queensland border.

Seventeen local government areas are contained within the electorate.

Mr Emmery said he planned to visit Balranald on his tour of the district and was "trying" to fit in a trip to Wakool.

Ms Ley said she would be "driving through" Balranald and Wakool shires at least twice before the election.

"I'll be pretty much on the road for the next 33 days," she said.

"I will be covering as much of the electorate as possible... I'm looking forward to getting out and meeting people."