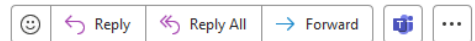


RE: prepare this but don't send yet



Alex Woff

To Nick Johnston



Sun 19/03/2023 7:53 PM

Ready to go



Sunday 19 March 2023

Statement from the Leader of the Opposition

Yesterday afternoon Victorians witnessed an abomination on the steps of the Victorian Parliament when neo-Nazi protesters engaged in an affront to the values we should all hold dear as Victorians.

The violence, prejudice and hate that these protesters conveyed by their odious actions will never be acceptable in our State. I condemn them and commit to opposing such hate wherever it may exist.

This afternoon I met with **Maira** Deeming MP who attended yesterday's rally. I discussed her involvement in organising, promoting and participating in a rally with speakers and other organisers who themselves have been publicly associated with far right-wing extremist groups including neo-Nazi activists.

At our meeting I informed Ms Deeming that I will move a motion at the next party room meeting to expel her as a member of the parliamentary Liberal Party as her position is untenable.

This is not an issue about free speech but a member of the parliamentary party associating with people whose views are abhorrent to my values, the values of the Liberal party and the wider community.

The Liberal Party I joined and which I am now honoured to lead, must strive to represent all Victorians.

Regardless of religious faith, race, sexual preference and identity, Victorians everywhere should know that the Liberal Party is inclusive and can be a voice for them.

No matter what our background we all share the abiding bond of an essential humanity.

Equality of opportunity, the benefits to each and all of an enterprising culture, the security that comes from the rule of law, the strength which stems from families and communities that can live together in search of happiness while sharing in our State's prosperity, must extend to all people who live in Victoria.

Media contact: Alexander Woff