

**From:** John Pesutto [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 20 March 2023 1:42 PM  
**To:** David Southwick; Georgie Crozier; Matthew Bach  
**Cc:** Rodrigo Pintos-Lopez; Nick Johnston; Chantalle Asmar; Alex Woff  
**Subject:** Draft to Liberal Party Members

This needs work but what do you think of something like this to the Party Membership?

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Statement by Victorian Liberal Party Leader, John Pesutto

Dear fellow Party Members,

Many of you will have seen in media yesterday and today that as Victorian Party Leader, I have indicated that I will be bringing a motion under the constitution of the Victorian Parliamentary Liberal Party, a motion to expel Moira Deeming MP from the Parliamentary Liberal Party.

I know that you will appreciate the gravity of this decision and may have concerns about why I have decided to take this course. I take the opportunity to address this now.

Firstly, please understand that I have not taken this decision lightly. The profound significance of such an action is self-evident and I assure you that I did not decide to take this action until I had considered the matter deeply and from all sides.

Secondly, I wish to assure all of you that my decision is in no way intended to curtail free speech inside our Party. I wholeheartedly encourage all Party members, including MPs, to debate and discuss important issues like women's rights, in and throughout the councils of our great Party. Please note that my decision has not been prompted by issues around freedom of speech which I fully support and encourage.

### **My reason for the motion**

I decided that it was in the interests of our Party to take this course as a grassroots organisation that was formed to seek and hold government on behalf of the Victorian people.

I can assure you that my reason for adopting this course was based on the established links – publicly available - between protest organisers on the one hand and Nazi groups, white supremacists and other extremists on the other.

From social media material and news reports, it was clear to me that Moira Deeming had been involved in the promotion and organisation of the protest rally.

I strongly believe that it is totally unacceptable for any member of our party, including a senior member who is a member of parliament, to associate publicly with individuals who have known who have been known to share platforms videos and other activities with Nazis, white supremacists and other extremists.

Inside this, let me be clear in saying that I do not believe and that Moira Deeming herself holds or supports supports Nazi or white supremacy viewpoints. But, from the public record, it is her association with people who have shared platforms with such people that is totally unacceptable.

Any association with such people risks doing enormous damage to our Party when our aim should be to focus on the failures of the Andrews Labor Government and the need for Victoria to be governed well - something we must aim to do in 2026 and beyond.

I know that this matter may be difficult to process, but please know that it is perfectly legitimate for members of our Party to engage in robust debates about important issues, including women's rights. But, if we wish to govern Victoria in the future, we must ensure that we do not associate ourselves with individuals and organisations with known links to people who peddle Nazi hate and white supremacy.

The motion I intend to move will be dealt with early next week. It will be for the Parliamentary Liberal Party to decide the outcome of the motion, but I hope and trust that you will see the importance of demonstrating to the Victorian people that we, as a proud Party of government, will have nothing to do whatsoever with the influences I have described above.

I have no doubt that if we focus on the failures of the Andrews labour government and sit out over the coming months and years our plans to Gavin for all Victorians, we can and will win the next election. We will do this by regaining the trust and confidence of Victorians right across our state.

Warm regards,  
JP

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