

Draft Email to MPs

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To: John Pesutto <john.pesutto@parliament.vic.gov.au>, Rodrigo Pintos-Lopez <rodrigo.pintos-lopez@opposition.vic.gov.au>
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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 Moira Deeming MP who attended yesterday's rally. I discussed her involvement in organising, promoting and participating with speakers and 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 intend to 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.

Tomorrow I will circulate the motion and provide further details regarding the process.

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