

Recut Oped

From: Nick Johnston <[REDACTED]>
To: John Pesutto <john.pesutto@parliament.vic.gov.au>, Rodrigo Pintos-Lopez [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 23 Mar 2023 17:04:07 +1100
Attachments: JP Oped Edit.docx (14.04 kB)

See recut oped for Herald Sun at 500 words for Saturday.

Nick Johnston | Director of Communication and Strategy
Office of John Pesutto MP | Leader of the Opposition
Level 1, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
Mobile: [REDACTED] **Email:** [REDACTED]



Office of
John Pesutto MP
Leader of the Opposition
Victorian Liberal Leader

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

Next Monday's special meeting of the Victorian Parliamentary Liberal Party is about the future of the party I want to lead to ensure we can represent all Victorians and set ourselves on the path to winning Government in 2026.

The scenes on the steps of Parliament last Saturday were an affront to the values we hold dear as Victorians. Nazis have no place in our community and those who share platforms with people who associate or share platforms with extremist groups, including neo-Nazi activists, have no place in the Liberal Party.

This is not about freedom of speech. There is a range of sensible views which must be heard in relation to issues, including women's rights. The Liberal Party is a broad church and we respect everyone's right to express a view.

But with all rights comes responsibilities. We must draw a line at hate speech, discrimination and violence. Freedom of speech should never include hate speech.

That's why I've acted. Regardless of religious faith, race, sexual preference and identity, Victorians everywhere need to know that the Liberal Party is inclusive and can be a voice for them.

No matter who we are or where we come from, we all share the abiding bond of humanity. Unlike the Premier, who thrives on dividing people, I want to bring people together. I want to lead a modern Liberal Party that is mainstream and embraces diversity.

We need to be an effective opposition to the Andrews Labor government, which is tired, corrupt and incompetent. A strong democracy demands nothing less.

I also want to present a vision for a better and bolder Victoria. I want Victoria to be the best State in Australia. A State with the best health and education systems, the best economy and jobs and the best place to live, learn, work and raise a family.

A State that prides itself on its integrity and decency. That is focused on people rather than politics. A Government focused on solutions instead of spin. A Government that governs for all Victorians and not just those who voted for them.

I want to build a great legacy for Victoria and make a difference to people's lives. A State where a person can pursue their own economic interests without undue interference from the government. With policies that reduce taxes and regulations on businesses and individuals because this will lead to greater economic growth and prosperity for all.

Modern Liberals also believe in equality of opportunity and freedom from hate. We need to reflect the values of our many diverse communities. To be inclusive and welcoming of everyone regardless of who they are, where they come from, what they look like and what they aspire to be.

I love Victoria. It has given me, the son of Italian migrants who grew up in the Latrobe Valley, so many opportunities. I also love the Liberal Party and I'm determined for it to win because I want to make Victoria the State we know it can be.

