



THE FILE - 6

Peter Adamis August 2014

This past ten days has been somewhat of a whirlwind in geopolitical circles of which much has happened since the last edition of THE FILE and as such we have taken selective articles to describe events that are shaping Victoria, Australia and the world. We had made a prediction to our readers that John Pesutto was destined to win the seat of Hawthorn and we are pleased to announce that this was announced this day.

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John Pesutto. It is with great pleasure to announce that John Pesutto has won an administrative pre-selection for the seat of Hawthorn and we at THE FILE wish him all the best and congratulations. John comes with little or no baggage, has a good eye on the political scene and is not afraid to take the fight to the opposition. He will be an asset to any political leader that brings him into his circle of confidence and also has the makings of a fine minister when the opportunity is offered to him. A good team player who is respected by many within the Liberal party and is well like for his personal interaction with all members. The question now arises whether John Pesutto will become a rival to Michael O'Brien and Matthew Guy for the leaders position post State election.

News and communication. Beginning with the transmission of news to the public, I blame the media for much of the hysteria, hype, misinformation and the talking up of incidents that are best left to experts. Social Media is no better with the revelations of the recent beheadings and subsequent evidential evidence that they may have been faked. Victorian politics has had its twists and turns with its phony campaign election being carried out secretly behind the scenes.

The potential for war in the Russian hemisphere of influence and the misinformation that surrounds it are a cause for concern. The media war involving the ISIS and their supporters in Syria and Iraq have made Muslims in Australia targets of unwarranted attacks and are looked upon with some suspicion. The mismanagement and projected plan to expel Geoff Shaw from Victorian parliament was but a diversion from the real issues facing Victorians.

A defining moment. The most defining moment in Australia's history was not the 'arrival of the First Fleet' as indicated by the Prime Minister Tony Abbott. Whoever prepared that speech ought to be shot, then drawn and quartered. A defining moment in time perhaps but the most defining moment. The Prime Ministers role is to express what All Australians feel about themselves and his recent comments are not relevant in today's society. That is not say that we should take heed of the Prime Ministers comments to the nation, far from it, but that information must be based on current societal needs and interests and not ideological grounds as seemed to be the case for the past 12 months. The Liberal party National Director Brian Loughnane clearly pointed out that enough of the ideology and to get back to the basics of what is important to Australia and its interests.

Team Australia and a cause for war. Furthermore information regarding the Australian flag, 'Team Australia', and what it means to Australians is somewhat a one way street which leaves one to wonder why was it so important to bring it to our attention in the first place other than to believe that we are being prepared for something in the future. A future that may cause us to be involved in a conflict that is not to the long term interests of Australians. We can no longer enter a war based on misapprehension and misinformation of "weapons of mass destruction and in the recent cases of two beheadings which are subject to further evidence being gathered to certify their authenticity.

Australian society has matured and developed to the point where it no longer needs to be associated or look to 'Mother England' so to speak. Mind you I am not a Republican while the current status quo remains and in any case Australia is not quite ready for a change despite our enormous contributions to the world as we know it. It will take another generation, say in another 25 years before Australians are comfortable with any changes that see it become a republic.

Josh Morris and new candidates. Whether Josh Morris is a better candidate that Aaron lane remains to be seen and one hopes that he excels in his role representing the Western region. However his endorsement may have also ignited a long time feud amongst some young Liberal ranks. This brings us to another pint regarding the character and relevance of candidates and whether they are truly representative of the electorate that they have chosen to represent.

Should Denis Napthine step down?

Having monitored the progress of Denise Napthine since his return to the Premiers job, I for one was hoping that he would become another Henry Bolte and bring together all the parliamentary members including Geoff Shaw and ensure a return to Government. Now all that I can see is one blunder after another based on the advice of the sycophants that surround him. The Kew debacle, the BaillieuGate debacle, the Geoff Shaw debacle, The Ambulance debacle, the pork barrelling of building a better Victoria debacle, are but some of his failures amongst other to date. It's time for a generational change before the State election in order to regain the initiative for the Liberals in Victoria.

Professional political agitators.

Is it not hilarious to see on media channels the same old faces, protesting for one issue or another. Even the Police appear to know who they are and one was even called out one by name to move along. Protesting against policies and issues that are of importance is one thing, but to disrupt a meeting based on ideological grounds rather than the policies is another. The recent protest that was carried out against the Liberals was a reminder that Labor tactics have not changed at all and it brought to me images of when the Unionists stormed Parliament house in Canberra. That was the worst case of an illegal protest in Australia's history and brought Australia to shame.

Ted Baillieu and Damocles.

It would appear from the past 18 months that Ted Baillieu has been living a life that one would assume was a fortunate one without realising his true position in that great arena of politics. One who has wanted the luxuries, fortunes and the responsibilities of high office should bear in mind the story of Dionysius II of Syracuse and that of his flatterer Damocles. In this case the flatterer Damocles represent the sycophants and Dionysius being Ted Baillieu. Ted had all the hall marks of a great leader but as I have always stated on many occasions, he was surrounded by sycophants and recalcitrants, persons similar to that of Damocles who brought about his downfall. Ted Baillieu's fall from power is a sad one given his contribution to the Liberal party over the years.

Victorian Labor party.

The Victorian opposition must be laughing all the way to the polls despite their recent setback regarding the misinformation and mishandling of the BaillieuGate leaked tape affair, the removal of a number of their candidates due to perceived misbehaviour, the CFMEU investigation, their support against and back flip support to Geoff Shaw all smack of a deliberate strategy to manipulate every opportunity that arises, which is the role of the opposition in any case. Andrew Daniels has failed to impress Victorians and the majority prefer Denis Napthine whose party unfortunately is not doing well in the polls. If the current polls persist and the government fails to capitalise on the positive aspects of government it stand to lose at the next State election. I for one hope that this is not the case, but the Government must lift its game to remain relevant in an age where communication is of the essence.

Generational reconciliation & change. whatever the outcome of the Victorian state election, political paradigms and structural changes need to be reviewed in order to reengage the membership and a return of party policy being debated at the grass roots level. It is my opinion only that the current the electorate conferences were designed to centralise power rather than shared amongst grass roots membership. A return to the previous model will enable members to take a far more active interest, raise funds, elect suitable delegates based on community representation and be responsible for the election of community rather than Administrative committee directed candidates. I am of the opinion that the current model despite all of its good intentions has not brought about the intended changes but has been hijacked by a select few who erroneously. cling to power

Summary. We live in interesting times, that one day we can reflect back on and say that the year 2014 was a defining moment in the history of Victorian politics, A time when generational change had its embryonic origins. On the global platform we hope like all Australians that we are not dragged into a war which is not in the long term interests of this country and that diplomacy and dialogue win out on the day in the face of the many geopolitical challenges faced by the Federal government



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JOHN PESUTTO WINS PRESELECTION FOR SEAT OF HAWTHORN

September 4, 2014 Richard Willingham John Pesutto (left)

Premier Denis Naphthine's legal counsel, John Pesutto, has won preselection for the prized seat of Hawthorn that has been vacated by retiring former premier Ted Baillieu. Mr Pesutto defeated Institute of Public Affairs executive director John Roskam, magazine journalist Sue Smethurst and political staffer Ralph Krein.

It is not Mr Pesutto's first attempt at preselection. In 2009 he lost a preselection battle to Josh Frydenberg for the federal seat of Kooyong. Mr Pesutto and Mr Roskam had been considered frontrunners since Mr Baillieu's surprise decision to retire at the election. The seat is very safe Liberal territory and it is understood Mr Pesutto had the backing of Mr Baillieu, who campaigned strongly for him this week. There was no local preselection vote because the state election is in 86 days' time. The party's administration committee chose Mr Pesutto on Thursday night.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/john-pesutto-wins-preselection-for-seat-of-hawthorn-20140904-10cogm.html#ixzz3CLOKVHYC>



VICTORIA ELECTION: LAW AND ORDER ISSUES KEY FOR SWING VOTERS. Luke Mansillo The Guardian.com, Wednesday 27 August 2014. Photograph: Scott Barbour/Getty.

Study also shows residents of state do not support legalisation of marijuana, and that healthcare and education are high priorities. The Coalition's Denis Napthine, premier of Victoria, may want to focus on law and order issues if he wants to win over swing voters.

Health and education are big electoral issues for Victorians, but law and order may convince the swing voters, according to an analysis of survey data. We asked our readers what their key election issues were, and now we're taking a look at survey data from the Australian Electoral Study to see which issues influenced Victorian voters at the 2013 federal election. While the AES surveys voters' position on issues during federal elections, a number of issues are also relevant at a state level. Here's a breakdown of which issues Victorian voters nominated as the most important - we've marked those relevant at a state level with an asterisk: The survey also asks voters which things they think the government should spend more or less on, including health, education, and law enforcement.

According to the data, Victorian voters want more funding for health and education, and trust the Labor party slightly more than the Liberal party on these policy areas. Fewer people think the government should spend more on policing. We can use binary logistic regression with voters' issue values to look at which issues were important to swing voters. That is to say, if Labor voters at the 2013 federal election changed their vote, which issues change their political behaviour? The model above uses all the issues in the 2013 AES in terms of "spend more or less" on a policy area with Victorian Labor voters at the 2010 federal election. Voters either changed their vote to the Coalition or remained with Labor (or other parties on the left).

Note we are looking at the Labor swing vote to study swing voters because Labor was the federal governing party at that election. For the purposes of this analysis it is fine, because we are looking only at swing voter behaviour in a Duvergerian two-party system. If the "b" value is positive, voters were more likely to change their vote to the Coalition on an issue in an election. If it is negative, voters are more likely to remain with Labor.

Victorian Labor voters who changed their vote to the Coalition tended to change their vote if they wanted more spending on policing. In terms of political behaviour, rather than actual public opinion, political parties that want to be elected care more about the issue of policing. The only other significant relationship is that people who value spending more on healthcare and on old age pensions are less likely to change their vote from Labor to the Coalition because they have negative 'b' scores. The AES study has some statistics on other issues such as legalisation of marijuana, and harsher penalties for criminals.

Victorians want tougher sentences for criminals, but significantly less so than the Australian average. While 68% of Victorians want stiffer sentences, only 27% strongly agreed and 41% agreed, but not strongly. The Victorian government recently legislated to increase sentences for a number of crimes. Victorians do not support the legalisation of marijuana, with 32% in support, of which only 11% strongly support the move. This is in contrast to 44% who would oppose such a move, of which 19% strongly oppose it. The Victorian Labor party has announced it will try to legalise medical marijuana if elected. In summary, Victorians want politicians to address economic issues, healthcare and education. More voters feel Labor is better suited to handle health and education.

Swing voters who care about policing, in spite of their smaller numbers, are more likely to change their votes. So, the Coalition may want to act strongly on law and order if they want to pull voters over to their side.

Methods. The data used here is from the 2013 Australian Election Study. The data is available from the Australia Data Archive. The AES is a national, post-election, self-completion cross-sectional study which has been run at every federal election since 1987. The data was weighted by sex, age, state and party vote with AEC enrolment data for each election.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/victorian-election-the-countdown/2014/aug/27/law-and-order-issues-key-for-victorias-swing-voters>



BOTH SIDES OF POLITICS SEIZE ON CRIME INCREASE

August 27, 2014 Cameron Houston. Chief Commissioner Ken Lay. *Photo: Penny Stephens.* Victoria's crime rate has increased for the third consecutive year, but Police Minister Kim Wells reckons improved reporting and more cops on the beat are responsible for the 3.7 per cent rise.

Only four years ago, then opposition leader Ted Baillieu seized on soaring rates of assault, murder and rape during the Brumby government's 10-year tenure to depict Melbourne as the nation's crime capital. The strategy tapped into a growing disquiet about public safety, particularly on the city's rail network, and Mr Baillieu's pledge of 1700 more police and 940 protective service officers helped sweep him to power. But the Liberal government's law and order message has been blunted by more inconvenient data from Victoria Police, while a series of new "tough-on-crime" announcements over the past fortnight appear increasingly desperate.

Police crime statistics are notoriously pliable, and the Napthine government is not the only group to exploit them for political gain. Following a massive spike in crimes associated with methamphetamine, Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews announced an "ice action taskforce" and a range of new criminal offences on Wednesday. The strategy appears to have been pinched directly from the government's play-book and would only be introduced within 100 days of Mr Andrews taking office - if he wins the November election. He conceded the "ice epidemic has absolutely got away from us", but expects Victorians to wait 100 days for a policy to be implemented.

Only last year, Labor's then police spokesperson Jacinta Allan accused the government of delaying its response by appointing a parliamentary review. "Victoria is in the middle of an ice epidemic and it is time the Napthine government took action instead of deferring the issue off to a parliamentary committee," Ms Allan said last September. The Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee is expected to table its report next week. One would have expected its findings to shape any coherent policy response to a problem that is devastating families across the state. Chief Commissioner Ken Lay also used the alarming surge in ice-related crimes and domestic violence to promote his "Blue Paper," which outlines a radical vision for a more specialised force with fewer front line officers.

"We cannot arrest our way out of the ice problem" Chief Commissioner Lay said. His comments will probably rankle the government and its tough-on-crime agenda, but he makes a good point. Without profound social and cultural change, police and governments of either persuasion will be unable to combat ice use or domestic violence. And crime rates will invariably rise again.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/both-sides-of-politics-seize-on-crime-increase-20140827-1096xj.html#poll>



THREE CHARGED AFTER ANTI-EAST WEST LINK PROTESTERS CLASH WITH POLICE

SAMANTHA LANDY HERALD SUN AUGUST 28, 2014.

Three anti-East West Link protesters have been charged with assaulting police after demonstrators clashed with officers at a Liberal Party fundraiser in the Melbourne CBD.

Police clash with student protesters. Startled guests attending the function at the Regent Theatre Plaza on Collins St — among them Coalition MPs — had to be pushed through a crowd of about 50 demonstrators by police and security guards, as protesters linked arms to prevent them entering. Police — just outnumbering the vocal protesters — formed a guard between the demonstrators and the venue about 6pm. A series of scuffles ensued as police pushed protesters forward to make paths for frightened-looking guests to get inside.



A large police presence met protesters. Picture: Samantha Landy. Victoria Police spokeswoman Belinda Batty said three protesters — two men and a woman — had been arrested over the dramatic protest. "All three have been charged with assaulting police and have been released pending summons," Ms Batty said.



Serial protester Katherine Galea was taken away in handcuffs by police and put in a van about 6.30pm. She was released soon after, but then arrested a second time just after 7pm. Protest at Liberal party fundraiser Regent Plaza Melbourne. Picture: Samantha Landy. "You were warned, Kat," a policeman said as he led her away. Two men were also handcuffed and led away from the protest.



Among the guests forced to push their way into the function were Transport Minister Terry Mulder and Health Minister David Davis. Picture: Richard Serong. Both were jostled by protesters. Premier Denis Naphthine was due to attend the fundraiser, but was believed to have entered through a back door. EAST WEST Link protesters blockading the Victorian premier's infrastructure dinner at the Regent Theatre. David Davis arriving at the Regent Theatre.

Members of the public arriving at the Regent Theatre for a showing of hit musical *Wicked* also had to make their way past the protest. "We're not surprised the Premier had to sneak in the back door because obviously he's trying to hide what's going on here," protest leader Anthony Main said. "He's trying to hide the fact that he's making an appeal to the big business elite to fill the coffers of his party with a wink and a nod that they are gonna be given contracts for this East West Link, contracts for a project that no one has seen the business for, a project that's dodgy from top to bottom."

Mr Main said protesters intended for tonight's picket to be "peaceful". "We had a hundred or more coppers here tonight pushing and shoving people around," he said. He dubbed the protest a success, saying it drew attention to the "\$10,000 a table" fundraiser. "We've got a situation where the government's making an appeal to big business to fill their coffers in the lead-up to the election," he said.

"This is the road lobby, the oil lobby, the big transport firms who are here tonight. ... These are the people who are gonna benefit from the East West Link, not commuters who are gonna be paying exorbitant tolls, not the local communities, not the environment, nothing else. "I think that investors are getting the message." Protesters began to gather outside the fundraiser just before 6pm, clutching signs reading "the Liberal Party Mafia" and "billions wasted on Naphthine's tunnel vision".



Protesters outside the fundraiser. Picture: Samantha Landy. "We're not here to cause trouble," Mr Main said over a megaphone. "(We're here) to let people know as they're leaving work ... what's going on behind closed doors." The protesters and police started to clash as guests began to arrive for the fundraiser from about 6.30pm. Mr Main urged the protesters to "stand (their) ground" and "stay in a disciplined formation" as police pushed them from behind to allow people inside.

He later pledged that the protests against the \$8 billion road project would continue through to the November 29 state election. "Any further preliminary works that this government wants to do, they'll be picketed," he said. "We're gonna be targeting Labor Party MPs, ... government MPs and also big business targets as well. "Anyone who wants to get involved in this project can consider themselves a target for protest in the future."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/law-order/three-charged-after-antieast-west-link-protesters-clash-with-police/story-fni0fee2-1227040511440>



VICTORIAN MINISTERS CAUGHT UP IN EAST WEST LINK PROTEST

ABC August 29, 2014. ABC About 50 protesters clashed with police outside a Liberal Party fundraiser. Victorian Government ministers have been jostled as police clashed with protesters trying to block a Liberal Party fundraiser, with one MP claiming his wife was pushed.

Scuffles broke out on Thursday night after about 50 people protesting against the East West Link road development tried to stop people from entering Melbourne's Regent Theatre Plaza, where the function was held. Senior ministers Terry Mulder and David Davis were among those who were caught up in the protest as police paved a way to allow them to enter. Premier Denis Napthine managed to avoid the protesters by coming in through a side entrance. Brad Battin, the Member for Gembrook, tweeted that his wife had been shoved. Speaking on Friday, Mr Battin said his wife was in tears.

"The police line was broken and... a few of the protesters have actually gone through that line," Mr Battin said. "As they've come through they've actually pushed and shoved my wife and got her into a corner, and she was cornered in a spot and we've been separated. "I've turned around and seen my wife was visibly distressed." Mr Davis told the ABC the protesters were out of line. "This was a very violent, a very nasty and very aggressive protest," Mr Davis said.

"Of course protesters can make their views known, can have signs, they can make their points known and that is our democratic system. "But threats, aggression, pushing people - many of them elderly - is clearly unacceptable." At least two people were arrested, one of them twice. The two-hour protest ended when demonstrators were told Dr Napthine was already inside. Protest organiser Anthony Main said the demonstration was a success. "We're not surprised the Premier had to sneak in the back door," Mr Main said.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/24844378/victorian-ministers-caught-up-in-east-west-link-protest/?source=wan>



LIBERAL PARTY BACKS JOSH MORRIS FOR WESTERN VICTORIA

Aug. 29, 2014. Josh Morris. THE Liberal Party has chosen Josh Morris to be the new Liberal candidate for the Western Victoria Region. The Party's Administrative Committee endorsed the 31-year-old on Monday from a field of 12 candidates. Mr Morris is currently the Mayor of the City of Ballarat, the youngest person to ever hold that position.

"I'm honoured to have been chosen as the new Liberal Party candidate for the Upper House seat of Western Victoria," Mr Morris said. "As a husband and father of four children, I understand the challenges facing families, balancing the household budget and wanting the very best in community in which to raise your children."As part of Denis Napthine's team I will be working hard to represent the views of the many communities across the Western Victoria Region.

"In the lead up to the November election, I will be reminding people that only the Napthine Government is delivering for all Victorians, particularly those in rural and regional areas." Having been pre selected Mr Morris will need to broaden his scope and interest beyond Ballarat to take in towns including Ararat and Stawell.

He has confirmed he will step down as Mayor of the City of Ballarat to become the Liberal Party's candidate. Mr Morris, who was elected to City of Ballarat in 2012, said he has had the privilege of working with an incredibly passionate and driven group of councillors during that time. "As a group we have achieved great things for the local communities where we live and raise our families," he said.

<http://www.araratadvertiser.com.au/story/2520478/liberal-party-backs-josh-morris-for-western-victoria/?cs=1516>



VICTORIAN COALITION HAS THREE MONTHS TO CHANGE VOTERS' MINDS

Zareh Ghazarian Lecturer, School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University.

Denis Naphine hasn't been able to rebuild the Victorian Coalition government's support since replacing Ted Baillieu as premier. AAP/Joe Castro Victorians will head to the polls in exactly three months to elect their new state government.

Like New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia, Victoria has fixed parliamentary terms. Since 2002, Victorian state elections have been held on the last Saturday of November every four years. In the 2010 election, the coalition of Liberal and National parties ended Labor's time on the government benches after 11 years. The election result was one of the closest in Victoria's history. On a two-party preferred basis, the Coalition won less than 52% of the vote to Labor's 48%. In terms of seats won, however, the result was much closer. The Coalition won 45 seats to Labor's 43 in the 88-seat lower house.

First-term government on its second leader. Having failed to lead the Coalition to victory in 2006, Ted Baillieu was regarded as a champion by his side of politics when he became premier in 2010. The Coalition appeared to show resilience and discipline by backing Baillieu during its time in opposition. This sense of stability soon unravelled in government. In 2013, Frankston MP Geoff Shaw openly criticised his party's leadership and resigned from the parliamentary Liberal Party. This precipitated the fall of Baillieu as pressure from some sections of his own party forced him to resign as premier.



Liberal defector Geoff Shaw has been the wildcard in the state political contest. AAP/Julian Smith. Shaw's impact did not end there. By effectively reducing the government's majority, his move to the crossbench forced the Coalition to behave as though it was a minority government. Denis Naphine replaced Baillieu and immediately sought to put out some policy spot fires his predecessor struggled with.

Some of these concerned policy issues at the heart of state government: education, health care and transport. Naphine also tried to position himself as a more likeable leader. The problem for the Coalition, however, was a growing sense that it was disunited and undisciplined. Managing Shaw proved difficult and led to the government being unable to advance its legislative agenda in parliament. The Coalition also appears to have struggled with internal divisions between more socially progressive members and those who would advance a socially conservative moral agenda.

Labor regroups after defeat. In contrast, the Victorian branch of the Labor Party has displayed a greater sense of stability. Despite federal Labor undergoing bitter leadership battles and a devastating election loss since 2010, the Victorian branch has distanced itself from those problems. One apparent weakness has been Labor leader Daniel Andrews' low public profile, which the party has sought to address. In recent weeks, Andrews has featured in advertisements designed to enhance his public profile. Labor's performance in opposition was also boosted by Shaw's resignation and the ensuing dispute with speaker Ken Smith. These events contributed to the government's inability to advance its legislative agenda while making the Coalition appear deeply divided and undisciplined.

Fighting to set the election agenda. The Coalition has sought to focus on budget management, an area it believes is its strong suit. The Coalition has predicted increasing budget surpluses in future years. The government has also been seeking to address law and order issues. The Coalition's transport centrepiece is the East-West Link. While lauded by road user groups, the project has attracted fierce criticism from local groups. Also, opponents have mobilised as they question the business case for the road project. Non-policy matters have recently overshadowed attempts by the Coalition to focus on its preferred issues.

A series of social media gaffes by Liberal Party candidates and the leaking of a recording of Ted Baillieu apparently criticising some colleagues has distracted the government from advancing its policies. Labor has been surprisingly steady since losing office in 2010, but Daniel Andrews hit some political turbulence over the leaked recording of Ted Baillieu. The leaked tape, however, had a negative impact on the Labor Party as well, especially as Andrews struggled to deflect questions about his knowledge of the tape. This was perhaps one event that has tested Andrews' mettle and he came out with mixed reviews of his handling of the episode.



AAP/Julian Smith. In terms of its policy agenda, Labor has placed great emphasis on public transport and announced the goal of upgrading 50 of the most dangerous rail crossings. It has also proposed to legalise medical cannabis if elected. Polling trend favours Labor. Public opinion polls show that Labor's general approach since 2010 has resonated with many voters.

The trend shows Labor holding on to an election-winning position. More concerning for the government is the fact that the polls have been consistently showing that it trails Labor. Also, the latest Newspoll result of 55%-45% suggests a 7% swing against the government. If this were replicated on election day, the Coalition would lose 15 seats.

The scene is set for a Coalition to be in a defensive mindset. The government will need to hold all the seats it won in 2010 and will therefore be focused on protecting its most marginal areas. Following a redistribution after the last election, the Coalition notionally holds the seats of Wendouree and Yan Yean with margins of just 0.1%.

The bayside seats of Carrum and Frankston are also on notional margins of under 0.5%, while another southeast seat, Bentleigh, is held by 0.9%. Clearly these handful of seats will be the crucial electoral battlegrounds. The Coalition has found itself on the back foot, often due to internal instability. Despite this, it can still hope to win the election. It controls the resources of government and has three months of vigorous campaigning to go. The stubborn opinion polls, however, suggest that many voters have already made up their minds.

<http://theconversation.com/victorian-coalition-has-three-months-to-change-voters-minds-30778>

WHAT IS IT WITH SOCIALISTS AND BULLYING?

Andrew Bolt

Socialists brawl with police, and abuse and jostle people going to a fundraiser. Can you imagine a nation run by people with such an authoritarian streak? I mean, apart from the Soviet Union and Mao's China? THREE anti-East West Link protesters have been charged with assaulting police after demonstrators clashed with officers at a Liberal Party fundraiser in the Melbourne CBD. Startled guests attending the function at the Regent Theatre Plaza on Collins St.

Among them Coalition MPs — had to be pushed through a crowd of about 50 demonstrators by police and security guards, as protesters linked arms to prevent them entering. A series of scuffles ensued as police pushed protesters forward to make paths for frightened-looking guests to get inside. Among the guests forced to push their way into the function were Transport Minister Terry Mulder and Health Minister David Davis. Both were jostled by protesters. ...protest leader Anthony Main. said protesters intended for tonight's picket to be "peaceful". "We had a hundred or more coppers here tonight pushing and shoving people around," he said. Oh, really? Had the protesters not menaced other citizens the police would not have had to lift a finger. The totalitarian streak is a mile wide.

And remember, this is the kind of morality brought to you by the Socialist Party, of which Main has been a member and election candidate. What kind of scum gets off on pack-attacking like this? The wife of Liberal MP Brad Battin was left in tears after being pushed and shoved at Thursday night's heated anti-East West Link protes. Mr Battin said he and his wife were separated by the protesters as they entered the event at the Regent Plaza Ballroom in Collins Street, with his wife pushed into a corner.

He said his wife was in tears after the incident and was now being trolled on social media. And to think such protesters actually think they represent a higher morality rather than a low-rent thuggery. What is with the far-Left and bullying? Why the use of force and physical intimidation to stop people from simply speaking? Opponents of the hard-right World Congress of Families have vowed to block attendees from getting into its conference on Saturday, although they do not know where it will be held. The Coalition to Beat Back the Far-Right says it has already scored victories, with at least three cancelled venues for the forum.

Radical Women spokeswoman Debbie Brennan said the group expected thousands of people to protest... She said the protest was not designed to be violent. Other members of the coalition include Equal Love and the Council of Single Mothers and their Children. The Sydney Morning Herald's sympathetic coverage of people prepared to use force to shut down meeting is a terrible indictment of a newspaper which should be in the business of the free discussion of ideas.

http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/what_is_it_with_socialists_and_bullying/



LIBERALS IN SUDDEN BACKDOWN FROM RIGHT-WING CONFERENCE

August 30, 2014 Richard Willingham and Dan Harrison

Kevin Andrews pulls out of 'families' conference. Citing the need for tolerance, the Social Services Minister has pulled out of the World Congress of Families conference, disappointing organisers.

Senior Liberals from the Abbott and Napthine governments have made a sudden withdrawal from a controversial right-wing conference due to be held this weekend. Federal Social Services Minister Kevin Andrews and Victorian Attorney-General Robert Clark will no longer attend the World Congress of Families because the new venue is Catch the Fire Ministries in Hallam.

The pair were due to give opening speeches and had claimed their attendance was part of their ministerial duties. Illustration: Ron Tandberg. There has been public pressure over the pair's attendance. In July *The Age* revealed prominent Liberals would be attending the forum which included a promoter of Russia's "crusade" against homosexuality and a doctor who spruiks a theory that abortions cause breast cancer. Catch the Fire president Danny Nalliah, and his political branch the Rise Up Australia Party, have courted controversy.

Mr Nalliah infamously blamed the Black Saturday bushfires on Victoria's abortion laws. He is also a critic of Islam. In statements, both Mr Clark and Mr Andrews criticised opponents of the conference as intolerant, and that people had the right to free speech. But the reason cited for their withdrawal has been questioned given Catch The Fire had been listed as a sponsor on promotional material, which has circulated for months.

The event has been targeted by protesters and has been forced to change locations several times. Event organiser Babette Francis played down Catch The Fire's involvement, saying she was just renting the venue and the group did not have any role in organising the congress.

Mr Nalliah confirmed the organisation had not been involved in organising the conference, but had offered its premises on Thursday afternoon after learning they had not been able to secure another venue. Premier Denis Napthine also cited security concerns for Mr Clark's decision. "We believe in free speech in Victoria ... but what we have been advised is the location changed, there are security issues involved and also the new location is totally inappropriate for a senior government minister to attend," Dr Napthine said.

Victorian Liberal backbenchers Bernie Finn and Jan Kronberg, who were due to speak at the conference, have also withdrawn from the event. The attendance of government MPs at the far right wing congress agitated moderates within the Coalition and angered many in the public who saw MPs' attendance as endorsement of the policies. In a statement Mr Andrews said he had planned to attend because "tolerance was a critical value in a Western liberal democracy like Australia."

"The calls for me not to attend demonstrate the intolerance of the Greens and the left - instead of arguing their case in the public arena they seek to shut down debate," Mr Andrews said. "Equally, I cannot support intolerance from other quarters." His office said he would not elaborate on what was so offensive about Catch the Fire. Mr Nalliah told Fairfax Media the withdrawal from the conference on the grounds that it was being hosted by his organisation was a "cop-out". "I think you just look for a scapegoat to try and get out of the situation. I'm not surprised in that sense because our politicians are gutless," he said.

Mr Nalliah said several senior Coalition figures had addressed Catch The Fire in the past, including former prime minister John Howard. A Napthine government spokesman said because the event was now being hosted by Catch the Fire, Mr Clark would no longer attend the conference. "In a democracy such as Victoria, all people are entitled to express their views within the law, and those who disagree should respond with argument and debate rather than by trying to prevent others from gathering to express their views," Mr Clark said. Shadow Attorney-General Martin Pakula said it was no secret Catch the Fire was involved in the conference. "Are we supposed to believe that suddenly this conference is beyond the pale because their premises are being used? It's a weak and bogus excuse by the Attorney-General," he said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/victoria/liberals-in-sudden-backdown-from-rightwing-conference-20140829-10a70f.html>



TED BAILLIEUS EXIT FROM POLITICS BRINGS LIBERAL BACKLASH

JAMES CAMPBELL SUNDAY HERALD SUN
AUGUST 31, 2014

Former premier Ted Baillieu in State Parliament. Picture: Hamish Blair. In politics the way you go out says a lot about you. Back in 2012 the last thing the Labor Party in Victoria needed was a by-election in its heartland seat of Melbourne.

Two years earlier Labor had spent a fortune defending the electorate, then held by health minister Bronwyn Pike, against the rising inner-city Green tide. Clearly, holding it in a by-election was going to be a very hard task — especially as the Liberals would not be running. From the Labor Party's point of view, the best thing would have been for Pike to serve out the four years for which she had just signed on. But instead of thinking about the interests of the party that had given her so much Pike decided to do the right thing by herself and cleared off, forcing the ALP to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars it could ill afford in a hard fought by-election. Two years later the memory of her selfishness remains fresh in the minds of Labor people.

The scale of Ted Baillieu's selfishness in the way he has chosen to exit politics is not on the same scale as Pike's but it is fair to say it has left a bitter taste in a lot of Liberal mouths. Almost 18 months ago Baillieu slipped quietly away as premier. To this day he has never really given any explanation to the people of Victoria who voted to make him premier two years earlier, why he went so quietly. Aside from his duties promoting the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, and an interview given on the first anniversary of the White Night arts festival, Big Ted has since been silent — a brooding presence on the Liberal back bench whose presence, one hopes, occasionally pricks the conscience of the colleagues who were so disloyal to him.

When he told the party last year that he intended to fight another election, it prompted a shrugging of shoulders across the Liberal Party. Most Liberal MPs would have preferred him to clear off so they could get someone new and good into his seat of Hawthorn but as an ex-premier who brought them back into government after 11 years it was generally accepted that if he wanted to hang around, well, that was his right.

Surprisingly, this view continued to prevail even after it became clear that Baillieu's protege, Mary Wooldridge, was likely to struggle in her battle for the nearby seat of Kew. Obviously, it would have been easier for everyone if Ted had cleared off and allowed her to take his seat, avoiding the sort of bloody fights that leave bitterness for years but, well, you know, he's an ex-premier and so on, the reasoning went.

Then when in March Wooldridge went down in a screaming heap in Kew, there was again some wishful thinking along the lines that it would of course be easier and better if Mary were to take Hawthorn rather than having to go upstairs to the Legislative Council but, well, Ted's Ted and no one can tell him what to do. Eventually, of course, Wooldridge was packed off upstairs — not exactly kicking and screaming — but with perhaps the same enthusiasm a Melbourne Grammar boy who expected to get into law at Melbourne Uni feels on his first day doing arts at La Trobe.

And then, four months later, without any warning, Baillieu announces he's going at the next election after all. Readers, I'm afraid I have to tell you that the reaction of most of the Liberal Party to this news is not printable in a family newspaper. Why, everyone wants to know, did Baillieu put us through all this unpleasantness for nothing? As far as I can see, his behaviour only makes sense if he wanted to make sure Wooldridge didn't get his seat.

Having found her a seat for life, Baillieu must have known the Liberal Party would be reluctant to revisit the issue of her future. But incredibly this is not the case. Apparently Baillieu is running around saying Hawthorn ought to be given to Mary, to which the party has said "too late". Indeed, so committed is Baillieu to promoting Wooldridge's cause, he has refused to speak to IPA boss John Roskam and staffer John Pesutto, the two men who are frontrunners to replace him.

In Pesutto's case, Baillieu's refusal to return his phone calls after years of factional service has staggered many in the party. "If that's how he treats his friends", is the politest way I have heard it described. So farewell, Big Ted, in your departure you have reminded us why you were such a flop as premier. Your failure has weakened immeasurably the cause of progressive Liberalism.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/ted-baillieus-exit-from-politics-brings-liberal-backlash/story-fni0fh8t-1227042458236>

EX LIB SPINNERS AND MEDIA SPAT OVER WHO GETS BIG TED'S LOVE

ANDREW CROOK OCT 17, 2011

Former Liberal adviser-turned Sunday Herald Sun scribe James Campbell had an interesting column yesterday (in the most amusing edition of the paper in awhile, see media briefs), accusing Ted Baillieu communications tsar Josephine Cafagna of leaning on her 7:30 Victoria successor to ensure government ministers stayed in the spotlight.

Campbell, who is expert at consulting his former Liberal colleagues to extract scoops (including a memorable ski field admission from Benambra MP Bill Tilley that he'd met with dumped assistant police commissioner Sir Ken Jones) wrote that Cafagna had an "ease of access" to the program (previously *Stateline*) that she hosted until Josie Taylor took over this year. "We're always being told to go on it," complained one miffed minister to the bald yarn-slinger. But the suggestion that Cafagna was still at the controls of her old show drew a rapid-fire retort from Taylor on Twitter.

The feisty redhead questioned whether Campbell "really thought ministers shouldn't appear on Victoria's only state based current affairs TV show" and Campbell hit straight back, citing Taylor's "delightful" fireside chat with premier Ted Baillieu a few weeks ago. In his wide-ranging spray, Campbell also quoted a "senior government staffer" moaning that they were hauled over the coals whenever they gave a drop to the *Herald Sun* as opposed to *The Age*. The inference here is that Cafagna would prefer the government's drops were channelled through her husband Paul Austin's employer (Austin was forced to vacate his role as *The Age's* state political editor amid conflict-of-interest concerns on the afternoon of Cafagna's appointment. He is now the paper's opinion editor).

But does the allegation stack up? Campbell references last Friday's program in which Police Minister Peter Ryan and Corrections Minister Andrew McIntosh both gave interviews. 7:30 Victoria's archives show there have been numerous sit-down interviews under Taylor's reign. Struggling housing minister Wendy Lovell fronted on 7 October. Ryan also appeared on September 5.

Agriculture minister Peter Walsh showed up on August 26, as did Attorney General Robert Clark on August 13, Community Services Minister Mary Wooldridge on July 8, Racing minister Denis Napthine on May 6, Kim Wells on May 4 and Baillieu on March 14 ("thank you Josie, it's always a pleasure to be here and welcome to you too").

Crikey understands that the main motivation for Campbell's column was that the *Sunday Herald Sun* — with 1.1 million readers — is yet to secure a sit-down interview this year with the Premier. By contrast, the twice-blessed 7:30 *Victoria* had 169,000 viewers last Friday and 144,000 the Friday before, suggesting Baillieu's notorious "small target strategy" also extends to TV. HWT insiders say former Premier John Brumby regularly provided both News tabloids with in-depth interviews and other secret briefings.

Campbell also claimed that Cafagna had erred in playing off Baillieu's "elitist instincts", suggesting she was too far to the left politically to resonate with the Liberals' popular base. There are number of mind-bending conflicts and connections on both sides of this dispute. There's Cafagna liaising with her former program and getting accused by Campbell of placing her husband's newspaper on the drip.

Then there's Campbell's former past as a spinner for former-Liberal MP Helen Shardey (who was very close to Ted Baillieu) telling Baillieu's current spinner how to do her job. And there's also Taylor, who has yet to publicly declare her own conflict as the daughter of Victoria's Deputy Ombudsman John Taylor. Yesterday, she got the last word in to defend her program's integrity against the "extraordinary love" shown by Cafagna, saying that "for the record, we often get knock backs, like any other program/newspaper. Maybe you should tune in a bit more."

<http://www.crikey.com.au/2011/10/17/ex-lib-spinners-and-media-spat-over-who-gets-big-teds-love/>

ABBOTT CRITICISED FOR VIEW THAT FIRST FLEET WAS AUSTRALIA'S DEFINING MOMENT

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 30, 2014

TONY Abbott's chief indigenous adviser has criticised the Prime Minister's comment that the arrival of the First Fleet was "the defining moment in the history" of Australia. Launching the Defining Moments Project yesterday Mr Abbott said although the First Fleet's arrival "dispossessed, and for a long time marginalised indigenous people", modern Australia was "profoundly shaped" by the British settlement. "The First Fleet was the defining moment in the history of this continent," he said, adding it was the "the moment this continent became part of the modern world". But Warren Mundine, the chair of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council, criticised his view.

"Well it was a defining moment, there's no argument about that. It was also a disastrous defining moment for indigenous people," Mr Mundine told ABC radio today. Aboriginal people had not prospered from white settlement, he said. "We're miles behind everyone else and in fact I wouldn't be sitting in this job if Aboriginal people did prosper. There wouldn't be a need for the chair of the Indigenous Advisory Council or the council as a whole."

Last month Mr Mundine said he had “raised his eyebrows” when Mr Abbott said we had all benefited from Britain’s original foreign investment because Australia was “unsettled” before the British arrived. The Prime Minister’s comment yesterday was also criticised by head of the Stolen Generation Council for NSW, Matilda House.

“I can’t fathom how a ship or a boat sailed into Sydney Harbour can overtake the 60,000 years before,” she told the ABC’s AM program. The Defining Moments Project has identified 100 moments in Australia’s history that changed the nation for better or worse. Included in the list are: Lieutenant James Cook claiming the east coast of Australia for Britain in 1770; the beginning of the Gold rushes in New South Wales and Victoria in 1851; the first Melbourne Cup horse race in 1861; the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901; and even recent events like the ‘Black Saturday’ bushfires in 2009. Mr Abbott said any attempt to nominate a defining moment would be contentious, but recognised the project would help to popularise important episodes in Australia’s history.

“On the 26th January 1788, Governor Phillip raised the Union flag at Sydney Cove, drank the King’s health and success to the settlement, and I quote from the official record, ‘With all that display of form, which on such occasions is esteemed propitious, because it enlivens the spirits and fills the imagination with pleasing presages’,” Mr Abbott said. “It has provided the foundation for Australia to become one of the freest, fairest, and most prosperous societies on the face of the earth. “So Arthur Phillip is as significant to modern Australia as George Washington is to the modern United States.”

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/indigenous/abbott-criticised-for-view-that-first-fleet-was-australias-defining-moment/story-fn9hm1pm-1227042384837>



**AUSTRALIA TO JOIN
MULTINATIONAL AIRLIFT
AGAINST ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ**

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 31,
2014 Stefanie Balogh

A Royal Australian Air Force C-17A
Globe master which will join a US-led
multinational campaign in Iraq.
Source: Supplied

AUSTRALIA will join a multinational effort against the barbaric Islamic State terrorists in Iraq, flying plane loads of arms and munitions into the strife-torn nation. Tony Abbott has announced today that RAAF C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster aircraft will join aircraft from other nations including Canada, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the United States to help repel the jihadist extremists. The Prime Minister said today the “United States Government has requested that Australia help to transport stores of military equipment, including arms and munitions, as part of a multi-nation effort”.

He remains concerned about the unfolding situation in Iraq, saying it represents a "humanitarian catastrophe. The Weekend Australian, which signalled earlier this week that Australia was preparing for a greater involvement, revealed on Saturday that the Abbott government was also considering deploying SAS soldiers, F18 Super Hornet jet fighters and sophisticated airborne early-warning and control aircraft as part of a military contribution to US-led efforts in Iraq.

The stepping up of Australia's involvement in the increasingly messy conflict comes after British Prime Minister David Cameron raised the official British terror threat over the weekend to "severe" amid fears foreign fighters returning from the region are plotting terrorist attacks. Australia's level remains at "medium" but may be increased in coming months. In a statement today, Mr Abbott said: "Australia will join international partners to help the anti-ISIL forces in Iraq."

"Following the successful international humanitarian relief effort air-dropping supplies to the thousands of people stranded on Mount Sinjar in northern Iraq, the Royal Australian Air Force will now conduct further humanitarian missions," he said. "Royal Australian Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster aircraft will join aircraft from other nations including Canada, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the United States to conduct this important task."

"Australia's contribution will continue to be coordinated with the government of Iraq and regional countries," he said. "The situation in Iraq represents a humanitarian catastrophe." "Australia remains in close contact with the United States and other international partners and we will continue to work to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Iraq and address the security threat posed by ISIL," Mr Abbott said. Mr Abbott's statement today confirms reports in News Corp's Sunday newspapers including The Sunday Telegraph about Australia's greater involvement.

The reports suggested the US may also ask Australia to consider deploying RAAF super hornets to support US air strikes as early as this week at NATO talks in Wales. Any request by the US secretary of state John Kerry, who is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, will be considered by Australia's National Security Committee. The decision to airlift support to the Kurds was made at the National Security Committee meeting a week ago and work has continued since to prepare for the mission.

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten was briefed by the government on the airlift yesterday. Immigration Minister Scott Morrison said the air drops would not involve Australian guns or munitions. "The first point I should make is that they're not Australian weaponry or munitions or anything of that nature. These are weapons and other things that are sourced from other partners in this process," Mr Morrison told Sky News Australian Agenda. "Australia is joining a multi-nation team in getting involved in this exercise ... working together to provide support to those who are seeking to at least hold, if not go further and significantly harm ISIS."

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/australia-to-join-multinational-airlift-against-islamic-state-in-iraq/story-e6frg8yo-1227042704897>

INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY MISSION TO IRAQ

Australia will join international partners to help the anti-ISIL forces in Iraq. Following the successful international humanitarian relief effort air-dropping supplies to the thousands of people stranded on Mount Sinjar in northern Iraq, the Royal Australian Air Force will now conduct further humanitarian missions. The United States Government has requested that Australia help to transport stores of military equipment, including arms and munitions, as part of a multi-nation effort. Royal Australian Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globe master aircraft.

They will join aircraft from other nations including Canada, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the United States to conduct this important task. Australia's contribution will continue to be coordinated with the government of Iraq and regional countries. The situation in Iraq represents a humanitarian catastrophe. Australia remains in close contact with the United States and other international partners and we will continue to work to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Iraq and address the security threat posed by ISIL

SAS TROOPS, HORNETS IN FRAME FOR IRAQ MISSION

THE AUSTRALIAN AUGUST 30, 2014 Greg Sheridan

THE Abbott government is considering deploying SAS soldiers, F18 Super Hornet jet fighters and sophisticated airborne early-warning and control aircraft as part of a military contribution to US-led efforts in Iraq. The government has consistently ruled out the deployment of Australian combat forces on the ground in Iraq. However, special forces such as the SAS are not conventional combat ground forces. Their deployment would not breach the government's commitment.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/defence/sas-troops-hornets-in-frame-for-iraq-mission/story-e6frg8yo-1227041961078#>



**WE MUST FIGHT THIS THREAT TO
WORLD PEACE**

THE EDITOR THE SUNDAY MAIL
(QLD) AUGUST 31, 2014.

Australia's terror alert remains medium. PRIME Minister Tony Abbott will today confirm Australia's commitment to a Coalition fighting force aimed at stopping the Islamic State insurgency into Syria and Iraq.

Australia has agreed to a request from the US Government to provide airlift support to help security forces in Iraq arrest the ISIL advance. RAAF C-130J Hercules and C-17A Globe master aircraft will join other nations to transport weapons and munitions to the Kurds in northern Iraq.



Armed officers guard the entry to Downing St, London, as the UK raises its terror threat level to 'severe'. Picture: AFP. The other nations include Albania, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom. Australia's C-130J Hercules and C-17A aircraft, based in the United Arab Emirates, are on standby.

While the US has not made a formal request for Australia to deploy F18 Super Hornet jet fighters to Iraq, we remain ready and able to do so. A squadron of these jet fighters is on standby at Amberley. There are no plans for combat troops on the ground in Iraq. However, SAS soldiers from Australia's elite special forces are not conventional forces and would not breach that commitment. The ramping up of Australia's involvement in a new war in the Middle East is unfortunate but the right thing to do. The barbarism and inhumanity of ISIS jihadis must be stopped.



These people are animals. They are hell-bent on forging an Islamic caliphate without borders. They are a major threat to world peace. It is incumbent upon nations like the United States, UK and Australia to thwart this threat. Of course, it now raises the home grown threat of terrorism. Britain raised the threat of international terrorism to "severe" on Friday night, indicating a terrorist attack is highly likely but not imminent. Australia's terror alert level is currently "medium".

ASIO chief David Irvine has warned that increased military action in Iraq could trigger a heightened domestic terror threat. These are the times we live in. Doing nothing is not an option. Ending terrorism and jihadi threats from inhumane Muslims has to be our No.1 priority.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/opinion/editorial-we-must-fight-this-threat-to-world-peace/story-fnihsr9v-1227042363071>



SYRIAN SOLDIERS STRIPPED AND MASSACRED BY THE ISLAMIC STATE

ZEINA KARAMRYAN LUCAS THE COURIER-MAIL
AUGUST 30, 2014

Govt considers action against ISIS. Obama : U.S. strategy over Islamic State requires Sunni cooperation in Iraq, Syria. THE Islamic State group has killed more than 160 Syrian government troops captured in recent fighting, posting pictures yesterday of terrified young conscripts stripped down to their underwear being marched to their deaths in the arid Syrian countryside.

The slayings were the latest massacre attributed to the extremist group, which has terrorised rivals and civilians alike with widely publicised brutality in Syria and Iraq as it seeks to expand a proto-state it has carved out on both sides of the border. The mass killing is part of a stepped-up campaign by Islamic State militants targeting President Bashar al-Assad's forces. The jihadists seized military bases in northeastern Raqqa province, killing hundreds of pro-government forces, beheading some and displaying their severed heads on poles and posting the pictures online.



An image grab taken from a video uploaded on social networks shows young men in underwear being marched barefoot along a desert road before being allegedly executed by Islamic State (IS) militants at an undisclosed location in Syria's Raqqa Province. Most of the dozens killed yesterday were rounded up near the Tabqa airfield three days after Islamic State fighters seized the base. A statement posted online and circulated on Twitter claimed the extremists killed about 200 government prisoners captured near Tabqa.

It also showed photographs of what it said were the prisoners: young men stripped down to their underwear marching in the desert, some with their hands behind their heads. The group also posted a video apparently showing IS fighters forcing the barefoot men to march through the desert. Another video later showed dozens of bodies piled in the sand, alongside others lying motionless, apparently dead, in a row in the sand.



An image grab taken from a video uploaded on social networks shows young men in underwear being marched barefoot along a desert road before being allegedly executed by Islamic State (IS) militants at an undisclosed location in Syria's Raqa Province.

In Washington, President Barack Obama played down the prospect of imminent US military action against IS strongholds in Syria, saying "we don't have a strategy yet" for confronting the militants. He said it was time to "stop being ambivalent" about the aims of such extremist groups.

"They have no ideology beyond violence, chaos and the slaughter of innocent people," Mr Obama said. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the conflicts in Syria and Iraq "reach out to us because there are at least 60 Australians known to be involved with these terrorist groups". "We have seen the beheadings, the crucifixions, the mass executions. This is pure evil and it does need to be dealt with as best we can."

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/syrian-soldiers-stripped-and-massacred-by-the-islamic-state/story-fnihsrk2-1227041905219>



CANBERRA MUSLIMS SAY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN CONSULTED OVER DRACONIAN ANTI-TERROR LAWS

ABC August 30, 2014

ABC Australian Muslim Voice president Diana Abdel-Rahman. (August 2014). Leaders from Canberra's Muslim community say the Federal Government has kept them in the dark over proposed new anti-terror laws, which they've described as "draconian" and "ill-conceived".

Members of Australian Muslim Voice, Canberra Islamic Centre, Islamic Forum for Australian Muslim ACT, and the Bluestar Intercultural Centre met this week to discuss what they described as a lack of ACT consultation over the laws. In a joint statement released following the meeting, the group expressed "deep concern" over the proposed legislation. "We are equally concerned that the level of intelligence gathering may result in damaging civil liberties of innocent citizens," the statement read.

"These creeping and unjust proposed legislative changes appear to be the type of laws that many migrants escaped from their country of birth on the expectation that Australia has greater respect for its people, human rights and the rule of law." The Government is proposing a broadening of the counter-terrorism regime that would include making it an offence to visit certain areas dominated by terrorists, without justification. It would also compel telephone and internet companies to keep metadata.

'Dialogue' needed, Australian Muslim Voice says. Australian Muslim Voice president Diana Abdel-Rahman said the Muslim community was not being heard. "We as a community understand that there might be small elements that are causing problems, but we can't use a sledge hammer to crack a little nut," she said. "We need to find a way, a better way and we need to do this through consultations, we need to do this through dialogue, we need to do this through face-to-face meetings with those who are in decision making roles." Ms Abdel-Rahman said the Canberra Muslim community wanted to be treated equally. "The community here in Canberra is no different to any other Muslim community in Australia ... they are creative and they have ideas and they would like to be able to contribute towards any future building ideas of how we can work in a harmonious and social and happy sort of society in Australia."

Interstate Muslim communities also express concerns. The proposed anti-terror laws have also attracted widespread criticism from Muslim communities in other parts of Australia. Yesterday, Muslim leaders said they were left disappointed by a meeting in Sydney with Attorney-General George Brandis to discuss the proposed anti-terror laws. Attendees said they were frustrated that Senator Brandis showed up almost an hour late, leaving them just 30 minutes to review the draft legislation and offer feedback.

Meantime earlier in the month, Prime Minister Tony Abbott criticised Muslim leaders in Melbourne who boycotted a meeting with him over the counterterrorism laws, saying they acted "foolishly". "Obviously the most important thing is to talk and that's why I was disappointed that a small number of Islamic leaders, community leaders, I thought rather foolishly boycotted that meeting," he told 774 ABC Melbourne. "You can hardly complain that people aren't talking to you, then when they offer you a talk say 'sorry we're not coming'."

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/24855256/canberra-muslims-say-they-have-not-been-consulted-over-draconian-anti-terror-laws/?source=wan>



GEORGE BRANDIS MEETING LEAVES MUSLIM LEADERS FRUSTRATED WITH DIALOGUE

Leaders say brief look at anti-terrorism legislation proposals did nothing to allay concerns about civil liberties. Australian Associated Press The guardian.com, Saturday 30 August 2014.

Islamic community spokesman Hany Amer after the meeting. Photograph: Tracey Nearmy/AAP Community consultation over proposed anti-terrorism laws has been "insufficient" to allay concerns, a Muslim leader says. When the attorney general, George Brandis, met key Muslim leaders in Sydney on Friday, the group had 30 minutes to review draft amendments to the legislation. Muslim leader Hany Amer said there was not enough time to look over the proposals, which aim to stop young Australians taking part in wars in the Middle East. The laws as they stood did not have enough safeguards for the innocent and the federal government's public statements and foreign policies were only exacerbating tensions, he said.

"These hastily pursued measures with little genuine consultation will infringe on our right to a presumption of innocence until proven guilty," Amer said. Based on Friday's meeting, it was difficult to feel the community's voice had been heard, but if there was further engagement positive solutions were possible, he said. Amer said he was told the proposals were not up for negotiation. The Muslim leaders later issued a joint statement reiterating their disappointment with the meeting. They said it left them questioning "whether the government is interested in serious consultation".

The group said the legislation would "significantly dilute important legal safeguards and civil liberties of all Australians". In contrast, a spokesman for Brandis said the meeting was constructive. "It was a friendly and constructive meeting and it was agreed that consultations would continue," the spokesman said. Last week, a handful of Islamic leaders refused to attend meetings with Tony Abbott in Sydney and Melbourne. The prime minister said although the boycott was "foolish", there was a "Team Australia" spirit among those who did join in.

http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/30/george-brandis-meeting-muslim-leaders-frustrated-anti-terrorism-consultation?CMP=ema_632



DENIS NAPHTHINE MOVES TO EXPEL FRANKSTON MP GEOFF SHAW

September 3, 2014 Richard Willingham State Political Correspondent for The Age One is the loneliest number: Geoff Shaw in the chamber on Wednesday morning. *Photo: Joe Armao.* Government seeks to expel Shaw. Victorian Premier Denis Naphthine announces he will seek Geoff Shaw's expulsion from Parliament, questioning the sincerity of the Frankston MP's apology on Tuesday.

Premier Denis Naphthine has tabled a motion to expel rogue independent MP Geoff Shaw because his apology to Parliament about misuse of his parliamentary entitlements lacked sincerity. It leaves Mr Shaw's future as the member for Frankston in the balance, just one day after he gave a long-awaited apology to the Parliament on Tuesday for the breaching the parliamentarians code of conduct. It was a carefully worded apology that fulfilled the requirements of a motion against him. But he later told the Herald Sun that the whole process was "a political farce".

A requirement of the apology was that Mr Shaw was *sincere and genuine*. Dr Napthine's motion, which holds that Mr Shaw is in contempt of Parliament, will be debated on Thursday. The motion says the Parliament "notes that the member for Frankston has demonstrated by his subsequent behaviour that the apology he delivered to the Legislative Assembly on 2 September 2014 was inappropriate and therefore he has failed to meet the requirements". The motion also says that Mr Shaw should be expelled "from the Legislative Assembly forthwith". On Monday night, just prior to delivering his apology, Mr Shaw told Fairfax Media that Dr Napthine should step down as Premier because he wasn't able to lead.

On Wednesday morning, Premier Denis Napthine said the comments, and those made in the lead up to the apology, raised questions about the sincerity of the apology. He said further action would be considered. "It does raise some serious concerns about how genuine Mr Shaw was with his apology yesterday," Dr Napthine said. The government will examine the comments further, he said. Later, the Premier told Parliament that Mr Shaw's apology was "inappropriate". A grim-faced Mr Shaw pulled out his phone and began texting following the Premier's dramatic announcement.

Dr Napthine told a press conference the Mr Shaw had shown contempt for the Parliament and the people of Victoria with his comments to the media. He also cited comments Mr Shaw made before the apology. "Throwing someone out of parliament is a very serious thing," Dr Napthine said. "So it absolutely imperative that a fair and justice process in place." He said such decisions must not be driven by political necessity. "This is not a genuine apology," Dr Napthine said. "There is a clear pattern of behaviour that shows that he is not fair dinkum." He said there had been a long and fair process for Mr Shaw to apology.

There have been two schools of thought within the government about whether to expel the troublesome MP. Dr Napthine denied his government was divided and labelled the whole event a side issue. "I'm not fussed about Mr Shaw, we are getting on with the job of delivering the results and the outcomes Victorians need," he said. An MP has not been expelled from the Victorian Parliament since 1901 when Edward Findley was kicked out for libel of the king.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/denis-napthine-moves-to-expel-frankston-mp-geoff-shaw-20140903-10bpgq.html#ixzz3CD02CIMM>



EXPELLING GEOFF SHAW WON'T END DENIS NAPHINE'S PROBLEMS

THE AUSTRALIAN SEPTEMBER 03, 2014
Patricia Karvelas. Geoff Shaw in State Parliament today. *Source: News Corp Australia.*

Victorian Premier Denis Napthine's claim that his move to expel rogue Frankston MP Geoff Shaw from Parliament is not about politics or the upcoming election is laughable.

The Napthine Government is desperate to look tough after allowing the rogue MP, once a member of the Liberal team, to consistently disrupt the Government's stability and attempt to get political traction. The premier finally had the perfect opportunity to move against Mr Shaw following the MP's inflammatory comments to the Herald Sun that the process which led to the apology was a "political farce" and that he had been "made to jump through hoops".

Because the motion to expel Mr Shaw from the parliament has been moved so close to the election, it is unlikely that a by-election will be held. Being humiliated at a by-election has been one of the Government's chief concerns. Expelling Shaw now delivers the dual aims of looking tough while not facing the consequences of an early poll.

The motion, which will be debated tomorrow, says the Parliament "notes that the member for Frankston has demonstrated by his subsequent behaviour that the apology he delivered to the Legislative Assembly on 2 September 2014 was inappropriate and therefore he has failed to meet the requirements". It also says that Mr Shaw should be expelled "from the Legislative Assembly forthwith". Labor will have to support the motion, but it is unlikely to end the Napthine Government's problems.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/state-politics/expelling-geoff-shaw-wont-end-denis-naphines-problems/story-e6frgczx-1227046151623>



VIC MP SHAW SLAMS BULLY PREMIER

ANGUS LIVINGSTON AND GENEVIEVE GANNON September 4, 2014 AAP

Rebel MP Geoff Shaw appears set to survive a bid to have him booted from the Victorian Parliament.

Rogue MP Geoff Shaw will hang on until the Victorian election and reckons he's being bullied by a premier who has lost the plot. All sides agree the Shaw "circus" is a distraction, but the government maintains it can get legislation through without the balance-of-power MP's support. The independent MP survived Premier Denis Napthine's attempt to expel him from parliament, voting to save himself after Labor locked it up at 42 votes all.

Mr Shaw said the premier was acting erratically over comments in a newspaper. "I think he's lost the plot, to be perfectly honest," Mr Shaw told reporters on Thursday. "What he's done is neglect five and a half million Victorians and go after one person, myself. "He wants to pick on and bully the one and use all the tricks and all the shady stuff in parliament to be able to try to expel me."

Dr Napthine attempted to expel Mr Shaw after the Frankston MP labelled his own apology to the parliament for misusing his entitlements a farce. Deputy Premier Peter Ryan said the government would not try to expel Mr Shaw again - but it would not work with him to get legislation through.

"We have no intention of negotiating with Geoff Shaw over anything," Mr Ryan told reporters. Mr Ryan denied the long-running dispute with Mr Shaw had damaged the coalition in the eyes of the public. "Has the whole saga been a distraction? Yes it has," he said. "But we've drawn a line under it today." Mr Shaw, who returned from a three-month suspension on Tuesday, said he would decide how he would vote on each piece of legislation as it came up. "They've done without me for a few months," Mr Shaw said. It's the second time Mr Shaw has survived an attempt to expel him from parliament, after a Labor motion failed in June. This time Labor said it would not back the move because it was a stunt, saving Mr Shaw from expulsion with only six sitting days left before the November 29 state election.

Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews said Mr Shaw had done what the parliament asked of him when it suspended him in June. "That suspension has been served, the money has been repaid, an apology has been given," Mr Andrews told parliament. "The conditions of the motion have been fulfilled." Dr Napthine said Mr Shaw had "clearly and plainly demonstrated that his apology was not genuine" and he was mocking the parliament. Mr Shaw said he had spoken to some Liberal MPs who believed the expulsion motion set a bad precedent.

He said he had not decided where his preferences would go at the election, but he wasn't happy with the leadership in Victoria's parliament. "I don't see leadership on the front bench of either the opposition or the government," Mr Shaw said. He said he had an informal chat with the conservative Rise Up Australia party about preferences, but he would remain independent. Mr Shaw was suspended from parliament in June and ordered to make an apology and repay more than \$6800 for misusing his parliamentary car, fuel card and parliamentary entitlements.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/vic/a/24892167/vic-rebel-mp-set-to-survive-oust-bid/>



FRANKSTON MP GEOFF SHAW SURVIVES PREMIER'S EXPULSION BID

September 4, 2014 Josh Gordon and Henrietta Cook

Shaw's own vote keeps him in Parliament. With the Labor-Coalition vote deadlocked at 42 each, it was Frankston MP Geoff Shaw who cast the deciding vote on whether he should be expelled from Parliament.

Geoff Shaw has ramped up his rhetoric against Denis Napthine, accusing the Premier of having "lost the plot" after the balance-of-power MP survived a move by the Coalition to end his controversial political career and expel him from Parliament. In a series of explosive claims, Mr Shaw said he was expecting Dr Napthine to use other tactics against him to shut him down.

"This leader has used his position in a bully boy way, he has pulled out all stops, all the tricks, all the smoke and mirrors from Parliament to try to expel one person when he should be looking after the millions in Victoria," Mr Shaw told *The Age*. Winners are grinners: Geoff Shaw in Parliament on Thursday.



Photo: Jason South The comments came just minutes after Dr Napthine's motion to expel Mr Shaw was defeated 43 votes to 42, after Labor and Mr Shaw. Shaw voted against the motion. Although Coalition MPs voted for the motion, privately some have expressed concern about the "optics" of the Shaw saga.

One government MP said it was "of great concern" and sent a dreadful message that the Government had spent the seventh last sitting of the parliament once again talking about Geoff Shaw. Mr Shaw, who will remain in the parliament, said Dr Napthine had "lost the plot". "There are a lot of parliamentarians that need to line up right next to me and apologise for bringing Parliament into disrepute," Mr Shaw said. "Tony Abbott could do that, Julia Gillard, Denis Napthine for wasting so much time and all of his cabinet members who got up and spoke."

"The Liberal Party are lacking leadership. Napthine should be looking after the millions in Victoria and making policies for them, not wasting Parliament's time and using his parliamentary powers to bully me." He also endorsed Planning Minister Matthew Guy as the next leader of the Liberal Party. Labor extended a lifeline to the controversial MP, declaring it would not be supporting the Premier's motion because it was a "grubby, cheap political stunt". Only three months earlier, the Opposition called for Mr Shaw to be banished from state parliament.

A resolute Dr Napthine told Parliament on Thursday morning that Mr Shaw's apology was not genuine and moving to expel the controversial was not a decision he had taken lightly. "It was a farce. It certainly was not appropriate," he said. "The member for Frankston failed the critical test. He was not genuine he was not fair dinkum. It was a farcical situation." Dr Napthine laid out the groundwork to expel the independent, outlining the secretive privileges committee findings into Mr Shaw's misuse of his taxpayer-funded car, which found the Frankston MP had acted "inappropriately". Labor staged a carefully-orchestrated walk out, after Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews argued that Mr Shaw had complied with a government-backed motion, which demanded he pay almost \$7000, serve an 11 sitting-day suspension and genuinely apologise.

"This is a circus ... and the parliamentary Labor Party will have no involvement in it," Mr Andrews said. Mr Shaw did not speak on the Premier's motion, sat slumped in his chair and left the chamber shortly after Mr Andrews' contribution. He returned to the chamber vote on the motion at 11.30. The motion was defeated, 43 votes to 42 after Mr Shaw sided with the opposition. In a rare press conference on the steps of state parliament, Mr Shaw revealed he had spoken to Rise Up Australia party leader Danny Nalliah about preference deals. "He contacted me and we had a talk but it was pretty informal"

He did not rule out directing his preferences to Labor and spoke positively about Mr Andrews. "I thought Daniel Andrews was very statesman-like, he looked like a leader opposed to Napthine, who looked like an Opposition leader." The Frankston MP said he was still a conservative but the Napthine government no longer shared his conservative values. He repeated that the whole process had been a farce and said Dr Napthine had not shown leadership. "How many hoops do I have to jump through?" Mr Shaw said Dr Napthine had neglected Victorians by pursuing a vendetta against himself.

"Victorians care about the cost of living, health, their children's education and \$8 billion spent on a road they are not going to use." Speaking at a press conference after the vote, Deputy Premier Peter Ryan said Labor and Mr Shaw were "Victoria's newest coalition". "Today [Mr Shaw] has been embraced by Daniel Andrews and the Labor Party," Mr Ryan said. He said Labor's back flip on Mr Shaw's expulsion showed that Mr Andrews could not be trusted. "We have no intention of having anything to do with Mr Shaw." He said the government would not pursue any further punishment for Mr Shaw. "We have drawn a line under it today," Mr Ryan said.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/frankston-mp-geoff-shaw-survives-premiers-expulsion-bid-20140904-10c960.html>