IN THE SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA AT MELBOURNE COMMON LAW DIVISION

No.

of 2011

BETWEEN

KATHERINE JACKSON TIM KENNEDY BILL OLIVER MICHAEL DONOVAN KAZIM ATES

**Plaintiffs** 

and

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY KARL BITAR NICK MARTIN NICHOLAS REECE

Defendants

## AFFIDAVIT OF JARROD PANTHER

Date of document

27 January 2011

Filed on behalf of the Plaintiffs

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I, JARROD PANTHER, of Unit 7, 191 Wonga Road, North Ringwood in the State of Victoria, clerk, make oath and say:

I am a member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Labor Party ("the Victorian Branch"), and attended the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the Victorian Branch on 25 January 2011 as the proxy for Sebastian Zwalf.

## Meeting of Administrative Committee on 25 January 2011

 At the meeting of the Administrative Committee on 25 January 2011, Mr George Seitz moved and Mr Stephen Donnelly seconded a proposed resolution in the following terms:

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'The Administrative Committee notes that as a consequence of the resignation from parliament of John Brumby a by-election will take place for the state district of Broadmeadows on Saturday, 19 February.

Further, the Administrative Committee notes that nominations will close for registered political parties on Monday, 31 January at 12pm.

Having regard to the time available to undertake this pre-selection, and the precedent established by the Albert Park, Williamstown, Koroit and Altona preselection timetables, the Administrative Committee resolves to abridge the timeframes required for the preparation and distribution of the local members voters roll in accordance with rule 9.3.3(d).

As such, the Administrative Committee resolves to adopt the following preselection timetable:

Date	Event
Fri 21 Jan – 12pm	Nominations open (to be retrospectively endorsed by the Administrative Committee)
Wed 26 Jan – 12pm	Draft roll circulated
Thu 27 Jan – 12pm	Deadline for inaccuracies in the draft roll
Fri 28 Jan – 1pm	Final roll circulated
Fri 28 Jan – 1pm	Nominations close
Fri 28 Jan – 5pm	Deadline for 'proved errors and omissions'
Sat 29 Jan – 12pm – 6pm	Local plebiscite to be held in the local
	electorate
Sun 30 Jan – 12pm	POSC vote'

- The motion was defeated on a vote of 13 for, and 18 against. 3.
- Another member of the Administrative Committee whose name I do not presently recall 4. moved another motion as follows:

'The Victorian Administrative Committee notes, as a consequence of the resignation from the Parliament of John Brumby, that the Party is required to

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nominate a candidate for the Broadmeadows by-election prior to midday the 31st of January 2011.

In light of the announcement by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the dates of the by-election on Thursday the 20th day of January, the Victorian ALP Party Officers Committee met the following morning to request an Administrative Committee Meeting to be convened in the shortest possible time allowable and to open nominations as of midday the 21st of January. It resolved to leave the question of the closing date of nominations to the Administrative Committee, although it should be noted that local members were informed in writing of the importance of nominating early as nominations may close prior to them receiving any additional notice in writing.

The Administrative Committee is of the view that the national executive is better placed within the short timelines to conduct the pre-selection for Broadmeadows. It is critical that the merits of all candidates are properly considered and to select the candidate best suited to representing Labor members and voters in the Legislative Assembly seat of Broadmeadows.

Having regard to the short timeline and the imperative of nominating a candidate on behalf of the ALP prior to the deadline, the Administrative Committee is of the view that an ordinary pre-selection process under Rule 18 is not feasible, nor in the case where timelines are modified by this Committee for the shortest practicable time allowable in light of nominations still to be closed. The Administrative Committee is also of a view that it is necessary to avoid a local ballot on the basis of preserving the general welfare of the Labor Movement in light of the possibility of a local vote being severely compromised by the utilization of a disputed (and large) roll without sufficient time to for party scrutiny. Such an adverse public impression could have a severe consequence for the Party's byelection prospects.

The Administrative Committee resolves and requests that the National Executive invoke its plenary powers under National Rule 7c ix in relation to the 2011 ALP pre-selection for the Legislative Assembly Seat of Broadmeadows specifically in relation to initiating and concluding its own nomination process.

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Moreover, the Administrative Committee recommends that those nominees that may not satisfy eligibility requirements be afforded the opportunity to participate in the process, specifically Frank McGuire who has attempted to both join the party and nominate for the Broadmeadows pre-selection prior to this resolution.

The Administrative Committee also requests that the National Executive

Committee be convened at the earliest opportunity in an acknowledgment of the urgency of this matter and to undertake a National Executive ballot if required.

- 5. The motion was carried on a vote of 18 for and 13 against.
- 6. There were no other substantive motions dealing with the Broadmeadows preselection at that meeting.

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**SWORN** at Melbourne by **JARROD PANTHER** on 27 January 2011

before me

BRENDAN JAMES AVALLATION 525 Collins Street, Melbourns
An Australian Legal Practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Profession Act 2004

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