



PRIME MINISTER

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THEO THEOPHANOUS MP FROM BATMAN

I warmly welcome the selfless decision of Theo Theophanous to withdraw from the pre-selection contest for the seat of Batman, thereby giving the nomination to Mr Martin Ferguson unopposed.

I know that this was a very difficult decision for Mr Theophanous to make, and a sacrifice for someone who obviously has very substantial support in the ALP branches in Batman. There is no doubt this action is motivated by what he believes is in best interests of the Labor Party.

I should also like to echo these sentiments for the decision taken on Friday by Ms Jenny Mikakos.

Theo Theophanous has already made an important contribution to the Labor Party. His standing in the Victorian Parliament and community is strong and he has a big role to play facing a conservative government as the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House in Victoria.

In the event that an opportunity arises for Mr Theophanous to join the Federal Parliamentary Labor Party in the future, I should welcome that and the contribution he would make.

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