

MOIRA DEEMING BACK IN AS PESUTTO LOSES LEADERSHIP IN MAJOR LIBERAL PARTY SHAKE-UP

By: Matthew Younan

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Local MP Moira Deeming, whose office is in Caroline Springs, has been readmitted to the Victorian Liberal Party on Friday morning.

This follows a vote last week in which now-ousted Liberal Party Leader John Pesutto cast the deciding vote to block Mrs Deeming's return to the party, with votes tied at 14-14.

The vote on Friday was a resounding 23-4 in Mrs Deeming's favour.

Three MPs, Cindy McLeish, Nick McGowan and Richard Welch were not present and were unable to cast their votes.

Following her readmission, Shadow Police Minister Brad Battin moved a successful spill motion on John Pesutto's leadership.

Mr Pesutto opted not to run, and Mr Battin emerged victorious, winning the leadership ballot of the Victorian Liberals 20 – 7, defeating Mornington MP Chris Crewther.

Meanwhile, opposition financial spokeswoman Jess Wilson's tilt at the top job failed in the first round of voting.

Nepean MP, and former Tennis player, Sam Groth was appointed unopposed as his Deputy, after Mr Pesutto was rolled at the special partyroom meeting.

David Davis has been elevated to leader of the upper house, while Evan Mulholland retained his role as deputy leader of the upper house.

Mrs Deeming said she's looking forward to working with the former police officer to help the community.

"I'm looking forward to working with the new leadership team for my western metro constituents and to defeat Labor in 2026."

Mr Pesutto had been under immense pressure after a Federal Court judge found he had defamed Mrs Deeming following her attendance at the Let Women Speak rally in March 2023.

