

DEPUTY PREMIER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT & MINISTER FOR POLICE  
JOHN WATKINS MP**NEWS RELEASE****HAS DEBNAM DONE ANOTHER DIRTY DEAL?**

Friday 17 November 2006

Opposition Leader Peter Debnam must today reveal whether he's done a deal with a far right fundamentalist group – similar to a preference arrangement by the Victorian Liberals.

Mr Watkins said the Liberals in Victoria had agreed to accept the support of the powerful "Catch the Fire Ministries", which reportedly campaigns for the destruction of 'mosques, casinos and bottle shops'.

Mr Watkins said *The Australian* newspaper reported that the "Catch the Fire Ministries" were boasting that 70-80 per cent of their demands would be met by the Liberals – including abortion law reform.

"Peter Debnam must come clean on any shady deals being done behind the scenes by the NSW Liberals," Mr Watkins said.

"If a vote for Peter Debnam is a vote on one of these religion-based issues, then Peter Debnam should say so.

"The Victorian Liberals appear to have handed over 80 per cent of their policy platform to the extremist right.

"We all know that Peter Debnam has handed total control of his party to the same style of fundamentalists.

"What we need to know now is, have Peter Debnam and David Clarke done the same sort of deals as their desperate Victorian counterparts."

**"I can boldly declare that the Liberal Party has agreed to give 70-80% of what we asked for, particularly the three issues stated above [*non decriminalisation of abortion, new religious vilification laws and blocking a proposed Bill of Rights*], if they win the election."**

- Danny Nalliah, Catch the Fire Ministries leader

Mr Watkins said Mr Debnam should use his first public appearance in three days to answer a range of questions on his conduct and his party. (2pm, Miranda Sutherland United Services Club)

"Peter Debnam must come out of hiding, stop the gutter tactics, and start being honest," Mr Watkins said.

"He's still to justify his appalling behaviour in Parliament this week. Time's up Peter."

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