

Media Release

DAVID DAVIS MP

Shadow Minister for Planning

Shadow Minister for Local Government

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State Member for Southern Metropolitan Region

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Andrews' metropolitan and regional partnerships a costly extra layer which will undermine and supplant democratic processes

Daniel Andrews' nine regional and six metropolitan partnerships seek to usurp the legitimate role of democratically elected local, state and federal government representatives in favour of unelected council CEOs, state and federal bureaucrats and state government selected and appointed so-called "business and community leaders".

The creation of what in effect are fifteen government appointed super councils will in fact diminish Victorian communities' say about the issues that matter to them and supplant genuine elected community representatives.

These "partnerships" are tasked with identifying and actioning "strategic priorities ... across social, economic and environmental issues", something until now properly the role of elected local, state and federal representatives.

Daniel Andrews' "partnerships" are an additional costly, unaccountable and unnecessary layer of government

Quotes attributable to the Shadow Minister for Local Government, David Davis MP:

Daniel Andrews new hand-picked, unaccountable "partnerships" are a brazen attack on Victorian's time honoured and tested democratic rights and traditions that will disempower ordinary Victorians and shut them out of decisions that will impact their neighbourhoods

That Daniel Andrews' announcement was made during the council election caretaker period is not without meaning. Council CEOs in particular will now be even less accountable to their elected councils as a result of their inclusion in these ominous "partnerships".

Ordinary Victorians will have no say over who is appointed to these "partnerships", no process for review of appointments and no lines of accountability for decisions and actions taken in their name. Daniel Andrews' hand-picked 'tame cats' will be unfettered by any notion of accountability to the community.

Daniel Andrews' "partnerships" are a dangerous, sinister and deeply concerning departure from established democratic governance mechanisms in Victoria.

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