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THE HOLLOW MAN

Paul Henderson's failure to even mention the desperate deal he struck with Gerry Wood to cling onto power in his contribution to the parliamentary debate on the no confidence motion highlights how deeply embarrassing the costly deal actually is.

“Not only did the Chief Minister make a lame and insipid defence of his Government’s record, he made no defence at all of the desperate deal that allowed his to cling onto the top job,” says Kezia Purick, Deputy Opposition Leader.

“The Chief Minister has sold the authority of the office to hang onto the trappings of the job.

“The Chief Minister will still have the same office over looking the harbour, he’ll still draw the same wage, and he’ll still have a limousine at his beck and call – but he no longer has the right to determine Government policy.

“The authority of the office of Chief Minister now rests with Gerry Wood and that is a recipe for ongoing instability in this faction riven Government.

“The deal Paul Henderson signed doesn’t make Gerry Wood the king maker, it makes him the king.

“Paul Henderson will need to go to Gerry Wood, cap in hand, on every single piece of legislation that is to be presented before this Parliament.

“Even the budget will be shown to Gerry before it is presented to parliament.

“If Gerry doesn’t like the look of it – then it will be scrapped or altered until Gerry gives it his tick of approval.
“Indeed so powerful has the Member for Nelson become that he has even wrenched away the parliamentary Labor Party’s right to determine who should lead them.

“No matter how woeful Paul Henderson’s performance, no matter how deeply unpopular Paul Henderson becomes, the Labor Party is stuck with this emasculated leader.

“The Labor Party will be a seething bed of resentment at being forced to take its riding orders from an independent who they have openly mocked for years.

“It will eventually explode when the pressure inside the party becomes too great and there is no release valve at the top.”

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