Media Release

John Elferink
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Stella Maris stench still hangs over Labor

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Delia Lawrie’s stubborn refusal to resign her seat in Parliament leaves the entire Labor Opposition tainted by her grubby deals and deceit.

“Labor should think again if they believe Delia Lawrie’s begrudging resignation as Opposition Leader means their problems are over,” Leader of Government Business John Elferink said.

“Despite the ugly findings of the Stella Maris Inquiry, her failed attempt to sue Commissioner John Lawler, and now a Police investigation into her conduct, Delia Lawrie thinks it’s acceptable for her to remain in the Parliament and her colleagues are allowing her to stay by their side.

“If Delia Lawrie, and her offsider Gerry McCarthy, remain in the Parliament, then the legacy of their dodgy Stella Maris union deal will hang like a bad smell over the Opposition benches until the next election.

“Today Michael Gunner tried to suggest the Stella Maris deal just had some ‘process problems’. Sorry, that’s disingenuous in the extreme.

“Be honest Michael Gunner. The Commissioner found the deal was against the public interest and that Delia Lawrie had acted with ‘bias’ towards her union mates.

“That’s considerably more serious and worthy of an apology from Labor that the public is still waiting for.

A true leader would step up and say sorry for what’s gone on but Michael Gunner has failed that first test.

“If Michael Gunner had any backbone, he would demand Delia Lawrie quit the parliament altogether, instead of making excuses for her Stella Maris deceit.

“If Gunner is too green and inexperienced to stand up to Delia’s factional Union mates on a matter of this gravity, then he’s simply not up to the job.
“Every day Delia Lawrie and Gerry McCarthy sit on the Opposition benches is another day Michael Gunner and his colleagues are tainted by their shabby conduct.

“You cannot help but wonder what factional deals have been done with Delia Lawrie’s union mates to allow her to hold onto Karama. After all, she did the Stella Maris deal for them in the first place, what has she now asked of them in return?

“Watch your back Michael Gunner. While Delia Lawrie stubbornly remains in the Parliament, it’s only a matter of time before she starts plotting her return to the Labor top job.”

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