

The Hon. Michael Danby MP
Federal Member for Melbourne Ports
Statement on Hotham pre-selection

The Member for Melbourne Ports, Michael Danby, says he expects that community activist and champion for people with disabilities Rosemary Barker will be preselected tonight at the meeting of the ALP's Public Office Selection Committee.

"My supporters will be voting for Rosemary because she's a positive, unifying figure in our party who has drawn on support from across the Labor spectrum, from both Left and Labor Unity, not only because we're keen on getting more women into Parliament but also because we're conscious that it's important to elect positive, community-focused people who can constructively be members of a team," Mr Danby said.

"Many are concerned about the tactics used in the pre-selection campaign, including yesterday's appalling public attack on ALP polling officials that was the lead story on The Age online for most of the day, bringing the party itself into disrepute."

"In the ALP in Victoria we balance the local membership vote with a central group of people from across the whole party, who have the broader interest of the whole party in mind when selecting candidates. We carefully judge their character, their life experience, their involvement in the party and whether they can play a constructive role as part of the Labor caucus in Canberra. That's why, for example, when now –Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus QC contested the Isaacs pre-selection, the POSC selected him even though he received a lower local vote than his opponent. He has proven himself to be an adornment to the Parliament and I have no doubt Rosemary will do the same."