West called to resign over Moora College funding pledge

Shadow Minister for Regional Development Jim Chown has called on Parliamentary Secretary Darren West to resign for misleading Parliament over promises he made regarding funding for repairs to Moora Residential College.

Minister for Education Sue Ellery recently told Parliament Mr West had not committed the Government to fund $500,000 in repairs to the Moora College, however, Mr Chown yesterday tabled statutory declarations from two Moora shire councillors saying Mr West had made the commitment.

"This goes to the heart of the integrity of our Parliament and if Mr West won't resign the Premier should immediately sack him," Mr Chown said.

"He has either told the Minister to tell Parliament he didn't make the commitment or colluded with the Minister to mislead Parliament, either scenario is a complete disgrace.

"The Premier cannot allow one of his senior members to go around promising a community something and then deny to Parliament and his own colleagues that he ever made the promise.

"I do not believe the former Member for Darling Range Barry Urban ever caused a Minister to mislead the Parliament, yet the Premier removed him from the Labor Party and then, through the Procedure and Privileges Committee, from the Parliament.

"This type of behaviour erodes the credibility of all members of Parliament and adds to community distrust in the Government."

Mr Chown said the declarations confirmed Darren West gave assurances to the Moora councillors that the Government would find $500,000 if an independent assessment found that would allow the college to continue operating.

"For his own political purposes Mr West made promises he probably knew he could never keep," Mr Chown said.

"The truly sad part of this whole deceit is that he made those promises to a vulnerable community that is fighting tooth and nail to maintain essential education facilities in their town in the face of savage cuts by a metro-centric McGowan Government.

"If Premier Mark McGowan and his Government had any respect for the people who put Mr West in Parliament it would honour his commitment, pay for the repairs to keep Moora College open and demand Mr West resign."

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