

Council contender

A GROUP, partially comprising Labor Party members, is considering running a ticket at the upcoming council election. But one of its members, Jason Shepherd (pictured), who's also not ruling out a tilt at Hume, insists they'll be independent. He and two other possible candidates, former Labor candidate for Hume Robin Saville and cellist Laszlo Strasser, distributed leaflets at last Saturday's markets. But Mr Shepherd, who's been a member of the Labor Party for 18 years, told the *Post* a group ticket was far from assured.



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Bail refused

A LOCAL man facing child-exploitation charges has had his bail refused. Gregory Mark Lansdowne, 38, was apprehended by police at Towrang on Tuesday following online investigations by detectives from the Sex Crime Squad's Child Exploitation Unit. In refusing to grant Mr Lansdowne bail, the magistrate said: "The nature of the offence is serious... in the interest of the community, and their safety, I cannot adhere to conditions. Bail has been refused."

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Warning - wet and wild

WITH wind, rain and cold temperatures expected overnight and into today, the Bureau of Meteorology has issued a Sheep Graziers warning for the Southern Tablelands. There is a high risk of losses of lambs and sheep exposed to these conditions, the Bureau warned last night. Rain is forecast for Goulburn today, with a top of 12 degrees expected. Tomorrow, it will be windy with a top of 10. Sunny, calmer conditions should return on Sunday.



GOING NOWHERE: Work ground to a halt at the Coles Distribution Centre on Wednesday when staff say they were stood down by management following industrial actions in Melbourne. The company, however, says employees walked off the job in protest.

Coles workers protest the 'flak'

By **ANTONY DUBBER**

FAIR Work Australia has granted Coles orders to prevent distribution centre staff from taking unprotected industrial action following a dispute at the Goulburn warehouse this week. The National Union of Workers (NUW) said about 200 local employees were stood down by the retail corporate on Wednesday morning because they raised concerns about the "flak" from the

Somerton warehouse near Melbourne.

But Coles says 76 Goulburn staff had "walked off the job" in sympathy for 600 Somerton staff who took part in industrial action on Tuesday.

Goulburn staff say the disruption meant they were forced to deal with 50,000 containers of unprocessed stock that was supposed to be coming from Somerton via truck early on Wednesday morning.

"The trouble at the Goulburn distribution centre wasn't strike action,

but that the morning shift workers were sent home for four hours (Wednesday) pending further negotiations, and had their pay docked accordingly," NUW spokesman Mark Ptolemy said.

"The workers had also raised concerns about having to take all the flak from the Somerton centre, but they are united in solidarity with the Melbourne guys, and feel that they shouldn't have to cop it either."

Mr Ptolemy also expressed that Coles had gone to "extraordinary

lengths" to keep the workers busy with the extra workload.

"Apparently Coles has made an application with Fair Work Australia in a ruling this afternoon (Wednesday) to stop them from launching any strike action for up to three weeks.

"We believe that Coles does not need to be so heavy-handed and aggressive when negotiating these terms to their workers.

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