# **Steve Thomas MLC - Business & Community Round - Up - 5 March 2025**

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**Barry Green:** It's 1038 on DBCR that was Sam Cooke and Somebody have Mercy. Yeah, well, that's a good point. You need to have mercy. My next guest is Steve Thomas, MLC. Liberal party member. G'day, Steve.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Good morning Barry. Good morning to you listeners out there.

**Barry Green:** So there's an election coming up which you'll have a big influence on what happens in the state going forward. Um, you're a Liberal member. I've invited Jody Hines, the labor member, but she's not available to talk to us, which is a bit of a worry in a democracy. You'd expect your elected representatives to be able to to talk on community radio. But that aside, tell us Liberal Party position and why people should vote Liberal.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, look, I think the Liberal Party obviously reflects my politics. Barry I'm a I'm a member of the right wing, would you believe, of the Liberal Party. So I'm a what I like to call a fairly fairly arch conservative. Um, and I think that that means a number of things. So I think, I mean, but here's my definition, and maybe I haven't given that to your listeners before, but I've said it in public quite a bit. I think a conservative believes in, um, the individual individual responsibility, individual freedoms and individual reward and the left wing. So the Labour Party all the way out to the sort of communist end of the Greens, um, is communal. So communal responsibility, communal rewards, um, uh, and basically and when it comes to freedoms, they believe generally in uh, the communal override. So they generally very much believe in um, uh, having, having social licence to do things. Now I find social licence a really irritating concept because if, for example, you're a sheep breeder and you have, um, exported on ships your sheep for forever, um, the government federally. And this is the this is a federal government issue. The government is basically saying, well, you now need social license to continue to do that. So all of all of the latte drinkers in Fremantle and inner Melbourne and on the docks in Sydney and Brisbane and Southbank, they all get to decide whether you can run your business as you, as you traditionally have.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Whereas so I think as a conservative, you believe in like, um, you believe in your ability to do the things that you need to do to get ahead. If you work hard and do that, you should get the bulk of the rewards for that. The communists obviously believe that, uh, that everybody should share that equally. But also it's about individual responsibility that you have the responsibility for the outcomes that that are occurring in your life, whereas at the left wing, you know, society is responsible. So if you're committing crimes or you're in prison, you know, I believe that your decisions took you there and you should change you. Um, the left wing believe basically that it's society's fault that you ended up there. So that's what I think. And I think those base principles lend themselves. I couldn't be a Labour member of Parliament because I think that they move away from the individual to the collective. And I know this is deeply philosophical, but that's, that's that's why that's why I think that, um, I'm a conservative and even within the liberals, because there's plenty of liberals these days that seem to drift into the the socialist sphere of the left wing as well.

**Barry Green:** That's really interesting, Steve. And I'm enjoying the fact that we can have this conversation, because in the past, I always thought I was a bit left of centre. I don't know where the hell I am these days because, you know, in the whole Covid thing, I, I exercised my bodily autonomy and didn't participate in the vaccine trial. Best decision I ever made in hindsight. And I was shut out of society. And what really confused me in that period, the Labour Party, you know, adopted that policy, but the Liberal Party supported it.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, yes. And it became fairly obvious, um, To, I think, the Liberal Party. But to everybody that that was the will of the community. And if anybody ever wanted a demonstration of that, the little bit of pushback that the Liberal Party did during the Covid period. So Covid 19 really hit Western Australia in 2020, was discovered really in 2019? Well, 2020 and 2021. Yeah. Um, but it was largely.

**Barry Green:** Kept out in 2020 and 21.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, no, it was it was here. It was here. And there were thousands of people being affected. And it's now largely endemic, as you'd expect. Yep. Um, so it's the new version of of an influenza type type thing. Um, the community decided in 2021 that the little bit of pushback the Liberal Party did on on Mark McGowan's, um, agenda on this was was enough to, you know, decimate the Liberal Party. So the 2021 election, the little bit of pushback that was was given was rejected by the vast majority of the people of Western Australia who know Mark McGowan had convinced he kept them safe. There is some truth to that. Um, and and so therefore, you know, there is no doubt that, uh, all all of these philosophical and political positions need to be tempered. Tempered and the, the, the community, the people of Western Australia, um, spoke almost with one voice. We were left with two seats out of out of nearly 60.

**Barry Green:** That at that stage, like you said, it did appear that they'd made good decisions in largely keeping it out. But that was before the vaccine mandates were imposed. And what the vaccine mandate did that resulted in that. I'd argue the very best critical thinkers being kicked out of government and business, um, because, you know, it just never made sense to me to participate in a vaccine trial. And it was a vaccine trial. And the the Liberal health minister federally said this is the biggest medical trial in history. And, and the prime minister at the time initially said that it wouldn't be mandated. Australia is not that sort of country. But then it was, and the same prime minister indemnified the pharmaceutical industry from from the consequence. So, you know, you or I would never buy a new car with no warranty. So I couldn't understand why people were so eager to participate in this vaccine trial with with no warranty and people significant number of people have been injured by this thing and people have died. And the excess death rate is still through the roof. So and this hasn't been talked about in the mainstream media because of the so-called Trusted News initiative, which DBCR didn't sign up to. So we have been able to have these conversations. And in a democracy, you need to be able to have conversations. Steve, and I really appreciate the fact that we are having this conversation.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, no, and I agree, you have to be able to have the conversation. And I think during those years, you and I had a couple of conversations around this. Um, so, look, I take the view that the vaccine mandate was a necessary evil. I've always taken the view that the threat of Covid during that period of time, when you were going to get a massive outbreak and would have cost tens of thousands of lives, um, required then some risk on behalf of everybody. So what I've always said and I've said it in Parliament, so it's nothing new. There were risks associated with taking the vaccine. Some people had adverse reactions to the original AstraZeneca. One had clotting issues which caused the deaths of. Now the official number I think is somewhere between 9 and 12 people around Australia. Um, the, the Pfizer one caused some cardiomyopathies. That's that's some inflammation of the heart muscle. Um, I don't know the number of that. Most of those people recovered perfectly. Well. There are some people who have had seem to have had some residual impacts. But in either case, in my view, the the results was far less, uh, an impact than would have been if Covid had been allowed to run rampant through the community. So I've always said the risk, the risk that we take in vaccination is the risk that we all accept to provide safety to that very large group of highly vulnerable people for whom these these diseases would have been, would have been fatal. And so we all take we all take a bit of that risk. Um, but I think we have to have a really sensible conversation around it. Barry there's, there you know, nobody who understands science properly would say, for example, that a vaccine will 100% prevent anybody from catching a particular disease. Every vaccine can be overcome. Nobody who understands science properly would say that the vaccines would prevent, could guarantee the prevent of spread, or would even 100% prevent the spread of the disease because, well, if a case either if it.

**Barry Green:** Won't prevent the spread, surely there's no justification for the mandate. You know, the the whole proposition of the mandate, it would stop the spread. It didn't.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Know.

**Barry Green:** So many people I know got the jab and they got Covid. I didn't get the jab. I did get Covid. It was it was a non-event. I'd taken vitamin C, vitamin D and zinc. And you know, we talk about science. There's a whole science in relation to immunity coming from good food, good nutrition. Yeah.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** So so again, I take a different view on this. So no, nobody nobody properly trained in this area, which I am in my view would say that, that the vaccine would stop the spread or would it certainly would 100% stop the spread. I mean, nobody who understands immunology would say that. And, you know, I've heard talk that people have said it, but nobody who understands it would have. What it does, though, is it reduces the spread and it reduces the severity of the disease, because what happens is you introduce, um, a component of the disease causing organism. And then when somebody who the two people are infected, one with vaccine, one without the person without that hasn't been vaccinated has to that the immune system has to recognize that it's a foreign body, recognize its disease state, mount an immune reaction. You know, it causes lymphocytes and and cells, T cells to to replicate and produce antibodies to this particular thing. That all takes a significant period of time. The incubation rate can be sort of up to a week before you get severely sick with a vaccinated person. The body has already been exposed to that. So you shortcut the the body's reaction time. So what happens is that, um, as the virus comes in, the body mounts an immediate attack, not a delayed attack. The result of that is, um, there are much more antibodies and much less virus circulating in that body, which means two things. First, they are less infective to other people. Now they're not non-infective. And no vaccine is perfect and they most people will have significantly reduced symptoms because the immune response is much faster. Now, none of this no vaccine is 100%. I mean, we're probably all vaccinated against tetanus and etc. none of those vaccines worked, Steve.

**Barry Green:** And you're talking about traditional vaccines. The mRNA vaccine, so-called vaccine wasn't a traditional vaccine. It's a GMO. And, you know, in the past, vaccines had to be tested for ten years before they could be called a vaccine. This thing was approved in six months. And as Doctor Paul Marek says, you know, you to to make a test, a vaccine takes time. And he says, you can no sooner, no sooner, create a baby in one month with nine women. Then you could do it the traditional way. So you know it. Time is the only thing that really determines if a vaccine is safe. And we're getting all these so-called turbo cancers now, and you've got people like Professor Angus Dalgleish, who's, you know, he's he's a cancer man and he's he's seen what's happened. And and you know, these mRNA, especially the boosters, seem to have disrupted people's immune system and made them susceptible to all sorts of things. So we're seeing lots of people with supposedly Covid now, but it all seems to be, you know, they talk and it's come out of Yale. There's actually scientific evidence of negative efficacy of the mRNA injections.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Oh, look. So so I think that there's no doubt that the the vaccination program did work. It kept a lot of people safe. There were some there were some unfortunate results at the end of that. Um, and some people did pay that price for for community safety. And I understand that. And the people of Western Australia understood that. And that's why the poor old Liberal Party got got decimated in the 21 election.

**Barry Green:** But that was that was really before the real issue of vaccine mandates came out. The Liberal Party got decimated because the Labor Party was seen to have done a good job of keeping it out. But, you know, I think if the election had been held a year later, it might have been a different outcome.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Yeah. No, I'm not convinced. Barry. And I think there's there there are a lot of, um, anecdotal stories out there, but I think the reality is, I mean, you go around Donnybrook at the moment. Yes, there are some people that are impacted, but the people who are really anti the vaccine will tell you about, you know, the tens of thousands of people that have died as a part of this process, generally without any evidence. And this, this thing builds a life, builds a life of its own. So I think we divide into the community, into the people who want to believe in the vaccine and the people who don't. And, and I take a completely agnostic view on this. I think, I think that, um, I understand immunology well enough to understand that there are risks, but I also understand the benefits. Um, and I'm certain that a lot of people were saved because of the work that was done in getting people vaccinated. Now, would that have happened without the mandate is probably the big question. So would would people. And the Liberal Party has a candidate who, um, went through the same process you did in our in our candidate for Central Wheatbelt. And I've actually been out there and assisted him with his campaign. Fantastic. Um, Lance is a nice guy. Um, he was a police officer who refused to be vaccinated.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Uh, the police have a different set of legislation they operate under, and the commissioner required his officers to be vaccinated. Uh, as you said at the time, to minimise the risk of spread both within his offices and into the wider community, so they wouldn't carry it. And, um, in fact, our candidate took the commissioner to court and lost. Um, and so, um, was removed from the police force. And so he was prepared to give up his job for that. And I've had the same conversations with, with Lance as I'm having with you. I respect his opinion. I respect his his ability to to, um, for self governance. Yep. Um, I think he's wrong in what he says about the vaccine. And you and I can disagree on this quite happily, but he did take a moral stand on this. So, so. And that's what some people did. They went, well, if I can't work in my current job, um, and be unvaccinated, I'll leave that job and I'll try and find a job that, um, uh, that I don't have to be vaccinated. Yeah. Um, which is fine. Now, interestingly, afterwards, most of that's now gone well by the wayside, and there's still a shortage of workers. So probably there's not too many people that have had long term economic impact from that. But that was your choice.

**Barry Green:** I'd beg to differ. I know a lot of people who've been severely impacted mentally, socially and financially by by the way things unfolded. And it's interesting. On SBS last night on the insight program, Graham Hood, who I've interviewed on this program a number of times, was speaking on this subject and it was interesting that they were talking about bodily autonomy. Graham spoke very well. They also it was a well balanced program on SBS. First time we've seen it. And the doctor who was speaking supporting the injection. She was asked specifically how long something had to be tested to be a vaccine, and she didn't know. Well, I know it used to be something like ten years, but it was rushed through. And, you know, the the people who were dying of it before the vaccine came out. And it's terrible when people die, but people have always died of the flu. Predominantly the people that were dying were had comorbidities. And the before the injection, the, the, the average age of people dying of Covid was still above the the average death age. So it wasn't as bad as it was as publicized as. And that was driven by this so-called trusted news initiative, the Orwellian Trusted News initiative that was set up in 2019 with the mainstream media and the ABC and the SBS. You know, that information is coming out there now because the internet, you know, the free, the free discussion on the internet, It isn't controlled in the way that the legacy media has been.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** No. Well, it's certainly the truth. Barry that the average age of those people who had the most severe Covid infections and died was where they were generally an older demographic, and that's quite normal. I mean, um, as we get older, you and I both have to consider this. Our immune system doesn't work as effectively as it used to do. So. Yes, absolutely. If you looked at the the profile of deaths from Covid, um, absolutely. The older demographic was, was was more highly represented. But as you were exactly as you would expect with the flu as well. Um, so and that's fairly normal because you're immune, your immune system drops away. So, so for those people who were getting vaccinated, um, that's the demographic that we were, for the most part, doing it through. I mean, I'm lucky I had Covid, um, my symptoms were severe. Um, there are plenty of people out there that had Covid that didn't even know they had it. Yep. Um, so there are plenty of people for whom the reaction wasn't that that great? Um, but we all got vaccinated. Sorry. Those those of us. Not all of us. Yeah, I was about to correct myself. Um, those who got vaccinated for the most part didn't do it for themselves. They did it for their elderly relatives, or particularly if they're an immune, if they had immune compromised people. And there's a fair number of those, um, that, that are immune compromised. So my view is we took the risk that we did, um, and I did it knowingly because I'm educated in the area. But we took the risk to protect that group. So, I mean, I know a lot of people who said, you know, I think I would have been fine with Covid, but I did it to protect my grandparents.

**Barry Green:** But that's the whole point. It didn't. And, you know, I for senior members of my family, have all died in the last three years. Uncle, aunt, mother and sister who's younger than me now. They all had the injection now, you know, and there seem to be so many people, older people that are dying. And it this is anecdotal, but it seems to me it's much higher rate than has been in the past.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, I don't think that the numbers necessarily bear that out. And as you said yourself, I mean, sorry, your uncle, your mother. Yeah.

**Barry Green:** But, you know.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** So I mean, they would have been at a reasonable age. Yeah. I'm not sure. I'm not sure if you're suggesting that either. Covid.

**Barry Green:** Well, uncle had a stroke two days after the first Covid injection, which contributed to his demise. And you're hearing lots of those sort of stories.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, you are, but you do have to be really careful with that because, you know, an 85 year old gets, gets, gets a vaccination and has a stroke. The first question is, are the two actually connected?

**Barry Green:** This is the same sort of argument that you go back to the tobacco industry in, in the 60s saying, you know, there's no proof that smoking causes lung cancer, but, you know, circumstantial evidence suggests otherwise. It comes down to marketing and follow the money rather than follow the science.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, I think in that case, the science was there were there was plenty of science that could cause a and it is is a proportionality of cause and effect. Yeah. And I think it's really risky when you start to actually use a single incident of a single person or even a small number of people that go, you know, and the classically the people who don't didn't want to get vaccinated will tell me, you know, I know six people that died of Covid or died of the vaccine in particular. And for the most part, you go, well, okay. Yes, they were all very old. Um, you know, you don't they don't know. Sorry. It's not you, but they don't they don't know that, um, those people wouldn't have died anyway. I mean, that's just one of those. We have a we don't really have an aging population. We have this bubble of baby boomers that come through. And as that bubble comes through, it's going to look like, because it is a it's a big swelling of population now that were born, you know, up to 1964. So they're all now 60 years plus. Yep. And it's that 60 to what 85. That's the group. It will look like lots of people are going to be passing away and it's quite it's absolutely the case. But whether it's linked to any particular thing that's happened is, is much more tenuous.

**Barry Green:** I guess the government's got the records of who's had how many jabs, and they've got the records of how many people have died. So I guess within government there must be the data to. We live in a data age, so if there's a will to make a connection, I guess they could.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well. So there was a process all the way through to try and make that connection. So it's not sufficient just to go. This number of people were vaccinated and those people had had three vaccinations. Um, died at this particular rate because you, you know, if for everybody that's between 20 and 50, um, those numbers are going to be pretty small for those people, 75 plus those numbers are going to be pretty. So you have to break that down and go, is there is there a cause and effect that can be demonstrated here that says the vaccine is actually responsible? And I actually there will be individual cases where the vaccine has contributed to things because that happens with every vaccine, tetanus and the rest of it. Um, but there will be lots of cases where there's no connection. Um, and I just think it's too easy to blame the vaccine for a whole range of other things.

**Barry Green:** Yep.

**Barry Green:** Okay, Steve. We've got to take the news.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Excellent.

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**Air News:** And news headlines. I'm Leigh Harrison.

**Barry Green:** It's Irene Cara and fame on Donnybrook- Balingup community radio. Business and community round up. My guest this morning is Steve Thomas, MLA, MLC.

**Speaker3:** Mlc.

**Barry Green:** Um candidate in the upcoming election. And Steve, a question I've asked all the candidates is if Australia does not follow the US lead and exit the World Health Organization, and if the WHO subsequently declares a new pandemic requiring member nations to mandate a new injection, will you be voting to impose the mandate as happened with Covid 19?

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Okay, so, um, to be honest, I think I think the question kind of overplays the power of the World Health Organization because I think, um, we're a sovereign nation. Um, we're we're a state that is not controlled. I mean, I know that people like to say that the United Nations is is secretly in charge of the world. I think if you look at the competence and the and the work of the United Nations, you'd understand that it can it can barely be in charge of itself, like it doesn't function particularly as anything apart from a political, um, posturing point for the most part. So it's not it's not the World Health Organization that, for example, imposes the mandates the World Health Organization can declare a pandemic, and then each individual country determines how they'll respond to that pandemic. Now, at a Commonwealth level and a state level, uh, you have ultimately, uh, a chief health officer. That chief health officer has, you know, a variety of committees that help them to provide advice. That advice is provided to the government, and the government then makes, in each case, a decision in their own areas of authority. And I'm a big believer in in federation, that is, I don't think the Commonwealth should be able to override the states. I don't think that was the intent of our forefathers. So I think that there is there are different roles completely for um, for state and Commonwealth. So the Commonwealth, for example, would cover um, national borders and immigration and the health requirements around that.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** The state would do more of the thing. So but having said having said that, I'm not hedging my bets with this. If the chief health officer of Western Australia, which would be the only area I would actually get a vote on, yeah, I don't really care. I don't really care what the vote is in the World Health Organization. I think it's it's, um, it barely serves a purpose. It has some roles that are useful and some that are purely political. But in Western Australia, there are some specific roles around health and the Health Act and a few other acts. If the advice from the Chief Health officer and my assessment and understanding of that advice led me to believe that a new set of mandates was required for the safe and healthy of the people, then yes, I would vote for it. Um, if I was, if I was convinced that it wasn't necessary or was actually counterproductive, then I'd vote against it. But I would absolutely vote for a similar set of mandates if I thought that was the best health outcome for the people of this state. Um, so yes, I would vote for it if the circumstances, in my view, determined that that was a necessary thing. Um, because I think that's part of the role of government. Part of the role of government is to try and and keep people safe. And that's that's a long historical thing all the way back from, you know, isolating lepers, for example, all the way through.

**Barry Green:** Okay. Well thanks for that, Steve. And I guess, you know, there's, there's two I my scientific understanding and I'm not a scientist, but my understanding is that health comes from healthy immune systems. And if we build our immune systems and we've, we've got that in regenerative agriculture with the soil, the biome in the soil, the biome in the human guts, you know, if we've got healthy people, we have the ability to resist diseases. And I sense we've got a problem, that we subsidize the sickness industry and we manage food on the basis of down down on price. I think we have a problem there. And what's coming out of America at the moment. With Robert Kennedy having appointed Joel Salatin, who's a regenerative farmer, as a as a advisor in agriculture, I think the potential there, if we get back to eating healthy food, produce more locally and stop eating the ultra processed foods that are causing so much, um, obesity and diabetes. Then, you know, if we if we build our immune systems, then we become less reliant on the pharmaceutical industry. Surely that's what God or evolution, whichever you choose to believe in. Intended.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Well, I think interestingly, I'm a fan of regenerative regenerative agriculture as well. I think there's a lot of positives about it. I'm a believer in the slow water movement in terms of landscapes. Yeah, I think that the more, the more nutrition that you can put into your food, the better we all are. Um, and I think I agree, there's, you know, we're sort of growing lots of stuff on, um, you know, highly fertilized and not necessarily broadly, um, nutritious stuff.

**Speaker3:** Yep.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** Particularly when you agree, when you get into processed stuff and I'm when I'm on the road and I'm on the road a lot, I do a lot of kilometres and I tend to eat not as well as I should do because it's just convenient and it's there. And you pull over and you grab fuel and you go, well, I'm hungry, so. So you do. I'm as guilty as the next person on that one. In my view, though, it doesn't stop disease. But it helps in the same way that a vaccine can't stop all disease spreading or people catching a disease. Good nutrition helps, but it absolutely does not stop, um, you know, significant diseases. So, um, I think they're all a contributory, a contributor. So, um, there's, there's a significant role for vaccination. There's a significant role for for good nutrition. They're both important, but one doesn't counterbalance the other. I mean, I have a I have a family member, an in-law, um, who smokes incredibly heavily but believes that because they grow their own vegetables, then they're safe from lung cancer. And every morning he gets up and coughs his lungs up virtually. Yeah, but he wants to believe that, um, proper balance of vitamins and minerals will make him immune from, the impact of smoking. And I think we all know that if you're 90% impacted by smoking, the the 5% impact of your diet is not going to make much difference. If if you're not smoking and you have a good diet, obviously you have everything in your favor. You get the you get the zero impact of smoking plus the 5 to 10% of good nutrition. Now, it might be a bigger number than that. I've just pulled a number out of the hat.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** But the good news good nutrition helps. It absolutely helps. It boosts your immune system. Um, and some of the let's call them natural remedies, uh, are useful as well. Vitamin C is a is a disease killer. Vitamin D, yeah. That you get from sunlight also plays a role. There's some there's some there's some important vitamins in there that will assist. But none of those will prevent the disease. And and in my view, they will not prevent the spread or the impact of the disease as much as getting vaccination. Having a vaccination program will. So it helps. But it's not it's not an Alternative. Um, and I think my view is that there is no alternative if you need to go down the mass protection pathway than vaccination.

**Barry Green:** Well thanks, Steve. Thanks for this conversation. It's been I've really enjoyed it. And I think in a democracy, we need to be able to have these conversations. And I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to us today.

**Steve Thomas MLC:** You're very welcome, Barry, and I've loved it too. I appreciate that we can we can have these tough conversations and, um, uh, it's vital for democracy that you can have the debates. Um, and ultimately, what everybody who listens to you thinks will be their own choice. But they need to hear all the voices and members of Parliament need to be held to account. We need to justify why we hold the positions that we do.

**Barry Green:** Absolutely. Thanks a lot, Steve. I really.

**Steve Thomas MLC :** Appreciate that. You're welcome.

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