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QLD NEWS

Former education minister Cameron Dick the front-runner in ALP Woodridge preselection race

FORMER education minister Cameron Dick has returned to Queensland politics, seeking to win preselection race for Woodridge.

Jason Tin, CourierMail

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FORMER education minister and attorney-general Cameron Dick has returned to Queensland politics, emerging as the front-runner in the ALP preselection race for Woodridge.

Nominations opened last night for the Logan City-based seat, held by MP Desley Scott, who party sources said would be retiring and creating a vacancy.

Labor opened preselection nominations for more than 45 seats.

Mr Dick's return to politics will still depend on a full rank-and-file ballot, although he is expected to comfortably win preselection, given the seat has long had a strong AWU presence.

Party sources last night said he appeared to have strong support among local branch members both within and outside the AWU.

It is understood the former Greenslopes MP joined the local branch about 10 months ago, with a senior Labor source saying he had indicated it was where he believed his political future would likely lie.

He is believed to have been approached by senior ALP figures to run and recently agreed to do so.

It is also understood that indigenous advocate Leeanne Enoch had also considered entering the preselection battle, but ultimately decided against nominating last night.

Ms Enoch, aligned with the Left, unsuccessfully stood for the ALP during the 2009 state election.

Nominations in Woodridge will remain open for three to four weeks. Ms Scott has held the seat since 2001.

Mr Dick lost Greenslopes to Ian Kaye at the last state election and at the time refused to rule out a future tilt at politics.

"I don't think the road has ended for me, I don't feel that way," he said following his concession.

Prior to his defeat, he was touted as a potential party leader.

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