



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Committee of Privileges

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Report on a referral regarding the Member for Nightcliff

February 2026

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Report on a referral regarding the Member for Nightcliff



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory

Parliament House

State Square

Darwin NT 0800

Web: www.parliament.nt.gov.au

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Committee Members | 4 |
| Terms of Reference | 5 |
| 1 Matter Referred..... | 6 |
| 2 Conduct of the Inquiry | 7 |
| 3 Findings and Recommendation | 8 |
| Appendix A: | 9 |
| Appendix B: | 12 |
| Appendix C: | 14 |
| Appendix D: | 21 |
| Appendix E:..... | 22 |

Committee Members

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair: | Hon Gerard Maley MLA Member for Nelson |
| Deputy Chair: | Hon Steven Edgington MLA Member for Barkly |
| Members: | Ms Selena Uiibo MLA Member for Arnhem Mr Andrew Mackay MLA Member for Goyder Mr Yingiya Guyula MLA Member for Mulka |
| Contact Details: | GPO Box 3721 DARWIN NT 0801 Tel: +61 08 8946 1422 Email: LA.Clerk@nt.gov.au |

Terms of Reference

Standing Order 174

Committee of Privileges

- (1) A Committee of Privileges must be appointed at the commencement of each Assembly to inquire into and report on complaints of breach of privilege which may be referred to it by the Assembly and act as the Committee of members' Interests pursuant to s.3 of the *Legislative Assembly (Disclosure of Interests) Act 2008*.
- (2) The Committee will consist of five members.

1 Matter Referred

1.1 On 23 October 2025, the Assembly resolved:

That the Member for Nightcliff be referred to the Committee of Privileges for an investigation into the misuse of electorate office entitlements for the purpose of electioneering as detailed below:

- On the 23rd of October 2025, from 5:30pm the NT Greens hosted a “casual info session” and “introduction to the NT Greens” event. This event included discussions on elections, fundraising and “more”.
- The event took place at the Nightcliff Electorate Office, located at Shop 5 Pavonia Place, which is paid for by the NT tax payer.
- The purpose of this event is alleged to be for driving recruitment for the NT Greens political party.
- This event breaches clause 11.3 of the Report and Determination No. 3 of 2024 - Entitlements of MLA which states that ‘The Member must ensure that the office is not used for commercial or electioneering purposes’.
- This event also breaches clause 12.5 of the Members Guide and Section 10 of the *Member’s Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards Act 2008*.

1.2 When moving this motion, the Member for Goyder tabled social media advertising related to the event (Appendix A).

2 Conduct of the Inquiry

- 2.1 On 20 November 2025, the Committee agreed to write to the Member for Nightcliff to advise them of the nature of the allegation of contempt and the evidence tabled in the Assembly and invited them to make a written submission by 19 December 2025 (Appendix B).
- 2.2 On 19 December 2025, the Member for Nightcliff submitted their response (Appendix C).
- 2.3 On 14 January 2026, the Committee considered the submission. The Committee agreed with the view expressed by the Member for Nightcliff that the meeting in question should not have occurred in the electorate office. The Committee also agreed that the matter referred did not amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards.
- 2.4 By letter dated 16 January 2026, the Committee advised the Member for Nightcliff that if they agreed to apologise to the Assembly for the meeting occurring in their electorate office and undertake training with the Clerk on their responsibilities in ensuring their office is used in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal Determination it would consider the matter concluded without the need for a full inquiry in accordance with Standing Order 232.
- 2.5 The Member for Nightcliff replied on 2 February 2026 (Appendix D) and apologised to the Assembly on 3 February 2026 (Appendix E).


3 Findings and Recommendation

- 3.1 The Committee considered that holding the meeting in question at an electorate office breached the prohibition of electioneering at electorate offices in the Remuneration Tribunal Determination. Further, the Member had a positive duty to ensure their office was not used for electioneering. The Member for Nightcliff accepted that they had failed to fulfil that duty and has accordingly apologised to the Assembly for this meeting occurring at their office.
- 3.2 The Committee did not consider that the matter referred amounted to a breach of the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Assembly take no further action on this matter.

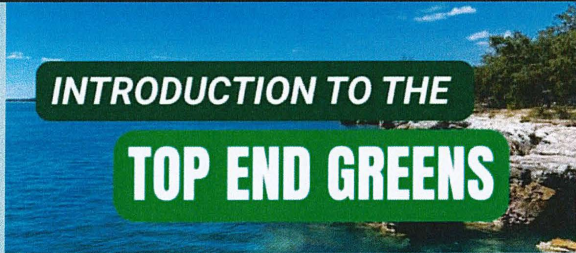
Appendix A:

 NT Greens
15 October at 10:27

If you live in the Top End and are curious to know more about the NT Greens, please come along to this casual info session on Thursday 23 October.

We'll talk about governance and decision making, policies, elections, fundraising and more.

Register using the link [in our bio](#).



**INTRODUCTION TO THE
TOP END GREENS**

**THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025
5:30-7PM - NIGHTCLIFF ELECTORATE
OFFICE, SHOP 5 PAVONIA PLACE.
ALL WELCOME!**

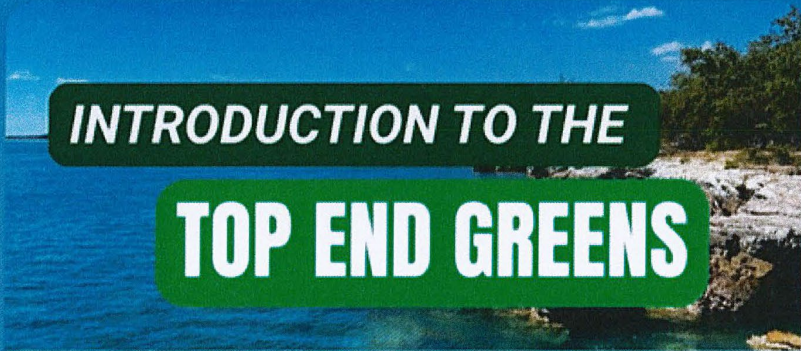
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NT Greens 8h

register here!



INTRODUCTION TO THE

TOP END GREENS

**THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2025
5:30-7PM - NIGHTCLIFF ELECTORATE
OFFICE, SHOP 5 PAVONIA PLACE.
ALL WELCOME!**



@n

Tonight!



Come and learn about our core values, our governance structures, and our plans for the Top End. Everyone welcome!

Event Details

Are you new to Garramilla Darwin? Or new to politics in general? Want to get a better understanding of progressive politics?

Date & Time

Oct 23rd, 2025 05:30 PM through to
Oct 23rd, 2025 07:00 PM

Top End Greens members, supporters, and friends are invited to
Introduction to the Top End Greens on 2 October 2025.

Location

Shop 5 Pavonia Place
Nightcliff Electorate Office
NIGHTCLIFF 0810

We'll cover:

1. The Greens core values and principles, and our theory of change.
2. Our governance structures and how we make decisions.
3. The different levels of government in the NT and our role within them
4. The ways you can get involved with our growing movement.

Contact

Email:

party.manager@nt.greens.org.au

Some light refreshments will be provided.

Keen to come along? Register below.

Got questions? Contact Harriet at party.manager@nt.greens.org.au

Appendix B:



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Chair – Committee of Privileges

Ref: 2025/00172.9
Kat McNamara MLA
Member for Nightcliff
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Member for Nightcliff

Re. Matter of privilege referred 23 October 2025

On 23 October 2025 the Assembly resolved:

that the Member for Nightcliff be referred to the Committee of Privileges for an investigation into the misuse of electorate office entitlements for the purpose of electioneering as detailed below:

- On the 23rd of October 2025, from 5:30pm the NT Greens hosted a “casual info session” and “introduction to the NT Greens” event. This event included discussions on elections, fundraising and “more”.
- The event took place at the Nightcliff Electorate Office, located at Shop 5 Pavonia Place, which is paid for by the NT Tax Payer.
- The purpose of this event is alleged to be for driving recruitment for the NT Greens Political Party.
- This event breaches clause 11.3 of the Report and Determination No 3 of 2024 - Entitlements of MLA which states that “The Member must ensure that the office is not used for commercial or electioneering purposes.”
- This event also breaches clause 12.5 of the Members Guide and Section 10 of the Members’ Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards Act 2008.

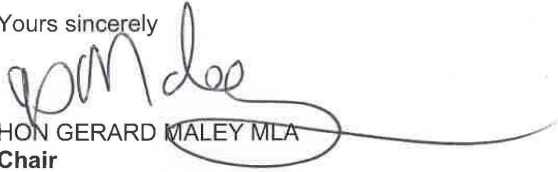
The Committee invites you to make a written submission to it in response to this referral. After consideration of your submission, the committee will determine the next steps for its inquiry into this matter.

The evidence received by the committee is that which was provided to the Assembly when the referral was made, namely, the debate of 23 October in Hansard pp 71-2 and the 3 pages of Tabled Paper 490 (attached). I have also attached Standing Orders 232 and 210 which provide the procedures to be observed for this inquiry.

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
Parliament House, State Square (GPO Box 3721, Darwin NT 0801)
T 08 8946 1450 M 0459 844 246 E Russell.Keith@nt.gov.au
www.parliament.nt.gov.au

The committee invites you to make a written submission to respond to these allegations by Friday, 19 December 2025.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Maley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

HON GERARD MALEY MLA
Chair

20 November 2025

Appendix C:



19 December 2025

Committee of Privileges

Dear Chair,

Re: Matter of privilege referred 23 October 2025

I write to respond to the referral made to the Committee of Privileges regarding an event held at my electorate office on 23 October 2025. I take this matter seriously and welcome the opportunity to provide a full account of the circumstances.

BACKGROUND

On 23 October 2025, I was not present at my electorate office. I attended Parliament that morning before departing Darwin on a 2pm flight to attend a family wedding interstate. I was not in the Territory when the event took place that evening.

I did not book this event, did not have direct knowledge of the booking arrangements, and did not attend the event.

The event was arranged by the NT Greens Party Manager, who booked the community room via the regular process through one of my staff members. This booking was made without my knowledge or approval. The community room at my electorate office is regularly made available to a wide range of community groups and organisations, consistent with my commitment to serving my community.

Prior to the event, my staff member sought guidance from the Office of the Clerk and was advised that use of the room for electioneering purposes would not be allowed. The Clerk's Office indicated that ultimately the decision was at the member's discretion. However, my staff member misunderstood the breadth of the term "electioneering" and assumed that because there was no election imminent, the event would not constitute electioneering, and proceeded to approve the booking.

The critical failure in this process was a breakdown in communication. I was not consulted about the booking decision. Had I been informed and given the opportunity to consider

whether this event might contravene the Remuneration Tribunal Determination, I would have immediately cancelled the booking and directed the party to find an alternative venue.

RESPONSE TO ALLEGATION 1: Breach of Clause 11.3 (Electioneering)

I acknowledge that under the Remuneration Tribunal Determination and the Members' Guide, I am ultimately responsible for ensuring my electorate office is not used for electioneering purposes.

I accept that this event could be perceived as electioneering in that it provided an avenue for the public to learn more about the NT Greens, and that this information could affect how people cast their vote in future elections.

Request for clarification on the scope of "electioneering":

Given my genuine uncertainty about what constitutes electioneering under clause 11.3, I would be grateful if the Committee could provide clarification on the scope of this provision.

For the Committee's reference, I have included examples which appear to show other members using their electorate offices for electioneering purposes during active election campaigns - please refer to Figures 1-3 at the end of this document. If the Committee determines that the event at my office constitutes electioneering, I would welcome guidance on how the activities in the photographs differ from the event held at my office, if at all. I trust the Committee will ensure all members are held to the same standard.

This clarification would be helpful not only for my own understanding but to ensure consistency in the application of these important provisions across all members.

If the Committee determines that this event contravened clause 11.3, I offer my sincere apology. I have now implemented stricter protocols for community room bookings and have reviewed all upcoming bookings to ensure compliance.

RESPONSE TO ALLEGATION 2: Breach of Section 10 of the Members' Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards Act

I strongly contest the allegation that this incident constitutes a breach of Section 10 of the Members' Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards Act.

Section 10 requires members to act in accordance with the principle of responsibility, ensuring decisions reflect proper consideration of relevant matters and fostering respect for democratic institutions and principles of good governance.

I submit that this interpretation represents a significant overreach of Section 10, which is designed to address serious misconduct and ethical failures, not administrative oversights regarding office bookings.

The specific circumstances demonstrate I acted consistently with Section 10:

1. **Proper consideration of relevant matters:** My office sought guidance from the Office of the Clerk prior to the event and attempted to ensure compliance with relevant rules.

2. **No personal benefit or improper purpose:** I received no personal benefit from this event. I did not attend, did not organise it, and was not present in Darwin when it occurred.
3. **Consistent with established practice:** The community room is regularly made available to community organisations as part of my service to constituents. This booking followed similar processes to legitimate community bookings.
4. **Responsible management of resources:** The event did not involve any misappropriation or wasteful use of public resources.
5. **Good faith reliance on advice:** My staff sought guidance from the Office of the Clerk. The failure was in communication and understanding, rather than any disregard for proper process.

Section 10 is properly invoked for conduct such as corruption, serious misuse of position for personal gain, deliberate disregard for parliamentary standards, or conduct that brings Parliament into disrepute. Applying Section 10 to this situation would set a concerning precedent that transforms every administrative error into a breach of the Code of Conduct.

I must raise serious concerns about procedural fairness in this matter. The Deputy Chair of this Privileges Committee—the Leader of Government Business, Minister Steve Edgington—issued a media release on 23 October 2025 containing categorically false and potentially defamatory information about this matter. I have included the media release at the end of this submission - please refer to Figure 4.

The media release stated: "The Member for Nightcliff has been absent from Parliament all afternoon - failing to represent her electorate, and instead appearing to choose a NT Greens party event over her duty to represent the people she was elected to serve."

This statement is completely untrue. As noted above, I left Darwin on a 2pm flight for family reasons and was not in the Territory when the event occurred. I did not attend the Greens event. I immediately contacted Minister Edgington to inform him that his media release contained false information and requested a retraction. Despite being provided with the correct information, Minister Edgington refused to issue a correction.

This raises fundamental concerns about whether Minister Edgington can participate impartially in this Committee's deliberations. He has:

1. Already made public statements containing false accusations about my conduct
2. Characterised the matter in highly prejudicial terms ("hand in the taxpayer cookie jar," "hypocrisy," "disregard for parliamentary processes")
3. Drawn conclusions about my motives and character before any investigation
4. Refused to correct the record when informed of factual errors

The principles of natural justice require that members of a committee tasked with investigating alleged misconduct must be—and must be seen to be—impartial. Minister Edgington has demonstrated predetermined views about this matter and about me personally. His participation in this Committee creates a reasonable apprehension of bias.

I respectfully submit that Minister Edgington should recuse himself from this Committee's consideration of this matter. If he does not do so, I question whether the Committee can provide the fair and impartial hearing that natural justice requires.

I take full responsibility for what occurs in my electorate office. With the benefit of hindsight, this event should not have taken place in my office.

However, I submit that:

1. If this event constituted electioneering under clause 11.3, it was an inadvertent breach without my knowledge or participation, and I have taken immediate steps to prevent any recurrence. I would welcome the Committee's clarification on the scope of electioneering to ensure consistent application across all members.
2. This incident does not constitute a breach of Section 10 of the Members' Code of Conduct. That provision addresses serious ethical failures and misconduct, not administrative oversights in office management.

I apologise unreservedly if the Committee finds that clause 11.3 was breached. However, I respectfully submit that characterising this as a breach of the Code of Conduct would be disproportionate to the circumstances.

I am committed to serving my community with integrity and to upholding the highest standards in my conduct as a member of this Parliament. I remain available to provide any further information the Committee may require and would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee if that would assist your deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kat McNamara', written in a cursive style.

Kat McNamara
MLA FOR NIGHTCLIFF

Figures 1 and 2: Laurie Zio and Steve Edgington with CLP federal election candidate Lisa Bayliss in the Fannie Bay electorate office during the lead up to the 2025 federal election.



Great to be out at the Parap Village Shops & Saturday Market with Laurie Zio - Member for Fannie Bay.

It was terrific meeting with Territorians and hearing about the issues that matter most including anti social... See more

Like Comment Share

24

3 shares



The Parap Village Shops & Saturday Market is a great place to shop and is a favourite among locals and visitors alike.

Stop by for a chat with Laurie Zio - Member for Fannie Bay and Lisa Bayliss - CLP for Solomon about the issues that matter most to you.

While at the markets you can check out the local produce stalls, arts and crafts, and the fantastic range of delicious food from around the world.

Figure 3: Lia Finocchiaro, Liberal Opposition Leader Peter Dutton, Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and CLP federal candidate Lisa Bayliss in the Karama electorate office during the 2025 Federal election.

 **Lia Finocchiaro MLA** · Follow · 27 Apr · 🌐

Yesterday, I joined [Peter Dutton](#), [Lisa Bayliss](#) - CLP for Solomon, [Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price](#) and [Brian O’Gallagher](#) - MLA for Karama in a meeting with local families and small business owners in Darwin, who are deeply concerned about community safety and cost-of-living pressures.

We need strong federal support in Canberra to deliver real investment in addressing the root causes of crime.

A Dutton Coalition Government will work alongside the CLP Government to deliver the resources, funding, and support needed to reduce crime, rebuild our economy and restore our territory lifestyle.

Thank you to everyone who shared their concerns with us.



Figure 4: Media release published by Steve Edgington on 23 October 2025

Kat McNamara

From: Minister Edgington <newsroom@newsroom.nt.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 23 October 2025 8:28 PM
To: Kat McNamara
Subject: Statement on Matter of Privilege



Steve Edgington
Leader of Government Business

Media Release

Statement on Matter of Privilege

23 October 2025

This evening, the Speaker accepted a Matter of Privilege concerning the Member for Nightcliff.

The Member for Nightcliff has been referred to the Privileges Committee for the alleged misuse of her taxpayer funded electorate office for electioneering, a clear breach of Member entitlements.

After two weeks of relentless lectures from the Labor-Greens-Johnston alliance about the use of taxpayer resources, it is now alleged the NT Greens have been caught with their hand in the taxpayer cookie jar.

The Privileges Committee will now investigate and determine the appropriate course of action regarding this alleged serious breach of public trust.

Leader of Government Business, Minister Steve Edgington, said: "The Member for Nightcliff has been absent from Parliament all afternoon - failing to represent her electorate, and instead appearing to choose a NT Greens party event over her duty to represent the people she was elected to serve.

"The hypocrisy could not be clearer. From Lidia Thorpe to Kat McNamara, the Greens may have once again exposed their disregard for parliamentary processes and rules.

Territorians deserve better than hypocritical Greens who love to lecture others yet appear to refuse to follow the rules themselves."

Appendix D:

From: Kat McNamara <Kat.McNamara@nt.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 2 February 2026 2:18 PM

To: LA Clerk <LA.Clerk@nt.gov.au>; Gerard Maley <Gerard.Maley@nt.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Letter - Chair to Member for Nightcliff - Matter of Privilege referred 23 October 2025

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the attached letter. I can confirm I will be providing an apology to the Assembly on this matter via a personal explanation at this weeks sittings.

Regards,

Kat McNamara

MLA for Nightcliff

P 08 8999 6743

E electorate.nightcliff@nt.gov.au



We acknowledge that we live and work on Larrakia land and pay respects to the elders, past and present. Sovereignty was never ceded. This land was, is, and always will be Aboriginal land.

Appendix E:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Nightcliff

K McNAMARA (Nightcliff): Madam Speaker, I rise to give a personal statement, pursuant to Standing Order 26, regarding my referral to the Privileges Committee in October 2025.

Madam SPEAKER: Please proceed.

K McNAMARA: The Privileges Committee has asked that I apologise to the Assembly for the matter for which I was referred to the committee. I therefore say to this Assembly that I apologise for allowing the NT Greens to use my electorate community room for a casual information session.

I am genuinely committed to transparency and integrity in this role and I reassure this Assembly and the public that this was simply an administrative error and I have implemented measures to ensure it does not happen again.

I am pleased that the committee agreed with me that this allegation did not amount to a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct. It is also important to state that despite the Leader of Government Business's false and misleading statement that he released about me on 23 October 2025, I was not in attendance at that information session.

Once again I apologise for this administrative oversight. I am pleased that this matter has helped clarify the application of these provisions. I trust that the Assembly will maintain consistency in upholding these standards for all members.