

From: [Hart, Rebekah \(Sen J. Nampijinpa Price\)](#)
To: [REDACTED]@abc.net.au
Subject: RE: 7.30 Interview Confirmation
Attachments: [Media Release - Central Land Council Takes Matters into their own Hands.pdf](#)

Hi Marina,

The Senator would be keen to discuss the motion of no confidence moved by Central Land Council on the show tomorrow night. We've put out the **attached** media release for your info.

Can you let me know if Sarah would be agreeable to discussing this with the Senator on the program?

Thank you.

Rebekah Hart
Media Adviser
Office of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Senator for the Northern Territory
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians
T: (08) [REDACTED]

From: Marina Freri [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 10:14 AM
To: Hart, Rebekah (Sen J. Nampijinpa Price) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: 7.30 Interview Confirmation

Dear Bek,

Thanks for your time on the phone yesterday.

As said, we look forward to speaking with Senator Price next week:

MONDAY, JULY 22
LOCATION: 700 HARRIS ST, ULTIMO – SYDNEY
ARRIVAL: 19:15 for a touch of make up
LIVE: 2nd item, around 19:35
HOST: SARAH FERGUSON

As discussed, 7.30 will be focusing on Closing the Gap next week with a particular interest in certain areas of the strategy: out of home care, suicide, incarceration and early childhood wellbeing.

We are not sure yet about which package will air on Monday but I will notify you as soon as possible.

With the Senator, we would like to discuss her suggestions for a new approach to the Closing the Gap strategy: current weakness and areas of improvement; a way forward for reconciliation. I will have a clearer idea of topic areas on Friday or Monday morning.

Thanks again.

Cheers,
Marina Freri

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SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator for the Northern Territory

21 July 2024

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL TAKES MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

A motion of no confidence was moved last week in relation to the CEO of the Central Land Council. The motion demonstrates yet again that the needs and concerns of Indigenous Australians are not a priority for the Albanese Government.

In September last year, the Coalition moved a motion calling for an inquiry into the governance of the Land Councils, however the Albanese government refused to heed that call. Through last week's vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct.

Although unsuccessful, the motion was backed by the Central Land Council chair Matt Palmer, who said, "the voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty. Voices are ignored, people are left behind and the vision of the Central Land Council has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the Central Land Council, and it is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the Council."

"Hard questions need to be asked, like why there are Traditional Owners still living in tin sheds? And why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands? Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grass-roots, to make a difference for our mob?" asked Mr Palmer.

"Following last week's vote, will the Albanese government simply leave the Central Land Council members to fix this issue by themselves?" asked Senator Nampijinpa Price. "Will they simply label this an isolated issue and continue to pretend that issues like this are not also present in other aboriginal organisations?"


Senator Nampijinpa Price said the Albanese government has presided over the ongoing failure of NAAJA, has ironically given boards with domestic violence offenders money to deliver domestic violence prevention services, and has overseen the inexplicable cessation of ABA grants for Homelands.

"At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard. Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are being run to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia," said Senator Nampijinpa Price.

"If Minister Burney continues to let these organisations off the hook as she has done with other Indigenous-run organisations, she is simply revealing the racist low expectations she holds with respect to Indigenous Australians, and doing nothing to actually improve the lives of those people she claims to represent," Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said a review into the Land Rights Act must be conducted to ensure greater transparency and accountability. “For too long the status quo has overseen an arrangement whereby traditional owners are land rich but dirt poor, and have little hope of being empowered to use the resources available to them to build their own economic independence.”

[END]

Media Contact: Rebekah Hart – 

From: [Thomas Denham](#)
To: [Hart, Rebekah \(Sen J. Nampijinpa Price\)](#)
Subject: Re: Media Release - Central Land Council Takes Matters into their own Hands
Date: Sunday, 21 July 2024 10:07:14 PM

Hi Rebekah,

Would it be possible to book an interview for Triple M this week with Senator Nampijinpa Price on this?

She will be speaking with Luke Bona.

Let me know if tomorrow is a possibility.

Cheers,
Tom

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Thomas Denham

Producer for The Night Shift, Triple M

SCA

T

[REDACTED], Sydney, NSW, GPO Box 22, Sydney, NSW, 2001
P GPO Box 22, Sydney, NSW, 2001

From: Hart, Rebekah (Sen J. Nampijinpa Price) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, July 21, 2024 9:35:20 PM
To: Hart, Rebekah (Sen J. Nampijinpa Price) <[REDACTED]>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Media Release - Central Land Council Takes Matters into their own Hands

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL TAKES MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

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Although unsuccessful, the motion was backed by the Central Land Council chair Matt Palmer, who said, "the voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty. Voices are ignored, people are left behind and the vision of the Central Land Council has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the Central Land Council, and it is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the Council."

"Hard questions need to be asked, like why there are Traditional Owners still living in tin sheds? And why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands? Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grass-roots, to make a difference for our mob?" asked Mr Palmer.

“Following last week’s vote, will the Albanese government simply leave the Central Land Council members to fix this issue by themselves?” asked Senator Nampijinpa Price. “Will they simply label this an isolated issue and continue to pretend that issues like this are not also present in other aboriginal organisations?”

Senator Nampijinpa Price said the Albanese government has presided over the ongoing failure of NAAJA, has ironically given boards with domestic violence offenders money to deliver domestic violence prevention services, and has overseen the inexplicable cessation of ABA grants for Homelands.

“At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard. Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are being run to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia,” said Senator Nampijinpa Price.

“If Minister Burney continues to let these organisations off the hook as she has done with other Indigenous-run organisations, she is simply revealing the racist low expectations she holds with respect to Indigenous Australians, and doing nothing to actually improve the lives of those people she claims to represent,” Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said a review into the Land Rights Act must be conducted to ensure greater transparency and accountability. “For too long the status quo has overseen an arrangement whereby traditional owners are land rich but dirt poor, and have little hope of being empowered to use the resources available to them to build their own economic independence.”

[END]

Rebekah Hart
Media Adviser

Office of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Senator for the Northern Territory
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

From: [Hart, Rebekah \(Sen J. Nampijinpa Price\)](#)
To: [Taylor, Paige](#)
Subject: RE: Land councils
Date: Tuesday, 23 July 2024 10:40:00 AM

Hi Paige,

At this stage, I can offer the following comment regarding the Central Land Council from the Senator:

This is a defining moment in government-land council relations. It presents a fork in the road whereby the government must now choose whether it will keep the status quo or take notice of what people on the ground are trying to tell them - that the current system is failing.

It is evident that land councils are not delivering for indigenous people in the way they need to be, so much so that Council members are now losing faith in their own leaders. If the government won't listen to its people and intervene in a situation like this, Australians should have no confidence that they are fit to continue representing and running this country.

Thank you.

Rebekah Hart
Media Adviser

Office of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Senator for the Northern Territory
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

T: [REDACTED]

From: Taylor, Paige [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Hart, Rebekah (Sen J. Nampijinpa Price) [REDACTED] >
Subject: Land councils

Hi Rebekah I'm going to keep going on a story about remote remote housing this week (competitive week!) but I'd also be glad to listen to you on the CLC if you have time/inclination. I gather there have been issues at the NLC too.

Paige

PAIGE TAYLOR

Indigenous Affairs correspondent WA Bureau Chief

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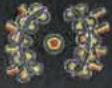
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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land in all states and territories on which we work and report. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging, and honour their history, cultures, and traditions of storytelling.



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9 August 2024

Mr Lesley Turner
Chief Executive Officer, Central Land Council

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Turner

Council Meeting at Watarrka on 18 July 2024, subsequent events and media commentary

The Central Land Council's **Executive** Committee met on Wednesday 7 August 2024. Executive discussed in great depth and detail what happened at the full Council Meeting at Watarrka on 18 July 2024, and the events and media commentary that happened after that.

This letter is to clarify for you what happened at the Council meeting and to inform you of Executive's decisions.

We enclose copies of two resolutions. The first resolution contains a statement of the facts of what happened at the full Council meeting. The second resolution sets out the actions Executive decided to take in response to the conduct after that meeting.

The special Council meeting referred to in the second resolution is likely to take place on 28 August 2024. The Deputy Chair will preside at that Council meeting. Given that you were named in documents and media commentary, if you wish, you will be able to address the Council meeting. However your personal interest means you will need to leave the meeting during the Council's discussion and decision making.

We also attach for your information copies of the document titled "*Draft Resolutions Thursday 18th July, 2024*" (provided to the CLC by Mr Palmer) and the apparent text of Mr Palmer's media release (provided to CLC by Senator Price's office).

You may provide copies of the attached documents to your legal advisors if necessary, but the documents remain confidential Central Land Council business and you must ensure that they do not become public.

Yours sincerely,

Warren Williams, on behalf of the Executive Committee
DEPUTY CHAIR
CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Attachments:

1. EX2024.05.211
2. EX2024.05.212
3. Document titled "*Draft Resolutions Thursday 18th July, 2024*"
4. Text of Mr Palmer's media release provided by Senator Price's office



Executive Committee Meeting

Resolution No: EX2024.05.211

Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Spinifex Room – Alice Springs

Subject: **Statement of Facts: what happened at Council meeting (July 2024)**

RESOLUTION

The CLC Executive Committee resolves that the following is a statement of what happened at the CLC Council Meeting on 18 July 2024 at Watarrka:

- (1) The document produced by the Chair which is called “Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024” is not a resolution of the CLC Council, the document was not on the Agenda and did not go through the usual process for CLC meeting papers.
- (2) The document produced by the Chair was not shown to Regional Delegates or the full Council
- (3) There was no discussion in Region 1, which includes many Arrernte delegates, about a breakaway Arrernte Land Council
- (4) Female delegates were told by the Chair and another male delegate member to leave the meeting to make it a “men only” meeting
- (5) There was no process to confirm if there was a quorum and nothing was minuted
- (6) All staff – male and female – were told by the Chair to leave the meeting
- (7) The Chair asked the Deputy Chair to read out the document called “Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024”.
- (8) The Deputy Chair read the first line of the “Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024”, then refused to read anymore
- (9) There was discussion in Warlpiri and Arrernte, which was not understood by and conveyed to all male delegates
- (10) The Chair did not give any evidence of “insubordination” or “unprofessional conduct” by the CEO
- (11) No motion about the CEO was put to the male delegates of Council
- (12) No motion about the CEO was moved, seconded or passed by the male members of Council
- (13) The Council did not give the Chair permission to talk to the media or the public about what happened at the Council meeting. No media statement was approved.

MOVED: GEOFFREY MATTHEWS

REGION: 3

SECOND: JOSEPH ZIMRAN

REGION: 5

MOTION: PASSED*

* One member abstained from motion



Executive Committee Meeting

Resolution No: EX2024.05.212

Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Spinifex Room – Alice Springs

Subject: **Conduct of the Chair after the July 2024 Council Meeting**

RESOLUTION

The CLC's Executive Committee has discussed the conduct of the Chair after the July Council meeting. Executive wanted to hear the Chair's explanation, but he gave an apology and did not attend the meeting. Executive considers that the Chair's behaviour is a breach of the CLC's Code of Conduct and the obligations of Executive and Council members. Executive does not have the power to manage the Chair's performance that is for CLC's Council. Under section 31(2) of ALRA, six or more members can ask the Deputy Chair to call a meeting of Council. There are more than six members on the Executive Committee who are voting in favour of this resolution.

1. Executive **resolves** to:
 - a. Inform the Alice Springs Outstations, through their recognised entity Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation, of the Chair's conduct after the July Council meeting;
 - b. Send Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation a letter which includes copies of:
 - i. the attached agreed statement of facts;
 - ii. the attached media stories;
 - c. Ask Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation to respond by close of business on 22 August 2024; and
 - d. For the Deputy Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the Executive Committee.
2. Executive **resolves** to:
 - a. Hold a meeting of Region 1 Delegates for them to discuss the Chair's conduct;
 - b. Inform Council of the Chair's conduct;
 - c. Ensure that the Chair is given an opportunity to present to the Council;
 - d. Ask Council to consider what action, if any, should be taken about the Chair's conduct;
 - e. Ask the Deputy Chair to call a special meeting of Council under section 31(2) of ALRA to discuss this matter as soon as possible; and
 - f. Ask the NT Electoral Commission to attend in case Council decides to elect a new Chair.
3. Executive also **resolves** to inform the Minister for Indigenous Australians what happened at the July Council meeting, and that the Deputy Chair, on behalf of Executive, should send her a letter which includes a copy of this resolution and the attached agreed statement of facts.
4. Executive also **resolves** to warn the Chair not to talk to the media or other people outside the CLC about CLC business until this matter is considered by full Council, and to comply with all his obligations under the PGPA Act, Code of Conduct, and Council and Executive meeting rules.

MOVED: GEOFFREY MATTHEWS

REGION: 3

SECONDED: NEVILLE PETRICK

REGION: 8

MOTION: PASSED*

* One member abstained from motion

**Document that Chair Palmer gave to CLC staff on Tuesday 30 July
(12 days after council meeting)**

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY 16TH to THURSDAY 18TH JULY, 2024.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
THURSDAY 18TH JULY, 2024.

1. Call by the Chairman for instant dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Land Council based on insubordination and unprofessional conduct in relation to Agenda Item: Governance Matter held on Wednesday 17th July, 2024, be effective immediately on Thursday 18th July, 2024.
2. The Agenda Item: Governance Matter was not conducted in a professional manner and detrimental to the governance and functions of the Central Land Council according to the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976.
3. The Chief Executive Officer of the Central Land Council be paid full wages and all due entitlements accordingly and return all items relating to business of the Central Land Council immediately including, vehicle and keys.
4. The Central Land Council agrees for the immediate placement and engagement of services by a qualified and experienced candidate, to act as Interim Chief Executive Officer and to work closely with the Chairman, delegates, executive members and staff for the interim period a suitable candidate can be employed.
5. The Full Council Delegates of the Central Land Council accepts and agree for these draft resolutions to support professional ethics and standard of service with a duty of care to full council delegates, staff members and constituents of the Central Land Council, according to the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976.

CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner

Media Release, 20 July, 2024

At this week's Central Land Council meeting, Mr Lesley Turner, CLC CEO, lost the confidence of CLC delegates.

At the full Council Meeting, members moved a motion of instant dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer based on insubordination and unprofessional conduct.

Mr Turner has been at the helm of CLC since April 2021.

Council Members expressed dissatisfaction with the current state of CLC operations that have failed to address basic needs of Aboriginal people across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse conditions.

Mr Matthew Palmer, CLC Chair, said, "The voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty.

Voices are ignored, people left behind and the vision of CLC has been lost.

There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC.

It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC."

While CLC values are driven by Aboriginal world views, members are insistent this needs to go further for tangible on-the-ground change. Along with radical action and progress, some members strongly support a breakaway Arrernte Land Council.

Lindsay Watson, who recently stepped into the administration of the Alcoota Station, said, "Hard questions need to be asked. Why are there Traditional Owners still living in tin sheds?

Why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands?

Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grass-roots, to make a difference for our mob?"

Mr Palmer declared that the time of unfulfilled promises and delay was over: "We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members – where they live, with what is needed to thrive.

This is what self-determination looks like."

From: [Hart, Rebekah \(Sen J. Nampijinpa Price\)](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Nampijinpa Price - Op-Ed
Attachments: [Media Release - Arrernte Elders Stand up to the CLC dated 26 August 2024.pdf](#)
[MEDIA RELEASE Local Arrernte Elders Call for an Inquiry into the Central Land Council.pdf](#)
[OpEd - CLC Elders dated 29 August 2024 \(1\).docx](#)

Hi Nick,

Hope you're well.

Not sure if you've seen any of the media reports from this week regarding my boss' concerns over the Central Land Council, but she's got an op-ed about it that we'd be keen to get in tomorrow's paper.

I've attached the op-ed along with the two media releases we have out this week for reference.

Let me know what you think!

Thanks
Bek

Rebekah Hart
Media Adviser
Office of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
Senator for the Northern Territory
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians
T: [REDACTED]

SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator for the Northern Territory

26 August 2024

ARRERNTE ELDERS STAND UP TO THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Three brave Arrernte female elders have spoken out in opposition to the conduct of the CEO of the Central Land Council and are calling on the Albanese government to address these issues.

Arrernte women from the Mpweringe Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust have claimed they were told by the CEO of the Central Land Council to leave a session of the full Council meeting held in July 2024. The women have said they fully support a number of resolutions previously proposed by the Council Chairman including the removal of the CEO Lesley Turner.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said “these women had every right to attend and participate in the meeting held by the Land Council. As members of the Council, any expulsion from the meeting would be a clear breach of the consensus-based approach to decision-making mandated by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976.”

“There is a clash of cultures that the left refuses to acknowledge as part of their romanticised ideas of Indigenous life. The problematic second-class status of women in Indigenous cultures that justifies men telling women they are not welcome in certain discussions needs to be called out,” said Senator Nampijinpa Price.

“The laws of Australia are designed to protect female elders’ right to have their say as traditional owners of the land.”

“The Albanese government and Minister McCarthy must step up and take immediate action to address this matter. Indigenous women deserve, as much as any other traditional owner, to be heard and considered in relation to land dealings,” Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

[ENDS]

Media Contact: Rebekah Hart [REDACTED]

SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians

Senator for the Northern Territory

27 August 2024

LOCAL ARRERNTE ELDERS CALL FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Today in Alice Springs Arrernte elders and traditional owners Veronica Ngkwarraye Lynch, Margaret Ngkwarraye Lynch, and Sabella Ngkwarraye Turner all called for the Prime Minister to launch an Inquiry into the Central Land Council.

“They’ve had enough of it,” said Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price who appeared at the press conference today in Alice Springs with three Arrernte elders.

“The bullying, the poor governance and lack of accountability has reached a breaking point with the Central Land Council’s treatment of Chair Matthew Palmer,” Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

“It is symptomatic of Land Councils’ dysfunction more broadly and it is why we need an Inquiry. The Prime Minister and the Australian Parliament cannot ignore this call from Veronica, Margaret, and Sabella.”

The three Arrernte elders alleged the recent conduct of the of the Central Land Council breached the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976, and called for the formation of breakaway Land Councils based on language groupings.

“For too long the Central Land Council has been the focal point for group and family conflict, with many members telling me privately that this sort of conflict is in fact weaponised by members to achieve certain goals. Devolved Land Councils based on language groups, with greater transparency and accountability measures desperately need to be on the table,” Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

“The Prime Minister and the bureaucracy may not like it, but the path towards closing the gap amongst the most marginalised Indigenous Australians leads through scrutiny of the Land Councils. They are the most important organisations in the lives of our most marginalised and cannot be left to operate as they have been,” Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

[ENDS]

Media Contact: Rebekah Hart [REDACTED]

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – Opinion Piece

This week, I stood shoulder to shoulder with Arrernte elders - women who have been brave enough to speak publicly about their concerns with the Central Land Council; willing to risk the retaliation that might come. They're willing to do this because for too long they have experienced the disconnect between the letter of the law and its application to their lives.

These elders feel the significant gaps that exist in the Land Rights Act - like meaningful appeals or complaints processes within land councils. They've also seen the processes that were established by the Land Rights Act not being respected, and a denial of natural justice being outworked. They've seen these things leave the interests that the Act was designed to protect, unprotected and vulnerable to those in positions of authority.

I was surprised, and more than a little disappointed to hear the Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour claim in response to this stand we took that they in the Labor camp are "all just as concerned" as I am about governance issues.

See I'd like to know where that concern was on the floor of the Senate during the last sitting period when I specifically asked the Minister about the involvement of the Northern Land Council in the attack on a CLP candidate in the bush seat of Arafura. Where was it, when instead of answering those questions put to her, or even showing a shred of respect for the issue, Minister McCarthy seemingly dismissed and even had the audacity to make light of the suggestion?

Where was the concern both times that I moved a motion in the Senate to hold an Inquiry into Land Councils which Labor put a swift end to and voted down?

The Member for Lingiari was helpful enough to suggest sitting down with Minister McCarthy to "work through these issues in a better way." Quite frankly, I'd like some evidence that that conversation has any potential of actually bearing any fruit first. And based on the lack of response to the letter I sent the Minister two weeks ago specifically calling for a response to these issues raised by these Arrernte elders, I have no reason to believe that would be the case.

This is not the first time that these elders tried to have their complaints heard and received no support. The lack of confidence I have in the Minister is a lot like the lack of confidence these elders have in the Central Land Council. The truth is, when you've sought to raise issues in the past, and no one seems to listen, you begin to lose hope that the people you're raising them with actually care. That's these elders' experience with the Land Council, and it's my experience with the Minister.

The Member for Lingiari insinuated that I was politicising the issue. Perhaps she could look take a look at her own party, her own leader Anthony Albanese to see the political football he has made Indigenous people; spouting off sentiments of economic development at Garma festival that would simply serve to further his renewables-only agenda.

See this is why I entered the uncomfortable world of politics; not because I want to make Indigenous people a political football, but because of my frustration with the approach that was being taken to Indigenous issues. Because people like Margie, Veronica and Sabella get consistently ignored by Anthony Albanese and his government who claim they care so much for them.

Others may accuse me of politicising the issue, but I wouldn't be doing my job in opposition if I wasn't willing to cop that accusation over sitting down and shutting my ears, my eyes, my mouth and my heart to the concerns that Indigenous Australians on the ground are so desperately trying to express.

If Minister McCarthy really cares and wants to take a bipartisan approach to her new Ministerial position, she could start by supporting our long-standing call for an Inquiry and actually listening to these voices that are crying to be heard.

Our ref: BBL:939

5 August 2025

Mr V Kalantzis
Kalantzis Lawyers
55 Stanley Street
East Sydney NSW 2010

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Kalantzis

Lesley Turner v Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – Federal Court Proceedings No. NTD 17 of 2024

We refer to the above matter.

Sydney Morning Herald Article

On 2 August 2025 an article was published in the Sydney Morning Herald online and print edition entitled *“Jacinta Price says she could be forced out of Senate due to court fight”* by Patrick Begley and Natassia Chrysanthos. The article remains online at the following URL: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/jacinta-price-says-she-could-be-forced-out-of-senate-due-to-court-fight-20250801-p5mimx.html> (SMH Article). A copy of the online version of the SMH Article is enclosed.

The SMH Article reported that Senator Price sent an email to a media/journalist mailing list last week concerning these proceedings. The SMH Article reports that the email contained the following statements by Senator Price:

1. *“I was really hoping it wouldn’t come to this.”* (Paragraph 2 of the SMH Article)
2. *“If it goes well for them – defamation cases can go either way, after all – they might even bankrupt me and cost me my seat in parliament. But I will not go down without a fight. I will never back down on my principles.”* (Paragraph 3 of the SMH Article)
3. *“Please think of me, but know that I’ll be walking into that courtroom proudly with my head held high,”* Price wrote. *“Why? Because I’m doing it for you.”* (Paragraph 14 of the SMH Article)

A spokesperson for Senator Price is quoted in the SMH Article as stating:

“The costs associated with defending a defamation proceeding like this are unknown but can be significant,” the spokeswoman said. *“Bankruptcy is a possible consequence.”*

Email from Senator Price

While we do not hold a copy of the complete email from Senator Price, we are instructed that it also contained the following statements:

1. *"I published the media release in good faith based on information provided to me by the then Chairman of the CLC. Why? You know why."*
2. *"I was elected to represent my constituents and to raise issues of concern that impact on their lives."*
3. *"I take this responsibility very seriously and have always acted in good faith and with the paramount intention of speaking up for those who cannot. You know me well enough now."*
4. *"You know I will uphold the democratic principles including free speech that underpin our country."*
5. *"The action has been brought under the Defamation Act of the Northern Territory which has not adopted the amendments accepted by the majority of the States in Australia. The amendments were an integral part of improving the balance of free speech and the right to a person's reputation."*

Please provide a copy of the full email sent by the Respondent together with a list of all recipients of the email by no later than **4pm on 6 August 2025**.

True Position

The reality is that on 21 July 2024, Senator Price published to a large number of people, a defamatory publication which has caused substantial harm to our client's professional reputation and resulted in him suffering significant hurt and embarrassment.

The press release issued by Senator Price was simply wrong. Senator Price knew prior to publication that the motion had not even been tabled, let alone passed. A fact she failed to disclose in her press release, just as she failed to disclose her own interest and involvement in the utterly hopeless attempt to remove our client from his position. She was not an innocent observer as she has falsely proclaimed – she was not merely making a public statement in her position as a senator.

Despite dropping her defences of justification and honest opinion, Senator Price has repeatedly failed to apologise to Mr Turner for the false and defamatory publication. More importantly, she has never retracted what she knows to be false allegations that she accepted many months ago she could not establish as substantially true.

For Senator Price to now suggest, as she does in the email sent to media organisations for mass publication:

- that she is a victim in these proceedings;
- that she acted in good faith in issuing a press release she knew to be wrong;

- that she is defending these defamation proceedings to speak “for those who cannot”; and
- that defamation law reforms adopted in some states, but not the Northern Territory, would protect her from issuing a blatantly false and defamatory statement,

is yet another example of the Respondent seeking to use her position as a Senator to gain an advantage in these proceedings. Mr Turner will rely on these latest statements by the Respondent in the proceedings, including in relation to aggravated damages. He will give evidence of his feelings upon reading about Senator Price’s conduct and we will be submitting on his behalf that it was improper and/or unjustified conduct that was lacking in bona fides.

Yours sincerely
BlackBay Lawyers



Monica Allen
Special Counsel



The Sydney Morning Herald

Exclusive National Courts

Jacinta Price says she could be forced out of Senate due to court fight

Patrick Begley and Natassia Chrysanthos

August 2, 2025 – 5.00am

Firebrand Liberal senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price has warned she could be bankrupted and removed from parliament if she loses a defamation case brought against her by the head of the Northern Territory's Central Land Council.

"I was really hoping it wouldn't come to this," Price, who controversially defected from the Nationals to run for the Liberal deputy leadership in May, wrote in a message to a mailing list this week ahead of a trial in October.



Northern Territory Liberal senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price is being sued in the Federal Court. JAMES BRICKWOOD

"If it goes well for them – defamation cases can go either way, after all – they might even bankrupt me and cost me my seat in parliament. But I will not go down without a fight. I will

never back down on my principles.”

Under section 44 of the Australian Constitution, members who are undischarged bankrupts or insolvent are ineligible to sit in parliament.

A stumble in Price’s political career would deal a blow to the federal Coalition’s right-wing star power. The Northern Territory senator’s profile skyrocketed after she played a key role in defeating the 2023 Voice referendum and was elevated to opposition Indigenous affairs spokeswoman.



Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price has been mooted as a future Coalition leader and has the backing of former prime minister Tony Abbott. JAMES BRICKWOOD

Price, whose divisive views on Indigenous issues have troubled other Indigenous leaders, has used her time in parliament to fight for free speech and resist “political correctness”. She has also called for a wide-ranging inquiry into land councils, which negotiate with governments and corporations on behalf of Aboriginal landholders.

She is being sued in the Federal Court over a press release she sent last July about the Central Land Council in which she claimed that a vote of no confidence had been moved against its chief executive, Les Turner.

“Through last week’s vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct,” the release said. It claimed the no-confidence motion was unsuccessful but had been backed by the then-chair of the land council, Matthew Palmer.

Turner’s defamation suit, launched last September, alleges he has been “seriously injured in his character and in his personal and professional reputation” by suggestions that he was unfit to

serve as chief executive and had lost the support of his members.

The claim describes Price's conduct as "improper, unjustified or lacking in bona fides" and says she failed to check the accuracy of her claims before issuing the press release.

"The respondent has not retracted, or apologised, despite being told unequivocally on 22 July 2024 by the [Central Land Council] that her claims were false," Turner's claim states.

Price has dropped her truth and honest opinion defences and will be solely relying on the defence of qualified privilege.

Her court filing says she was acting on information provided to her by the land council's then-chair, raising "issues of significant and immediate public interest that required her comment as shadow minister for Indigenous Australians and senator for Northern Territory".

Her statement of defence further alleges deficiencies in the Central Land Council's approach to fraud risk.

The parties were ordered to take part in mediation, but a defamation trial is now set down for October in Darwin.

"Please think of me, but know that I'll be walking into that courtroom proudly with my head held high," Price wrote. "Why? Because I'm doing it for you."

Turner, through his lawyers, declined to comment. A spokeswoman for Price said the senator could be forced to pay damages and legal costs if unsuccessful.

"The costs associated with defending a defamation proceeding like this are unknown but can be significant," the spokeswoman said. "Bankruptcy is a possible consequence."



Price says she was raising matters of public interest. The Central Land Council's chief executive, Les Turner, says she did not check her facts. ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN

Price has been mooted as a future leader, and former prime minister Tony Abbott backed her failed bid to become the deputy Liberal leader after the election in May. But her influence has diminished under Sussan Ley, who relegated her to the outer opposition ministry as spokesperson for defence industry when she won the leadership.

The senator was one of the Coalition's most powerful fundraisers in the lead-up to the May election, [commanding up to \\$10,000 a head for a private dinner](#). But a gaffe weeks out from the poll, in which she pledged to "[make Australia great again](#)", was seen as damaging to the Coalition's campaign.

Price's warning about the defamation suit follows the successful action brought by Victorian MP Moira Deeming against John Pesutto, a former Liberal opposition leader. Pesutto was forced to enter into a loan agreement with his party to cover part of the \$2.3 million in costs he owed Deeming.

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