

All media enquiries regarding the below correspondence should be directed to the Chair, Hon Rod Roberts MLC on (02) 9230 3686.

From: [James Cullen](#)
To: [Caravan Incident](#)
Cc: [Edward Ovadia](#); [Sarah Michael](#)
Subject: RE: Inquiry into the relationship between the Dural caravan incident and parliamentary debates on legislation - Correspondence from Chair - re-issued invitation - 14 May 2025
Date: Friday, 16 May 2025 5:06:25 PM
Attachments: [image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[Letter from Premier to Speaker 15 May 25.pdf](#)
[Letter Speaker to Premier Re LC Select Committee on Dural Caravan Incident.pdf](#)

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

In relation to the ministerial staff witnesses that have been called to appear, I refer the committee to the attached correspondence between the Premier and the Speaker regarding the comity of the Houses and the powers and privileges of the Legislative Assembly. I note that a copy of his letter would be forwarded to the President of the Legislative Council, given the extent of the serious issues raised in relation to the Assembly's rights, powers and immunities.

I further note that the Speaker expressed the view that it would be inappropriate for the Government to accede to any requests from the Legislative Council without the Legislative Assembly first having had an opportunity to consider any implications for exclusive cognisance and other rights and privileges of the Legislative Assembly

I respectfully ask that In the circumstances, it might be appropriate for the Select Committee to defer consideration of the attendance of witnesses at hearings in the Select Committee's inquiry.

In light of the above, and as per my previous response, I will not be appearing as a witness at the hearing on Thursday 22 May 2025.

Regards,

James

The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales



The Hon Greg Piper MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Re: Legislative Council Select Committee on the Relationship between the Dural Caravan Incident and Parliamentary Debates on Legislation

Dear Speaker 

I refer to the Select Committee on the Relationship between the Dural Caravan Incident and Parliamentary Debates on Legislation established by the Legislative Council on 19 March 2025 (the **Select Committee**).

The Select Committee's terms of reference (copy enclosed) provide that it is established to inquire into and report on the relationship between the Dural caravan incident and parliamentary debates on legislation.

The terms of reference include several matters which expressly concern proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. For example, the terms of reference include:

- "any references to the incident in any briefing materials prepared for the development, introduction, and debate on the: (i) Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025; (ii) Crimes Legislation Amendment (Racial and Religious Hatred) Bill 2025; [and] (iii) Crimes Amendment (Inciting Racial Hatred) Bill 2025 (terms of reference, paragraph 1(d))
- "statements made by members of the Executive Government ... during debate on the bills" (terms of reference, paragraph 1(e))
- "the provision of information to ... Parliament prior to and during the debate of the bills" (terms of reference, paragraph 1(f))
- "the impact of any [decision to release or withhold information] on parliamentary deliberations (terms of reference, paragraph 1(h)).

During Question Time on 18 March 2025, I made a statement in the House in relation to the Dural caravan incident, including in relation to briefings I received on the incident. The relevant Hansard extract is enclosed.

The Select Committee's terms of reference raise concerns about:

- whether any parliamentary privilege of the Assembly may be infringed (including, for example, by impeaching proceedings of the Assembly during parliamentary debate on the bills or during Question Time)
- the observance of the principle of comity and the relationship between the two Houses.

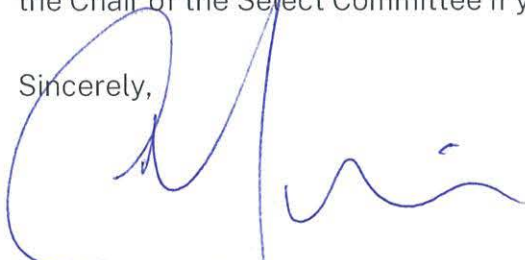
In these circumstances, the Government intends to introduce, at the earliest available opportunity, a motion to refer the Select Committee's terms of reference to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics for inquiry.

I understand that the Select Committee has scheduled a hearing in its inquiry for 22 May 2025. While a schedule for the hearing has not yet been released, it is understood that the Select Committee is seeking to examine various witnesses, including public servants and persons employed under Part 2 of the *Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013* to support Ministers in the Legislative Assembly.

It is unlikely that a motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics will be able to be considered before 22 May 2025. In these circumstances, I would be grateful if you could advise of any additional steps which should be taken to preserve the privileges of the House in the interim.

I confirm that a copy of this letter may be provided to the President of the Legislative Council and the Chair of the Select Committee if you consider it appropriate to do so.

Sincerely,



Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales

15/5/25.

Encl: Select Committee on the Relationship between the Dural Caravan Incident and Parliamentary Debate on Legislation – terms of reference

Hansard, 18 March 2025 (extract)



SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DURAL CARAVAN INCIDENT AND PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES ON LEGISLATION

- (1) That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on the relationship between the Dural caravan incident and parliamentary debates on legislation, and in particular:
 - (a) evidence and knowledge about the incident held by the Premier, Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism, Minister for the Hunter, and the Attorney General at various times between 19 January 2025 and 20 February 2025
 - (b) relevant briefings given by the NSW Police Force prior to or on 20 February 2025
 - (c) relevant briefings given by the Australian Federal Police prior to or on 20 February 2025
 - (d) any references to the incident in any briefing materials prepared for the development, introduction, and debate on the:
 - (i) Crimes Amendment (Places of Worship) Bill 2025
 - (ii) Crimes Legislation Amendment (Racial and Religious Hatred) Bill 2025
 - (iii) Crimes Amendment (Inciting Racial Hatred) Bill 2025
 - (e) statements made by members of the Executive Government in the press and during debate on the bills
 - (f) the provision of information to the public and Parliament prior to and during the debate of the bills
 - (g) any decision to release or withhold information
 - (h) the impact of any such decision on parliamentary deliberations, and
 - (i) any other related matter.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of eight members comprising:
 - (a) three government members
 - (b) two opposition members, one being Mrs Carter, and
 - (c) three crossbench members, being Ms Higginson, Mr Roberts and Mr Ruddick.
- (3) That the Chair of the committee be Mr Roberts and the Deputy Chair be Mrs Carter.

- (4) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
- (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales
 - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration
 - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential
 - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement
 - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between Opposition, crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each
 - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published
 - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness
 - (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and
 - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.

[Resolved 19 March 2025, Minutes No 93, item 30]

- (c) The Hon. Janelle Anne Saffin, MP, as a member of the Executive Council and as Minister for Small Business, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast.

REPRESENTATION OF MINISTERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I inform the House of the following changes in the representation of Legislative Council Ministers in the Assembly:

- (a) The Minister for Roads, and Minister for Regional Transport to represent the Special Minister of State, Minister for Transport, Minister for the Arts, and Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, and
- (b) The Minister for Health, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for the Illawarra and the South Coast to represent the Minister for Water, Minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Minister for Mental Health, and Minister for Youth.

DEPUTY GOVERNMENT WHIP

Mr RON HOENIG: On behalf of Mr Chris Minns: I inform the House of the appointment this day of Ms Liesl Tesch as Deputy Government Whip. I also inform the House that in her absence between 18 and 28 March 2025, Mr Edmond Atalla will be Acting Deputy Government Whip.

The SPEAKER: I congratulate all Ministers on their new appointments, particularly the member for Lismore.

Bills

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FOGO RECYCLING) BILL 2024

HOUSING AMENDMENT BILL 2025

CREATIVE STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT BILL 2025

SOUND NSW ADVISORY BOARD BILL 2025

MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION OF SENTENCES) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2024

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2025

CRIMES AMENDMENT (INCITING RACIAL HATRED) BILL 2025

CRIMES AMENDMENT (PLACES OF WORSHIP) BILL 2025

CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS HATRED) BILL 2025

MARINE SAFETY AMENDMENT BILL 2024

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CIVIL) BILL 2024

STRATA SCHEMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2024

Assent

The SPEAKER: I report receipt of messages from the Governor notifying Her Excellency's assent to the bills.

Question Time

DURAL CARAVAN INCIDENT

Mr MARK SPEAKMAN (Cronulla) (12:11): My question is directed to the Premier. On what date was the Premier first briefed that the Dural caravan incident could be a fake terrorism plot?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:11): As the deputy commissioner made clear in budget estimates, 21 February was the date that the NSW Police Force ruled out that the incident was what it would term a "legitimate terrorist threat". However, as we have said many times in the media over the past few weeks, we were briefed early on that the incident could be something other than terrorism, as it is classically defined, and that no line of inquiry was being ruled out by the New South Wales police. That was early on after I had been briefed. But it was not that organised crime's potential or alleged involvement in the caravan plot that was the subject of the inquiry, as was the potential for it to be terrorism in the community, as were other lines of

investigation and inquiry. That is, generally speaking, how police investigations begin. They begin with a broad range of suspects and not closing off any lines of inquiry, and they end with police laying charges and making a determination about what they believed had happened in these circumstances.

However, I make it clear that despite the incident not being terrorism as it is defined, it did instil terror into members of our community. It was designed to stoke fear among large segments of the New South Wales population, and the threat was real. Police will allege in court that individuals tried to firebomb and destroy property in the eastern suburbs of Sydney owned by members of the Jewish community. A childcare centre adjacent to a synagogue in Maroubra was burned to the ground as part of the alleged plot. There were several other attempts in New South Wales by those named and charged by police to instil fear and intimidation into the community. That needed to be met with a comprehensive police response. In addition to the operations of Kissinger—

Mr Mark Speakman: Point of order—

Mr CHRIS MINNS: —the New South Wales Government has pursued hate speech laws in this State.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I will hear the point of order.

Mr Mark Speakman: My point of order is taken under Standing Order 127, relevance. The question was not about hate speech laws. I asked the Premier for a date. The Premier has not given a date. I have asked for a date. When?

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. There is no point of order. The Premier is being relevant to the question.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The Government introduced hate speech laws directly to confront antisemitism in our community. Setting aside the operations of Kissinger and those who are alleged to be part of this organised crime gang, there has inarguably been a rise of antisemitic racist attacks in New South Wales over the summer, and that needed to be met with comprehensive hate speech laws. We have not heard from the Opposition whether it will join crossbenchers in the upper House to repeal the laws.

Mr Mark Speakman: No, we will not.

Mr CHRIS MINNS: The first time you were asked, you would not answer. I swear I have seen the Leader of the Opposition slide under a closed door. Neither he nor anyone else has any backbone when it comes to these issues. We will not repeal the laws; they are too important for New South Wales.

TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED RECOVERY

Mr JASON LI (Strathfield) (12:14): My question is addressed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the New South Wales Government's response to Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred?

Mr CHRIS MINNS (Kogarah—Premier) (12:15): I thank the member for his question. The New South Wales Government, and I suspect the entire Parliament, owes a huge debt of gratitude to the volunteers, the emergency service workers and those who spent time away from their family and friends to keep the public safe during Alfred's descent along the eastern seaboard. It was a massive operation organised and controlled by the SES but a huge demonstration of what volunteers are able to do when a fellow Australian is in need of help. We had 3,500 SES volunteers positioned in the New South Wales Northern Rivers ready to help the community in the event of a comprehensive disaster.

The organisation was humble enough to learn lessons from 2022, get extra resources in and deploy in a short space of time. I say to every single individual—some from as far away as Eurobodalla, Bega, Wagga, Albury and Kogarah—who spent time away from their family and friends to help complete strangers in the Northern Rivers that it was an amazing example of community service and public spiritedness. It was fantastic to see, and the SES got a big shot of confidence as a result of their deployment due to the impending threat of cyclone Alfred. I got it right; I was calling it Albert at one point, but it is definitely Alfred.

The Government was able to rely on a huge amount of communication, public messaging, as well as information from many elected representatives in the Northern Rivers, including our colleagues the Minister for the North Coast and the member for Ballina. I was able to spend time with the member for Tweed, who worked around the clock to keep his community safe throughout the entire period. He worked hard on behalf of his local constituents and spoke to us directly, not with a megaphone in the media, when different parts of his community needed immediate help, and we were able to deploy those resources. We genuinely thank him for that. It was a fantastic example of leadership.



The Hon. Greg Piper MP
Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly
Member for Lake Macquarie

The Hon Chris Minns MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

16 May 2025

Dear Premier *Chris*

Re: Legislative Council Select Committee on the Relationship between the Dural Caravan Incident and Parliamentary Debates on Legislation

I refer to your correspondence, dated 15 May 2025, concerning the Legislative Council Select Committee on the Relationship between the Dural Caravan Incident and Parliamentary Debates on Legislation and the matters you have raised in relation to parliamentary privilege.

Your correspondence refers to the Government's intention to move a motion to seek a referral to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics. Standing Order 92 provides that a Member desiring to raise a matter of privilege or contempt, not suddenly arising, must inform the Speaker of the details in writing. I confirm that I have carefully reviewed the concerns raised in your correspondence, which are appropriately matters to be considered by me as matters of privilege not suddenly arising under Standing Order 92 (copy attached).

In accordance with the procedures outlined under Standing Order 92(2), I wish to advise that I have decided that a motion to refer the matter to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics is to take precedence under the Standing Orders. Having arrived at this decision, under Standing Order 92(4) you may 'give notice of a motion at any time when there is no business before the House' and that the notice 'must take precedence under Standing Order 118 on the next sitting day'.

I note that this opportunity will not arise before the House next meets on Tuesday 27 May, 2025 and that the Legislative Council Select Committee has scheduled a hearing in relation to its inquiry for 22 May 2025. In these circumstances, I will forward a copy of my response to the President of the Legislative Council for his consideration given the extent of the serious issues raised in relation to the rights, powers and immunities of the Legislative Assembly.

In the interim, as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and custodian of its rights and privileges, I wish to advise that I consider it would be inappropriate for the Government to accede to any requests from the Legislative Council without the House first having had an opportunity to consider any implications for exclusive cognisance and other rights and privileges of the Legislative Assembly, arising from the notice of motion of referral to the Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics.

Please contact the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Helen Minnican, if you have any questions concerning the procedures required under Standing Order 92.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Piper', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Hon. Greg Piper MP
Speaker