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Govt poll snub irks Nationals

The NT Government's support of the Liberals in the weekend NSW election might have damaged the CLP's bid to affiliate with the federal National Party.

Two Government employees were sent to NSW at public expense to campaign for the Liberals.

One of these was Chief Minister Steve Hatton's principal adviser Peter Murphy.

The Liberal/National Party coalition convincingly won Saturday's election.

A source within the federal National Party's powerful management committee expressed surprise and disappointment at the Territory Government's support for the Liberals.

By **MICHAEL GOREY**

return of the conservative parties in NSW.

He said the Liberal and National parties had received support.

But NSW National Party director Jenny Gardiner said neither of the Territory Government staff had worked on the Nationals' campaign.

Ms Gardiner said that Member for Braiting Roger Vale had campaigned for the National Party in Bathurst.

Bias

The source said allegations of bias would be considered seriously when the party's Federal Council met to decide the issue in late July.

The CLP had sought to affiliate with the federal National and Liberal parties.

Last year, the federal National Party rejected the Territory Nationals' affiliation request pending a report on the CLP status.

On Monday, Mr Hatton's press secretary Mike Lawson would not divulge details of the Government's assistance to the Liberals.

Mr Lawson said the Government wanted a

"That is the only support I am aware of," she said.

NSW Liberal director Graeme Star said the Territory Government employees had been "seconded" onto Premier-elect Nick Greiner's personal staff.

Mr Vale said he had been in NSW on private and Government business.

He said that he and a member of Senator Grant Tambling's staff had campaigned on behalf of the National Party.

Territory Nationals' vice-president Max Stewart said most rank and file CLP members supported the National Party.

He said that Mr Hatton had shown a Liberal bias.

"Mr Hatton did not provide any assistance to the Nationals in NSW," he said.

"It is clear where the Hatton Government stands."

Meanwhile, in Darwin, ALP Opposition Leader Terry Smith

said the swing against Labor in NSW was a clear warning to all governments.

"The warning is quite clear," Mr Terry Smith said on Monday.

"Do not lose touch with the electorate or you will be dealt with harshly."

Mr Smith said there was nothing fundamen-

tally wrong with the Hawke Government's policies.

"They are good and in place, but the Government had failed to sell them to the people," he said.

The NSW Government was thrown out as a result of small, fairy floss issues, Mr Smith said.