

# Norfolk Island Regional Council

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

#### COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES REVIEW REPORTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED

The independent Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review reports from the Expert Scientific Panel and Bioregional Advisory Panels have been released by the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP. The review reports can be accessed on: [www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine).

‘The Federal Minister has asked the Director of National Parks to commence the process of preparing management plans for Commonwealth marine reserves – including the Norfolk Island Commonwealth marine reserve – in line with the process set out in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999,’ Mayor Adams said, ‘We are advised that the Director has issued a public notice inviting interested parties to comment on the proposal to prepare draft management plans and a notice was placed in the Norfolk Islander. The Acting Director is also seeking comments on her proposal to use the recommendations in the independent review as the basis of these plans.’

Council is advised that there are two formal opportunities for public comment during the preparation of management plans, firstly on what people would like to see in plans, and secondly on the draft management plans. The first public comment period closes on 11 October 2016; and it is anticipated the draft plans will be released publicly for further input and community consultation in early 2017.

Parks Australia has welcomed any feedback from the Norfolk Island Regional Council during the preparation of the plans. Information about the public consultation process is available at [www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine).

- The recommendations from the review about Norfolk marine reserves can be found at: [http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/23061bf8-df19-4b74-b867-5a57ccbc5c8b/files/cmrreviewbioregionaladvisorypanelreportfinalchapter44\\_1.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/23061bf8-df19-4b74-b867-5a57ccbc5c8b/files/cmrreviewbioregionaladvisorypanelreportfinalchapter44_1.pdf);
- A map of the recommended zoning for the Norfolk marine reserve can be found at: [http://www.environment.gov.au/submissions/reportmaps/norfolk\\_cmr\\_review\\_recommended\\_zoning.pdf](http://www.environment.gov.au/submissions/reportmaps/norfolk_cmr_review_recommended_zoning.pdf); and
- Comments can be sent by email to [managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au](mailto:managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au).

‘Council can play an advocacy role in Commonwealth and State issues which affect the community,’ the Mayor said, ‘Council must keep informed about issues happening at Commonwealth and State levels and I have commenced discussion on this issue with Mr Richard Hay, Executive Officer at the Office of the Administrator to ensure that we create an environment which allows this to happen for the benefit of all parties, including the community’.

'I have advised the Acting Director of Parks Australia that the closing date for submissions of 11 October 2016 precludes Council from formally responding by the deadline date as the next Ordinary meeting of Council is not until the 19th October, where a resolution would need to be made to do so,' Mayor Adams said, 'This is regrettable. However, following my discussion with key stakeholders in the community I will provide a personal submission'.

#### **HAWAIKI SUBMARINE CABLE PROPOSAL FOR NORFOLK ISLAND**

'Last week I mentioned that the Commonwealth had been requested to seek a two week extension of time from Hawaiki beyond 30 September to allow further in-depth discussion with the Commonwealth. Council had also asked for one-off grant funding from the Commonwealth for installation of the branching unit on the cable. Regrettably our request at this time has not been agreed,' Mayor Adams said.

#### **ABSENCE OF MAYOR**

'I will be off island from 6 to 16 October 2016 on personal business. However, I am looking forward to meeting the Mayor and the General Manager of Woollahra Municipal Council on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> and attending a meeting of their Council that evening at 8 pm,' Mayor Adams said, 'Woollahra Municipal Council is in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney between Rosebay and Double Bay'.

#### **'SHOW DAY' ON NORFOLK**

'It is Show Day on Monday and regrettably I am unable to be on Island to open the show. However, I am sure I join with all the organisers, exhibitors, attendees including visitors to our beautiful Island in asking for the sun to be shining so everyone can have a wonderful day at our annual show,' the Mayor said.

**Robin Adams**  
**Mayor**

**06 October 2016**