



MEDIA RELEASE

OVERVIEW OF COUNCIL MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2019

An Ordinary Council Meeting was held on 20 February 2019, with a second session on 22 February. It was a very long and busy meeting with many resolutions made. Some of the matters discussed are detailed below.

Two members of the general public spoke during public access:

- Ms Margaret Christian spoke in support of the Nature Centre proposed by Wild Mob and the benefits of having such a nature centre on-island.
- Ms Cherie Nobbs presented a discussion on the risks associated with importing rock to the island for this Airport Runway Reseal Project. This went together with the presentation to Council of the 'Stop Imported Rock into Norfolk Island' petition, which was accepted and noted.

Status reports were put to Council on a variety of topics, including:

- Recruitment update – of the 22 appointments made between July 2018 and December 2018, 20 were current Norfolk Island residents and two (2) were from mainland Australia.
- The energy policy and technical design for power generation.
- Progress on the futureproofing of telecommunications on Norfolk Island.
- Activities of the Fire Service.
- The issuing of pasturage rights (cattle tags). At the moment there are 209 cattle using common land.
- Waste and the environment, including the progress made in diverting waste away from Headstone and our marine environment.

Two Reports from Committees were presented:

- Minutes of the Public Reserves Advisory Committee held on 5 February 2019.
- Minutes of the Tourism Advisory Committee held on 7 February 2019.

The General Manager delivered reports on a review of Council Resolutions and the substantial progress made by Council staff in actioning these; and, similarly, on the quarterly review of progress made regarding the 2018–2019 Operational Plan.

On the water shortage, the General Manager presented a report regarding correspondence from EMNIC asking for Council's assistance to compile a water scarcity index. This information will enable Council to know if we have sufficient water resources on-island, how long these are likely to last, and whether we are moving into situation where an emergency drought declaration needs to be made.

A report was tabled regarding the successful grant application for the Library, which will allow for a very welcome software upgrade and some refurbishments of the Library space.

Investment Reports were submitted to Council for 30 December 2018 and 31 January 2019, along with the Quarterly Financial Review Report. Council noted the financial result was a \$1,004,744 surplus at 31 December 2018.

Investment and Hardship Policies were updated and accepted by Council. And Council approved for the September 2020 election of Council to be administered by the Australian Election Company

Council approved a request to the Minister to formally initiate the periodic review of the Norfolk Island Plan, which looks at the island's planning laws and has not been reviewed since 2002.

Finally, the Mayor presented a Notice of Motion on modernising the sewerage treatment plant and sewer network.

The meeting was adjourned until Friday, 22 February at 9am, when the matters tabled in the confidential section were discussed. These included:

- the tender evaluation for the airport pavement repair and resurfacing project, which was awarded to Boral
- the tender evaluation for the airport project management contract, which was awarded to Aileron Edge Pty Ltd
- the tender evaluation for the car baler, which was awarded to Waste Initiatives Pty Ltd
- the acquisition of land for the water assurance scheme.

This media release provides a brief overview of some of the matters that were addressed at the Council meeting. For full details visit Council's website www.norfolkisland.gov.nf to view the meeting Agenda, Minutes, or to listen to the recording of the meeting. Hardcopies of the Agenda and Minutes are available to view at Customer Care or the Library.

Council's values: Integrity, communication, accountability, respect and excellence

Lotta Jackson
GENERAL MANAGER

22 February 2019