



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
12<sup>TH</sup> NILA HANSARD – 16 MAY 2007**

**PRAYER**

Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this House, direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island, Amen

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members if anyone would like to remove their jackets, please do so

**CONDOLENCES**

Honourable Members I call on condolences, are there any condolences this morning?  
Mr Tim Sheridan

**MR SHERIDAN** Mr Speaker it is with regret that this House records the passing of Irene Christian on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. Irene was the wife of the late George Edward 'Teddy Toy' Christian who leaves behind 5 children - Stephen, Susan, Louise, Beryl and Glynn as well 12 grand children and 18 great-grand children. Irene was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 1929, the eldest daughter of Arthur and Florence Archer and lived with her family and 5 siblings in Auckland until after her marriage to Teddy when they moved to Norfolk. Irene was well known behind the counter at the Ferny Lane Grocery store with Jean Sim then later at Holloway's in Burnt Pine. Teddy was a familiar face at the airport freight shed and Irene was just as familiar sitting in Teddy's truck, busy watching everyone come and go and chatting to anyone who had the time. It was Norfolk and every one had time. After Teddy's death in 1977, Irene returned to Auckland to her ailing parents. She became Canteen Manager at Image Printing until her retirement and subsequent relocation to Brisbane, where she gained Australian citizenship in 1992. Irene became a volunteer with the LifeLine organisation. Irene's greatest passion, The Salvation Army, became her other family. It gave her an incredible sense of purpose and joy, so much so that she enlisted with them and became a soldier. Irene fought emphysema with vigour, even though she knew she could never win as her breathing became increasingly difficult. Having to give up the Salvation Army services caused her great distress. Irene unselfishly donated her body to Medical Science and Research. At the time of her sudden death, Irene was surrounded with all the love of her family, relatives and friends and to those people, this House extends its sincere sympathy. May she rest in peace

**MR SPEAKER** Thank you Mr Sheridan. Honourable Members as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I ask that all members stand in silence please. Thank you Honourable members.

**NOMINATION OF ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER**

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members in accordance with standing order 9 I have nominated Brendon Alec Christian to act as Deputy Speaker and I table the instrument of nomination dated 16 May 2007.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR MR BRENDON CHRISTIAN MLA**

SPEAKER Mr Brendon Christian has sought leave of absence from this sitting. Is leave granted Honourable Members. Leave is granted thank you

### PETITIONS

We move to the matter of petitions. Are there any petitions this morning?.

### GIVING OF NOTICES

Are there any notices?

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any questions without notice?

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker given that the RPI Index number recorded such a small increase for the last quarter, can the Minister assure the House that the calculation accurately reflects the price movement of goods consumed by residents of Norfolk Island and that the items forming the basket of goods are available for pricing this quarter and remains representative of today's purchases

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I thank Mr Anderson for his question. I have been contacted by a number of residents over the past week following the most recent CPI index was published in the Government Gazette. That index indicated that price movements had actually gone down approximately 1% but it appears there may be an error in the calculation and the movement was actually close to 3% upwards. In order to clarify the situation there and to also explore the basket of goods that is checked to compile the index I have arranged with the CEO for the people within the Administration who are responsible for the compiling the index to attend the meeting of MLA's next Tuesday so that we can be briefed on the situation, Thank you

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker one further question. As a preamble there is a letter outstanding from one of the tour operators on the bus situation going back to 29<sup>th</sup> November I believe still unanswered. As it is unanswered it raises the question as to whether something is going to be done about this or whether in fact buses over a certain length ...

SPEAKER Mr Anderson excuse me please. To whom are you directing your question

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker the Minister for Commerce I suppose. Do you want me to start again?

SPEAKER If you wish

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker to the Minister for Commerce. As there is a letter outstanding from one of the tour operators referring to the size of buses going back to 29<sup>th</sup> November which is still unanswered there's an assumption that something is going to be done about this. Can the Minister please advise whether or not this matter is being addressed

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker thank you and thank you for the question Mr Anderson. If it would suit the House I've actually prepared a statement on this issue and I feel that the answer is contained within that statement and would be more than adequate to answer that question so if it suits the House I would prefer to make the statement later on

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a question to the Minister responsible for Social Services. Minister the Social Services Amendment No 2 Bill passed by the previous Legislative Assembly is presently awaiting assent and commencement. Would the responsible Minister undertake to defer commencement of this Act which deals with, among other things, appeal mechanisms, until these broad changes are examined in the light of the policies of the new Legislative Assembly and Government

MRS JACK Mr Speaker I'll just be awaiting the assent to be given by the Governor General as this is a schedule 3 matter and then when assent is granted, then I'll bring Mr Sheridan's concerns back to the House at a suitable time. If he can direct, possibly during MLA's if he has matters, but once the Bill has been assented to things will commence

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a question to the Minister for Finance. Minister what measures have been put in place or will be put in place to monitor the effect of the GST on low and middle income families

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, no specific measures have been put in place at this time but I imagine that the mechanisms that the community will use to inform the Government of any hardship issues or adverse impacts is to basically speak to their MLA directly and the MLA can meet and consider any options that might be open to us to alleviate any such adverse impact

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker another one for the Minister for Finance. Minister can you give an update as to what is happening to businesses who have defaulted on the NSL requirements/payments under the Act

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, and Mr Sheridan for that question. As I am aware there are a number of people who have not made NSL returns. The Legal Services Department has prepared summonses which are about to be issued, but the new CEO has requested that one further letter be sent to the people and if possible, people who have difficulties be given a one on one opportunity to meet with the Chief Revenue Officer who at the time happens to be the new CEO to try and sort through any issues that can be resolved, hopefully without going to court, so that's the process we are going through now so I imagine that if a letter has not gone out, it's about to go out, basically informing the people that they've got seven days to arrange a meeting with the CEO and if you don't make such an arrangement then court proceedings will follow fairly swiftly

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I'm not picking on the Minister but it's just that these things are in his area. A question for the Minister responsible for Telecommunications. Minister with the introduction of the mobile phone network people on Norfolk Island were required to hand back their expensive trunking system phone and in return they were given a cheap cornflake replacement model of which I note not even Telecommunication staff utilise. They use a better quality phone provided by the Government. Many of these cheap cornflake models have had to be returned because of faults. Minister if it is good enough for the Telecommunications staff to be provided with a better quality phone provided by the Government do you not think it appropriate that residents who handed back their trunking system phone be afforded the same deal. Minister will you recall these phones and replace them with a mobile phone which is more reliable, user friendly, and of a better quality

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, yes I'm happy to consider such an application or approach and I'll list it for discussion at a future meeting of MLA's. I wasn't aware that the phones were actually causing so much distress but Mr Sheridan is right, the phones that were handed in were seal trunking radios costing in excess of \$1000 each, and I think the phones that have been issued to people who handed in their

trunking radios in probably only cost Telecom maybe \$40-50 so we could revisit the issue

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker again a question to the Minister responsible for the airline. Minister in reply to a question in this House last month in regard to the advertisement of the position for the Norfolk Air General Manager and staff you stated that you expected that position would be advertised in the not too distant future. Minister how much longer do we have to wait for these positions to be advertised or has that intention now ceased to be an issue

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, no, the situation hasn't changed too dramatically. I think when Mr Sheridan asked me the question last I indicated that all three positions at the airline would be advertised. The situation there was that the General Manager that was running the airline at the time was on loan from Ozjet and at the end of three months the indications were that we would have to either recruit somebody or continue to use the officer provided from Ozjet but we would then have to pay the officer from Ozjet. There have been some developments. The General Manager who was provided to us by Ozjet has elected to stay on and work for Norfolk Air so the CEO has been directed to engage him directly on a contract to manage the airline for the next twelve months, but it is still the intention that the Accounts Controller and Yield Manager positions be advertised and as I understand it, job descriptions have been drawn up and given to the CEO and I also understand that the CEO is actually fine tuning the job descriptions and the advertisements should hit the press fairly soon

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a supplementary on that. Minister with regard to Norfolk Air, who actually makes decisions with the operation of Norfolk Air now that the airline committee has not been reformed to offer advise within this new Government

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, once again the airline committee ceased to exist at the time of the last election. We do have a General Manager now who runs the airline on a day to day basis and when directions are needed in areas that he feels are outside his authority I am consulted. I consult with the CEO and my colleague the Minister for Tourism Geoff Gardner and we generally then try and find a way forward. However I have indicated to all MLA's that it is my intention to create an Advisory Management Board to run the airline effective from 1 July this year and that Advisory Board will report directly to me as the Minister responsible. The General Manager or Chief Executive of the Airline will be an ex officio member of that Advisory Management Board. I intend to make two appointments to that board. The Board will consist of three Members at this stage so two appointments will be made by me after consultation with my parliamentary colleagues, and we will shortly be advertising in the local paper for a community member to be appointed to that board, so that's the process we intend following in respect of the airline management

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I have a question here for the Minister responsible for the Cascade Cliff Stabilisation Project. Minister during the last Government I asked the question in the House as to how much compensation the Norfolk Island Government has received from SMEC for unsatisfactory work during the stabilisation project. At the time I believe a payment of some \$300,000 had been paid but payment for costs incurred had been awarded to the Norfolk Island Government but not paid. These cost's are yet to be provided for settlement. Minister can you advise whether costs incurred have been forwarded for settlement, and if so, how much is the claim, and when can the settlement be expected

MRS JACK Mr Speaker I can advise Mr Sheridan that the costs are before the specific legal taxation people as they are being questioned and have to be accounted and crossed off by both parties. When that settlement is done, payment

can be paid and I will be able to advise Mr Sheridan but as yet the process is still ongoing Mr Speaker

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I have two more. Firstly to the Minister responsible for food licensing. Minister could you advise as to how many food licences have been issued for the current year

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker Mr Sheridan raised this issue in MLA's recently and I contacted Registry to get that information. 34 Sale of Food Licences have been issued. 27 relate to progressive dinners, 7 relate to shops and there are 11 Sale of Food Licences yet to be applied for

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker just a supplementary. What has been done about establishments that do not hold a current Sale of Food licence or for that matter, have not applied for one.

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I have been in contact with the relevant section who have communicated back to me via the CEO that they have processes in place and they are going through them quite carefully at the moment to ascertain exactly the answer to your question

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker one more again to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister when can the community expect the Administrative Arrangements for each executive to be gazetted so that the community knows who is responsible for what areas

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker those portfolio arrangements were tabled and noted to be printed in an earlier meeting. If they haven't been printed as yet then I will find out why and follow that through

SPEAKER Perhaps Chief Minister, Mr Sheridan I can answer that. They will be printed in the next Government Gazette. It has been taken on board. I have several questions and would ask the Deputy Speaker to come to the chair Thank you

MR SNELL Thank you Acting Deputy Speaker, a question to the Minister for Public Health, Mrs Jack. Could you please advise the House on the progress or otherwise of the installation of a high heat incinerator purchased I understand last year for the disposal of contaminated waste or other substances from the Norfolk Island Hospital

MRS JACK Mr Deputy Speaker I can advise that the approval was granted early this year but submissions were handed in following the approval being granted and those submissions have to be taken before the ART as part of the correct process available. The papers are being prepared by the Service, they have been late in being prepared but I have been advised by Legal Services Unit that those papers should be ready by Thursday, that's tomorrow, and then the ART will be able to meet and have a directions hearing regarding the submissions, the appeal process the placement of the incinerator was originally for the hospital, but it was deemed by officers and recommended to me and I accepted those recommendations that due to the probably placement which as going to be where the burning already takes place that it would be inappropriate given the fact that other services would also be using the high temperature incinerator. Those areas or other services are quarantine and veterinary for disposal and so it was deemed more appropriate to House it at the sewage treatment plant and by doing it there we would be able to get rid of the current burning facility at the airport, o the airport grounds for quarantine and also it would be a cost share basis between those three services, hence the placement at the sewage treatment plant and that is under appeal for its placement. Thank you

MR SNELL Thank you Acting Deputy Speaker I direct a question to the Minister for Postal Services, Mr Christian. Minister it has been brought to my attention that there is currently a large volume of mail stockpiled at Yamba awaiting uplift by sea. Could the Minister please enquire if this is correct and how long has the mail been delayed and if extended time, could the Minister enquire if this mail could be uplifted by air as soon as possible

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank Mr Snell for that question. I am not aware that there are large quantities of surface mail backlogged at Yamba, but if there is I will certainly take it on board to see if we have spare capacity on the airline at the moment to get the mail to Norfolk Island as expeditiously as we possibly can

MR SNELL Thank you Acting Deputy Speaker I direct another question to the Minister for Airline and Postal Services. Minister at the last meeting of this House you made a statement that rental properties would be shortly available to accommodate the office of Norfolk Air and the GST office. Would you please confirm to this House that consideration has been given to using Government owned premises for example, perhaps converting the back verandah of the Tourist Bureau or the side verandah of the Liquor Bond Store and if these are not suitable what is the reason for the selection of the new shopping complex

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, yes consideration was given to house the airline and the gst office in existing Administration buildings, however, none were suitable and consideration was then given to either building or extending Administration premises but the time frame involved in a. finding funding and b. lodging the necessary development applications and then going through the tender process to have any new facility or extensions constructed would have been outside of the time frame that I thought appropriate. We did look through all of Burnt Pine basically for rental properties, that is, exiting rental properties that could have been obtained for the airline and tax office and none were found to be suitable. The decision to rent two offices in the new complex being built by Norfolk Telecom was taken for the following reasons, the tax office will occupy the first office in the new complex and as members will be aware, very close to Norfolk Telecom. The thinking there is that many people go to the Norfolk Telecom office to pay Administration accounts or other services and they may well take the opportunity to just nip next door and pay their GST liabilities. The reason that the GST office was separated from the rest of the Administration is to honour a commitment given by myself to the business community of Norfolk Island that the tax office would be a stand alone operation and not incorporated into mainstream Administration. The airline office of course is a secondary consideration and we were just fortunate to be able to get two offices side by side. The objective that we sought to achieve with the airline office, was to locate it close to the people who needed to deal with the airline on a day to day basis and they happen to be Joe Adams, Bart Murray and Agnes Hain, the three local travel agents. It's not intended that the Norfolk Air office be a retail travel outlet so Members of the public will not be able to come into the office and book tickets as such, it is purely an administrative building but when we have disrupted flights, and so on, those agents need to be able to access our offices in the airline to make changes for disrupted flights or people who have special circumstances like for instance, we have people come on holidays, they have problems from where they come from, a family member may die or something like that, so they need to get back to the mainland before their booked flight so the airline will accommodate that sort of variation to someone's travel arrangements without penalising them, because in the past the only course of action that's been open to people who have disrupted travel is to go to one of the outlets, mainly Joe or Bart Murray and buy a full economy one way fare and I consider that to be an unacceptable situation. A second but not over riding requirement was to co-locate the offices so that if need ever arose the GST office and the airline office could have a degree of staff sharing so hence the decision to take the two offices in that new complex

MR SNELL Thank you Acting Deputy Speaker I would like to direct a further question to the Minister for communications. Minister could you please advise this House the progress of the mobile phone distribution and whether the distribution has achieved its budget expectations and for consideration also for that matter, would the Members please advise if a new contract has been signed for Norfolk Telecommunications service

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, there were no forward budget estimates done for the mobile phone system, it was just glaringly obvious that we had to move down the mobile path and we've done so. I would expect that we would derive revenue maybe, \$300/400,000 per year from the mobile system, that's just my own assessment but to date I can tell you that 550 mobile phones have been issued or sold, so that's a pretty encouraging result. I expect that down the road we will achieve sales of about 1000 mobile phone handsets in Norfolk Island. One of the other important aspects of the mobile phone system is that it became very clear to those in the travel industry in Norfolk Island that we were losing a significant number of high yield visitors to Norfolk Island in an environment where they couldn't use their Australian mobile phones in Norfolk Island. We haven't quite rectified that problem yet, they still can't use their Australian mobile phones in Norfolk Island unless they fit a Norfolk Island sim card but we expect that once the new carrier is in place, and our signalling is upgraded from c5 to c7 that local roaming will then be extended to Norfolk Island and those visitors can have two options, they can use their mainland phone or they can bring their mainland phone to Norfolk Island install a Norfolk Island sim card in it so that it works locally and then divert their mainland number to the local number so that's how that will work. As far as the new carrier for communications into and out of Norfolk Island yes a new carrier has been selected and we are in the process of signing them up. As I have indicated I think in one of my radio talks, I would expect that telecommunications calls into and out of Norfolk Island should fall by about 50% and the time frame for that is I would expect that we would be up and running with the new carriers sometime in the next three months. One part of the new carriers proposal is to provide an additional dish in Norfolk Island so that we can separate voice traffic from internet traffic but either dish will be able to in an emergency situation, handle all of our combined traffic so that's the situation there Mr Snell once the new dish arrives on the island, and it has been ordered. Installation will commence and then we will start the process of switching from one carrier to the new carrier

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker a supplementary question to the Minister for Finance on that subject. He indicated that some 550 mobile phones have been issued. Does that include the provision of solely sim card packs as well or is that just mobile phones

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, just mobile phones, but sim card packs I would have thought would have exceeded that because I'm aware that a lot of tourists have been buying sim card packs and installing it in their own phones

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members, any further Questions this morning. There being no further questions I will ask Mr Speaker to return to his chair

SPEAKER We conclude Questions Without Notice and we move on

## **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

Are there any Papers for presentation this morning

MRS JACK Mr Speaker in accordance with section 41 of the Interpretation Act 1979 I table the Waste Management (Amendment) Regulations 2007

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, table the financial indicators for April 2007 and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, at the end of April 2007 the good news continues. Revenue fund income was 101% of the revised budget and expenditure was contained at 97% of budget. On a pro rata basis I had expected that the budget would be in deficit by \$211,000 at the end of April 2007 but the budget is in fact an estimated surplus of \$184,000. At the corresponding period last year the actual deficit was \$815,000 and I consider a \$999,000 turnaround in our financial position to be a welcomed change. The budget provides for capital works and purchases expenditure totally \$62,500 and to date the actual amount spent or committed stands at \$52,700. The revenue funds current assets and liabilities at the end of April 2007 is as follows. We have assets totalling \$2,532,000 against known liabilities totalling \$2,612,800 resulting in a small deficit of \$81,800 which is an improvement on the situation when compared to March 2007. Once again Mr Speaker I can cope with this deficit as not all of our known creditors actually require payment at this instant. Cash at bank in non trust accounts total \$11,721,600 inclusive of \$3.3m held in prepaid ticket sales on behalf of Norfolk Air. After deducting the prepaid ticket sale amount, the balance of cash held is \$8.4m which is consistent with the long term average cash held of \$8.3m. Mr Speaker the reason I continue to make this comparison is to demonstrate that there is not a sustained downward trend in the Administration's cash position. I do not have airline financials for April at this time but I do have the March financials for the airline. For the month of March the airline achieved an operating profit of \$382,000 on totalling \$1,693,900. For the July to March period the airline has achieved an operating profit of \$1.3m on sales totalling \$12m. . Mr Speaker I am pleased to inform you that at the end of March 2007 \$414,000 of this profit has been spent on promoting Norfolk Island and I expect that by June 30<sup>th</sup> 2007 an additional \$250,000 will be provided to market and promote Norfolk Island. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted. Any further debate. I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning

MR GARDNER Thank you Mr Speaker in accordance with subsection 13(4) of the Public Sector Remuneration Act 1992 I table the Determination of an application by the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise Association which is No Application 2 of 2004 in relation to the Nursing Staff at the Hospital

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I table a list of virements that I have approved since the meeting of the House on the 18 April 2007 and I attach a list of the directions given by me as the Minister for Finance and I table that list

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker in accordance with section 41 of the Interpretation Act 1979 I table the Court of Petty Sessions (Civil Procedure Rules) Regulations 2007 and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker these regulations basically ensure the continuation of rules of civil procedure for the Court of Petty Sessions in accordance with those that were in place prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 in the Australian Capital Territory

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I table the inbound passenger statistics for April 2007 and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I reported last month that the trends continue to be positive as far as visitor number arrivals to Norfolk Island, that trend is continuing according to these last figures and that is pleasing even though we are entering into our traditional and historic trough as far as visitor numbers to Norfolk Island are concerned. Those numbers indicate in the figures that are tabled today that we are up approximately 300 on the same month as last year, so the month of April last year, 2006. In the preparation of the budget and I've made it very clear to Members of the Legislative Assembly in our budget discussions that we will need to see increased support for marketing and promotions on top of the Regional Partnerships programme which is set to deliver an injection of some \$500,000 into our marketing arm, and that is designed to ensure that we meet our targets. We cannot afford to languish amongst the average statistics of the previous five years and it is certainly going to take a concerted effort by all in Government, in the Government Tourist Bureau and the industry generally to ensure that we do meet those targets and again I emphasise the importance of the Regional Partnerships programme in that and I propose to make a statement later in the mornings proceedings. Mr Speaker in an effort also to address the traditional a trough and a bit of a worrying trend coming out of New Zealand, is for want of a better word, I guess the perceived stagnation of numbers that are coming out of New Zealand and in our budget proposals and the budget proposals that have been put forward by the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau and they are to be commended for this, they are looking to drive that market and increase numbers out of that market by the appointment of a dedicated marketing person on ground in New Zealand so that is going to assist us in addressing or bridging the trough that occurs at this time of year, certainly well into the next financial year. The Minister for Finance earlier in the discussion about the airline intimated the close level of co operation between the airline and the Government Tourist Bureau and other arms of the Administration. That is vital that that continues and I am very pleased to see that there is a very very close working and co operative arrangement between the manager of Norfolk Air and the General Manager of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau and in that regard also Ewan Wilson is the manager of Norfolk Air and his close working co operation with Mrs Marion Christian who is here with us this morning as Chair of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau, Mr Ian Anderson and other Members of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau in developing marketing strategies importantly for how we are going to drive this market to make ends meet. As I said, in tabling those figures they are encouraging, we can't afford to sit on our hands with that and it is important that everybody get behind what we are attempting to do to drive numbers in Norfolk Island and certainly the demographic that we are pursuing as far as visitors to Norfolk Island are concerned. Thank you

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning. Are there any further Papers this morning No. We move on

## STATEMENTS

Are there any Statements this morning Honourable Members

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker, at the last meeting of the House Mr Sheridan asked me to inform this House and the community, "what I would be doing in relation to unregistered vehicles, particularly now that the Compulsory Third Party legislation has been passed". Mr Speaker, to answer this question it might be useful for the Community and Mr Sheridan if I provide some background. Compulsory Third Party Insurance was introduced on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007. There are transitional provisions in the Legislation which allows gradual introduction of the scheme. That is, evidence of Third Party Insurance must be provided to the Registrar of Motor vehicles on registration or re-registration of a motor vehicle. Mr Speaker There have been measures taken in recent times to improve the standard of motor vehicle registration, such as the appointment of: Authorised inspection stations; Authorised inspectors; motor vehicle registration stickers; and periodical policing of outstanding vehicle registrations, however, the issue of unregistered vehicles remains an ongoing concern. Mr Speaker, I issued a media release which was published in *The Norfolk Islander* on Saturday which informed the community that the Police will be undertaking a campaign to check compliance with the Road Traffic Act. This will include registration as well as an education campaign concerning compulsory third party insurance. Mr Speaker, the purpose of this campaign is to ensure the safety of the road users and I encourage everyone in the community to be co-operative. In addition, I have agreed to an amnesty period of two months for the return of all outstanding number plates. I encourage anybody that might have an unregistered vehicle that they do not intend to re register to return their plates to the Cashier at the Administration Offices at Kingston and if they have any enquiries to contact the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Allen Bataille on 23691. Mr Speaker, I hope that sheds some light on what is a very important part of the future direction this Government will be taking on Road safety and associated issues. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I have a statement this morning just to update on the progress of the Regional Partnerships programme in the relation of promotion of tourism generally. Mr Speaker last month I recorded that we had met approximately 26% of our target from the business community in relation to their contribution to the Regional Partnerships programme and just to refresh people's memories about it, the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau were part of the programme and were required to contribute \$100,000, the Commonwealth through the Regional Partnerships programme were to contribute \$300,00 and the business community of Norfolk Island an additional \$100,000. as I said, we've met about 25% of that target at the last sitting of this House. I am pleased to advise that with the passing of time and a supreme effort by a number of people that we are closing in on the 80% target so some \$80,000 of that \$100,000 total, and that was as at close of business on Friday. Mr Speaker the list which I've had printed for me from the contributors is an interesting read, interesting to see the statistics and interesting for me to try and understand where some people may have difficulty in coming forward and being able to contribute. This is a programme that is designed for destination marketing. It's not specific or co-operative marketing with any particular wholesaler, this is designed to promote Norfolk Island as the destination so every single business and every single

business house on the island and every single tourist accommodation proprietor on the island stands to benefit, so too does Government and hence the Government's contribution through the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau. That list as I said is interesting. From it I am able to determine that all but one of the major hotels has contributed to date. Interestingly only three of the restaurants cafes and clubs on the island have provided a contribution. Two of the tour companies to date have provided contribution and roughly 50% of the business houses. The remaining business houses on the island have contributed to date. It's an encouraging progress and it is vitally required for this programme to be locked into place for us to get over the line as far as bridging that historic low period that I was talking about. Ideally, we would have liked to have finalised this programme a couple of months ago and so I am encouraging the business community to get behind with programme so that we can use the advantages of the programme to help drive businesses through that trough period. It is vital that we do that. Again, my thanks at this stage to all of whom have contributed. That list certainly I'll provide to my fellow colleagues of the Legislative Assembly at this stage so they can assist in the championing of the cause, and talk to their constituents about ensuring that there is this teamwork approach to the contribution of this, but my grateful thanks to the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau. I've acknowledged Mrs Marion Christian who is with us today and Ian Anderson and their colleagues, on the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau, I know that they've been particularly active in the community in encouraging people to meet their contributions which has meant that marked increase in contributions over the last four weeks or so. That also my compliments to the staff of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau who understand how important this process is and their encouragement that they've been offering to people in the business and accommodation community to make the contributions and of course those other individuals, those individual business houses and accommodation proprietors who have been out championing this cause as well. It's been heartening to see that people are getting on board and pursuing it with gusto. I look forward to being able to report next month that we've met and probably exceeded that target because the extra dollars and cents certainly will go some way to ensuring that we do meet our targets for tourism in this and the next financial year in particular and every cent is valuable in that cause. Thank you

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker I would like to make a statement in relation to the strategic plan. I would like to thank all Members for their participation in this framework document and emphasise that this is a component of our strategic plan that is the result of a collaboration of the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and not merely a Chief Minister's plan, acting as one of nine. Instead this framework was built by nine Members with the single aim for Norfolk Island's best future. There is very little preamble attached to this Strategic Plan framework, as this document is more directed towards action. I table framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly's strategic plan, to ensure this Assembly directs relevant efforts, resources and priority to the following issues. In the interests of good governance, this strategic plan framework will evolve with the progress of this government. With the commencement of this, the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and the appointment of a new CEO, a review of the existing Administrative financial structures, systems and processes has been initiated. This work involves the evaluation of all operating areas of the Administration and extends to best methods of operation within Government as well. The purpose of this evaluation is to address efficiency, accountability and sustainability. Transparency of operation, resource management and clearly defined operational processes that will capitalize upon the experience and expertise we currently have, while addressing training and remuneration needs for the future provision of effective services to the community. The Strategic Plan of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly aims to address the five main areas listed below:

1. Growing Prosperity For Norfolk Island - activities that promote productivity, economic growth, and financial sustainability
2. Better Services Delivery – appropriate public sector structure and resources to provide efficient and effective service delivery to the community.(health, education, policing, social welfare, telecommunications, electricity, postal

3. Communicating our direction - Effective leadership and intergovernmental and community consultation to progress and enhance self government.
  4. Environment for Living - sustainable planning, infrastructure and facilities –, resource management and environmental protection. Also Encouragement and initiatives to support Cultural activities and recreation.
  5. Fairness, Opportunity and Responsibility - services that promote social justice and reduce disadvantage, encourage transparency and accountability, probity and FOI
- I would like to move that, that be tabled, noted and printed. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you. Any further debate? The question is that the Statement be agreed to, noted and printed

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Thank you. That motion is agreed to

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker, I told the House that I was going to make a statement with regards to bus registration. Mr Speaker I wish to advise that it is my intention to issue drafting instructions to repeal the provisions of the Road Traffic Act and the Road Traffic (General) Regulations which prevents the renewal of the registration of those buses that would otherwise have not been capable of re-registration since 31 December 2006. Mr Speaker, under the Regulations it is not possible for those buses that exceed 7 metres in length, 2.3 metres in width, 2.8 metres in height or 3,500 kilograms Tare weight to be able to be re-registered after 31 December 2006. Following consultation with the various stakeholders the Government has decided to allow those buses that are now on the island, irrespective of their size or weight, to be re-registered. However, the current provisions in the Customs Act that prohibit the importation of buses that do not meet certain criteria will remain for now. An increase in the number of these vehicles on our roads may have an impact on the safe use of the roads by other road users and for that reason any future changes to the Customs Act will require thorough consideration. Mr Speaker, the proposed changes in allowing the re-registration of all buses on the island is seen as a practical and reasonable response to those persons who have imported buses prior to the limitations imposed under the Customs Act and the Road Traffic Act and its Regulations. One of the businesses adversely affected by these regulations currently provides an income for up to 120 people, it is paramount to any responsible Government that such impractical restrictions be removed. Mr speaker, following careful consideration and having regard to all the matters relating to this issue and in particular road safety, I believe it is in the best interests of the community to repeal the provisions prohibiting the re-registration of certain buses. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I would like to commend the Minister for Commerce and Industry on his initiative as Members from the previous Legislative Assembly would be aware and certainly the new Members of this Legislative Assembly there have been representations made in regard to this matter. It has some history. It goes back I think some five or six years or maybe longer than that when the Legislative Assembly were of the view that the large buses were impractical to remain on the roads of Norfolk Island principally because of some safety issues, but also additionally because of the perceived impact that large buses were having on the road structure. I think at that time, as somebody who supported the proposal to put the restrictions in place, under the regulations I made it very clear at the time, that that was in an effort to ensure that the industry as a whole were on notice that it was something

that that particular Legislative Assembly at the time had very strong feelings about the need to address and that was generated by concerns within the community, so the Legislative Assembly passed those regulations and I intimated at the time as we passed them that there was a need to thoroughly review that step that we had taken in the intervening period up until the time that the closure of registration of those buses would come into effect. Unfortunately that review never took place and we have had in the intervening period representation from a number of tour operators and individuals from within the community, some of them still suggesting that they don't want us to step back from the position that was taken by the Legislative Assembly at the time, but overwhelmingly by people who understand now the limited impact the large buses have on the structure of the road and certainly those arguments have been put forward in a strong manner but also the need to try and ensure that the type of aircraft that are flying into Norfolk Island we just don't want an endless trail of small buses having to pick up people at the airport to deliver them to places, that because of the size of aircraft now and migration toward the bigger aircraft, that there is a need to transport a lot more people more efficiently. That brings into question obviously when we are considering the repeal of the regulations which I'm supportive of, but also the next step about the importation of buses into the island, the need and I know the Minister has taken this on board, the need to consult widely to ensure that all of the issues that surround this issue, and have been around for so many years, are properly addressed before those decisions are taken, and I compliment the Minister for bringing them forward, thank you

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker in support of comments made by the Minister for Tourism, I think a couple of points need to be looked at. Certainly the whole matter has to be addressed. As a transport operator for thirty five years back in Australia I consider that the use of the big buses have several advantages over double the number of small buses. The congestion which in a lot of cases that smaller buses will cause will be greater, the suggested size of the buses which have been banned. Another aspect to it, is that we go along the lines, which is quite correct as the industry proposed, that we put ourselves Norfolk Island the situation that those buses are going to get older, start to become uneconomical start to break down, and if we are going to look after our tourists we have to give them the right sort of equipment to enjoy their holiday and my fear is that if we don't do something about this, then we are going to have old buses, uncomfortable buses, which comparing them to today's standards are going to be unacceptable. Now I think that a 9 metre buss under most circumstances is quite satisfactory to Norfolk Island but as the Minister for Tourism said, we need to revisit the whole situation and there may be a compromise somewhere along the line, but I would not like to see the situation where we force ourselves into where we just use old equipment on the island.

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Anderson. Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Statements this morning

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker in my haste to finish the tabling of the Strategic Planning Framework I neglected to mention that aside from the five dot points that I read out, that there's an in depth description of areas and actions that will be part of the strategic plan. Thank you

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 2**

SPEAKER Honourable Members, I have received the following Message from the Office of the Administrator and it is Message No 2 which reads that on

the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007, pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I declared my assent to the following, the Customs (Amendment) Act 2007 (Act No 6 of 2007) and that message was dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 and signed Grant Tambling, Administrator

## **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES**

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members, subsection 11(11) of the Legislative Assembly (Register of Members' Interests) Act 2004 requires that the Speaker must no later than 30 September each year prepare and submit a report to the Assembly – (a) stating how many complaints under this Act have been received by the Speaker or Deputy Speaker and the Committee of Privileges in the 12 months to the preceding 30 June; (b) categorising the complaints; (c) stating how many complaints were referred to the Committee and of those how many proceeded to an inquiry; (d) of the complaints that were — (i) not referred to the Committee; and (ii) were referred to the Committee but did not proceed to an inquiry and stating the reasons therefore; (e) of the complaints that did proceed to an inquiry, stating what were the findings of the Committee and the recommendations made to the Assembly; and (f) stating the number of complaints that were referred to the Crown Counsel and whether any were returned to the Committee for further deliberation. I table that Report and for the purposes of Hansard I will read the Report. Report by Speaker to the Assembly under subsection 11(11) of the Act. I, Lisle Denis Snell, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, under subsection 11(11) of the Legislative Assembly (Register of Members' Interests) Act 2004 report to the Assembly as follows: (1) The Speaker received three complaints under the Act in the 12 months preceding 30 June 2006. (2) Two of the complaints were referred to the Committee. Of the two complaints referred to the Committee – (a) one proceeded to inquiry; was referred to the Deputy Crown Counsel for advice; and returned to the Committee for further deliberation. The Committee found in favour of the complainant and recommended to the Legislative Assembly that the Member against whom the complaint was lodged be suspended from the Assembly for a period of three months; b. the other complaint did not proceed to an inquiry on the basis that there was insufficient evidence to justify the Committee taking the matter further. C. The third complaint related to an allegation that a member misled the House. The Speaker sought the Clerk's advice on the issue. The Clerk duly tendered advice to the Speaker on a range of options open to the Speaker and/or the House. No further action was taken. That Report is dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2007 and is signed by myself, Lisle Snell, Speaker

## **FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DATE**

Thank you Honourable Members we move to the fixing of our next sitting day

**MR SHERIDAN** Mr Speaker I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Thursday 21 June 2007, at 10.00 am.

**SPEAKER** Thank you Mr Sheridan. Is there any debate Honourable Members. Minister for Tourism Mr Gardner

**MR GARDNER** Mr Speaker it is somewhat unusual that we would choose to adjourn this sitting until Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> June or to a Thursday in any event. That has partially been brought around by my personal need to be off the island of some important business at that time. I had attempted to try and ensure that that business was transacted between the two traditional sittings of the House in June so I am grateful to Members of the Legislative Assembly because I return to the Island on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> June, I am grateful to Members of the Legislative Assembly that they have given consideration to adjourning until the Thursday to allow my full participation in what is an important time for the Legislative Assembly which is obviously the introduction and passage of the budget for the next financial year. Thank you

SPEAKER Thank you Minister. Is there any further debate. The question is that the Motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The motion is agreed

### ADJOURNMENT

MR ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker I move that the House do now adjourn

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Anderson. Is there any further participation in adjournment debate Honourable Members.

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I would just like to take the opportunity to wish all those up at the School Carnival, it's the biggest day on their calendar you might say to their sporting achievements, and I just like to wish them well, I in between two planks you might say because in my family I've got three blue shirts and one red shirt – no green at this point in time so I'm going to sit on the fence today Mr Speaker even though I was traditionally in Norfolk, but I'm going to support Philip house very well today so I would just like to thank those pupils up there running around that oval, getting sun burnt and trying their best for their house. All the best and I wish them well

MEMBERS Hear, Hear

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Sheridan. Is there any further participation in adjournment debate Honourable Members There being no debate I put the question that the House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Thursday 21 June 2007, at 10.00 am

