



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**14<sup>TH</sup> NILA HANSARD – 25 JUNE 2014**

SPEAKER Good Morning Honourable Members, we commence with the Prayer of the Legislative Assembly.

**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.

**PETITIONS**

Thank you Honourable Members. Petitions, are there any Petitions to be presented this morning.

**NOTICES**

Notices, are there any Notices.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Are there any Questions Without Notice this morning

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. My first question is to the Chief Minister. Would the Chief Minister be able to explain to the House whether or not notice has been given by Minister Briggs for the Governments preferred municipal rating model

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. Final approval has not been received at this time

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. Again to the Chief Minister .Would the Chief Minister be able to give an update on the whereabouts of the Public Service Bill 2013 please

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question, the Public Service Bill is with the Commonwealth at this time and we expect assent or otherwise in the very near future

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker a supplementary if I may. Is the Chief Minister suggesting that there are no amendments that need to be made to the Public Service Bill

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question, amendments that were suggested to the Bill to ease its passages through all stages has been complied with and we are excepting the Bill to be returned

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker, a question for Minister Ward. Can you advise the community what is the mining operation being undertaken on the roadside airport or airport land on Peters Highway or what is now being referred to as Ferny Lane

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Nobbs for the question. The extraction of soil from the Ferny Lane end there was actually partially driven by a safety issue in that the corner is very restricted there and by taking the soil will improve the line of sight while drivers go around there. That wasn't the primary reason, but soil was needed for a number of other projects around the place and it was a particularly good bank of material there and it was easy to access and so it was a good move to start creating that improved safety and providing soil that was needed. Some of that soil has been used in the Headstone Bridge area where new bridge work has been done and has brought that level up and has made that a much more attractive area. Thank you Mr Speaker

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker a supplementary. Has there been approval provided for this operation

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, yes Mr Nobbs there has. The full DA process has been gone through

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. A question for Minister Adams if I may. Has the Norfolk Island Government provided a submission to the people developing a new Management Plan for KAVHA

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker in short, no

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker a supplementary please. Has the Norfolk Island Government been involved at all in the development

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker not actively no, other than keeping myself abreast of the process being undertaken. It's pre-emptive at this point for the Government to be involved

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker just one further one. Has the Norfolk Island Government been involved in any discussions as regards the plan or been briefed, particularly, by the people who are developing the plan

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes. And when we get to your motion this morning as an Order of the Day I was going to make a few comments around that process. If you are comfortable I'll do that then

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker a question for Minister Ward if I may please. Have you any new information for the community on the supply of rock for the needs of the Island in the immediate future, and also the future within the next ten years

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SPEAKER Before I give you the call, Mrs Ward you signaled but I'm now just uncertain as to whether it might have been a supplementary to the earlier one. Ok. Thank you. Minister Ward

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Nobbs for the question. As Members would be aware we've had a working group looking into the whole rock supply issue. We have worked through the process of getting the material

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that's available at portion 44A, the rock that was taken from the Cascade Cliff Project. That is now available for use as an interim measure and we continue to look at other options for the longer term needs for the Island. We have included in this budget that we'll be debating today, an allocation for surveying the quantity of rock that is remaining there at portion 44A and that will help us in planning although we have a fair idea of the sort of volume and the time frames we could expect that rock to hold up for. If we have any really large projects we could be struggling for enough rock and I have identified to a number of areas that we need to look at alternatives. One of those being Headstone, but it's very early days and I don't want to pre-empt anything in that area.

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker a question to the Minister for fuel. Has there been any recent consideration by the Norfolk Island Government of possibly increasing the storage capacity at its Ball Bay facility

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker not that I'm aware of

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MR NOBBS There was to be a review of the GST in the current financial year. Has it commenced and if not, when will this occur

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Nobbs for the question. No the GST review has not actually commenced as yet. They did provide me with a paper some months ago and we're still working through some issues but it's my intention that early in the new financial year that we'll have a full review of the GST operation because I'd like to see some changes to it

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker if I may come back to the Chief Minister in relation to the Public Service Bill because I've found the minutes of our meeting at the beginning of June where we are led to understand that the Public Service Bill, assent was withheld and that there were issues with clauses 42 and 53 and I'm confused as to how that might have gone back to the Commonwealth without those amendments having been made in the House. If the Chief Minister could please expand on that a little further for Members

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question, the Minister has indicated that there will be a new amendment that is necessary and will be forthcoming to the House for debate Mr Speaker

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker I understand that this morning you will be reading a message out advising of the withholding of assent on the Public Service Bill

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SPEAKER Honourable Members I have a message from the Administrator, it will be Message Mo 14 Public Service Bill 2014 and I will read that at the appropriate time

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MS ADAMS Thank you and that will throw light onto the subject

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. A question to Minister Adams in relation to health and the Norfolk Island Hospital. The Budget narrative for this financial year from the hospital Director states that the health services budget is provided with health services to provide the Norfolk Island community with appropriate health services as identified through wide community consultation. So I'm wondering why then if the needs of the community have already been identified through wide community consultation as stated by the Director, that there is a need for further community consultation in relation to the services that are required for the community

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker I think the appropriate time for that matter to be dealt with is in debate on the Appropriation Bill and the Hospital Budget, as that is the documentation that you are referring to I think that is accompanying the Hospital budget

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MRS WARD Thank you to the Minister, a supplementary. Isn't it a fact that the Minister is seeking funds to have community consultation around the draft Nexus report which really is about the needs of the community but looking now at this budget allocation which says that the services are identified through wide community consultation, whether the Minister...

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MS ADAMS Would you like to refer me – please through you, Mr Speaker – to the document to which you are referring

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MRS WARD The Hospital Budget narrative. The question is really Mr Speaker if I may, the question is really around the need for community consultation...

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MS ADAMS Of course, I understand what the question is

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SPEAKER If that is clear, Minister Adams

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and I'll deal with that at budget time. In the meantime I'll have a discussion with the Hospital Director

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MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker a question to Minister Ward. There have been some discussion in previous days about providing the Parliament with a program for the construction of the incinerator and the Cascade Pier project setting out a timeline as those matters need to be dealt with going forward, how they will be dealt with, and will that impact on our ability to sign off on those projects and commence construction

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you Mr Porter for the question, as you will be aware, both of these projects have been subject to various processes that have affected their commencement. The Cascade jetty has been subject to the Minister accepting the rating model that we've put forward. The introduction of a rating system was one of the conditions for the funding of the Cascade jetty and we are still waiting on that formal acceptance by the Minister of that rating model which they've received in recent times. As for the incinerator, its timing has been affected by planning processes and it is currently with the ART for a hearing as to whether the incinerator can be located at the airport site

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MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker, a supplementary. If I might on that, I think we are all well aware of the impediments that are in the path of both of these projects, but would the Minister agree that it would be advantageous to us to have that in writing that we might be able to then do what we can to support what needs to be done to have this achieved

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker and Mr Porter, I'm not quite clear on who Mr Porter would like this in writing from and what exactly he's seeking in writing. As soon as these impediments to the progression of these projects is clear then we are able to have various project managers appointed and get these projects happening according to the logistics involved with each of them. I trust that helps

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MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker if I may. Just a moment, but setting these things out on paper would be helpful to us and I believe that either the Minister, or the project manager to date could provide to us. You can only list those

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matters that we know of but at least to have those would give us some indication of our timeline, some timelines that we could achieve. Obstacles that we know about that as a group we may be able to help overcome

MR WARD Mr Speaker, as I recall the Cascade Cliff project did have timelines attached to the initial documentation that was set up and we would need to go back and look at those timelines again. Obviously the commencement has gone way beyond the initial expectations and we would have to look at how it would all work out today given current circumstances. Thank you.

MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker and to Minister Ward again, if I may, on a similar vein, a flowchart that would explain to us, how we would go about the implementation of community title. Similarly mapping out a path for us to follow. Those things that are seen as impediments, milestones that have to be achieved. Dates can be flexible. Obviously, a plan merely tells us how we are going to arrive at the finish date but timing changes. At least having that plan and having it available to the Members might help us get our minds around the huge amount of work that has to be done to have this project delivered in the time that it needs to be delivered

SPEAKER ...and the question

MR PORTER The question is, will he provide a timeline, a flowchart, for getting from where we are now to full implementation of community title

MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, I would be happy to ask the Service if they are able to generate and provide such a flowchart. I agree with Mr Porter, it would be a useful tool to have. I am always mindful that these same officers who are handling this, are handling a number of the other milestone issues and big projects that we are expecting of them, so I'm hesitant to put anything extra in their way, but if Members believe that this would be of assistance, I will see if that can be done

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker if I may to the Chief Minister, and the Chief Minister may be covering this in the appropriation debate but it relates to his role as the Minister, for Tourism, is that there's a budget bid from the Tourist Bureau Manager for \$1.3m and the Tourist Bureau Manager has said to Members at a Members meeting that, that would maintain current growth predictions that are at 6%. The Tourist Bureau Manager went on to say that to achieve growth in the down times an additional \$200,000 would be needed to target niche marketing and that he believed that Norfolk Island did have the product to deliver. Would the Chief Minister be able to explain why an additional \$200,000 has not been provided in the budget to assist with this process

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you Mrs Ward for the question, I will be making a statement from information given to me by the General Manager and it covers some of the points raised by Mrs Ward in regards to the additional \$200,000 requested by the General Manager for, as she quite rightly points out, for additional marketing and promotion. I will be making a statement thank you Mrs Ward

DEPUTY SPEAKER takes the Chair

MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I direct a question to the Chief Minister, the Chief Minister, was kind enough to give us a briefing the other day about a prospective visit from the Ombudsman's Office and I wonder if the Chief Minister, would be kind enough to repeat some of that detail in reporting to the House so that the wider community, could have an opportunity, to know about that please.

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question. Yes, I've been informed that Mr, Michael Hardy from the Ombudsman's

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, this is a complex area. It's an area that requires more than off the cuff responses and I would have to get advise and assistance on a proper response to this matter but of course it is without doubt that these are very important issues of self government and certainly one that deserves recognition and proper response and I will endeavour to do that as soon as possible to Mr Buffett

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, a further question to the Chief Minister, if I may and this is about the Funding Agreement. In terms of the Funding Agreement I do ask if the Chief Minister could let us know if all the requirements of the Funding Agreement for the year that is about to conclude in a couple of days have been met in terms of each of the four quarters for the year that is about to come to an end. Is he able to let us have a report in respect of those matters

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, I will be making a Funding Agreement statement on the 2013-2014 financial year, and if Mr Buffett is happy wait for that time for the statement or I could read it now

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MR BUFFETT I'm happy with however the Chief Minister, would care to handle it Mr Deputy Speaker,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER It's up to you Chief Minister,

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker to answer Mr Buffett's question, I am pleased to advise that the Administration of Norfolk Island has received a letter from the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to advise that having assessed the documents and information submitted by the Administration of Norfolk Island to meet the milestones required for the third quarter under the 2013-2014 Funding Agreement, a further \$875,000 has been received from the Commonwealth. Mr Deputy Speaker, the milestones required the successful lodgement of the following items –

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1. The Draft Community Title Bill which has since been placed on public exhibition for the purposes of consultation
2. "An options paper reporting on strategies available to the Administration of Norfolk Island to make provisions of the full cost of airline underwriting or co-contributions in the short term
3. a paper exploring options arising from excess photovoltaic electricity generation
4. the development of groundwater strategy for the prevention of groundwater within the KAVHA boundaries as well as septic tank and sewerage works maintenance as based on the recommendations of the URS Report.

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In the preparation of the reports and documents as above, the Government will now focus further attention to progress the community Title legislation and consequential amendments, and expression of interest for options for surplus electricity oversupply and further development of the groundwater strategy. The Administration has also submitted additional supporting information for milestones quarters 1 and 2 and is expecting advise from the Commonwealth very shortly on additional milestone payments. Mr Deputy Speaker I take this opportunity to thank the officers of the Administration of Norfolk Island in achieving this positive outcome and of course to thank the Commonwealth Government for its assistance towards maintaining essential services in Norfolk Island. I hope that answers the question Mr Deputy Speaker,

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, and thank you Chief Minister for that response. I wonder if I might ask the Chief Minister, to elaborate the airline indemnity mention that he has just made

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, the options for the underwriting of the airline is something that has been

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discussed at Cabinet level. It's an area that we can't contribute to at this stage and it's an ongoing issue with the Commonwealth, but they have agreed that they will underwrite the current airline to Norfolk Island up until the period of 2016 to give some certainty to the Island

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and again I thank the Chief Minister, and he has reported just now that the third quarter requirements have been met and I think he quoted a figure of \$875,000 for that. Does that mean that we are still to receive funds for quarters 1 and 2 and if that is the case, would the Chief Minister be able to advise us of that figure.

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, that is correct. We are still expecting advise and payment for quarters 1 and 2. The exact amounts I don't have in front of me

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, may I ask the Chief Minister in fact if we've received the \$875,000 for quarter 3 and if quarters 1 and 2 have not yet been delivered, and we still have quarter 4 to address, could the Chief Minister give in round figures the amount that is still outstanding to be received from the Commonwealth in terms of the year that is about to conclude

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, that's a question that my colleague the Minister for Finance, the Hon Tim Sheridan may be able to answer better than I but it is my understanding that there is a shortfall of some millions of dollars

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DEPUTY SPAKER Minister Sheridan, do you wish to contribute

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MR SHERIDAN If I must. Just to assist the Chief Minister and Mr Buffett here, with the reference to the first two quarter payments, we received \$250,000 for the first quarter out of \$1m and we received \$525,000 for the second quarter payments as indicated by the Chief Minister those milestones that were not met, they have since had work done on those and paperwork submitted to the Commonwealth in an attempt to achieve the release of some of those monies from quarters 1 and 2. We have not yet had a response from the Commonwealth as to whether or not we've been successful. We are hoping that the majority of those remaining \$1.2m will be forthcoming. As indicated for the third quarter we've \$875,000. We have a \$400,000 sign on fee which equates to approximately just over \$2m so out of the \$4.4m there is still something like \$2.3m yet to be received,. The fourth quarter milestones are not projected to be sent to the Commonwealth until later in July. We have a period in July to finalize those quarter milestone sand to submit them and it is hoped and we are confident that those milestones for the last quarter can be achieved, so it is hoped that we will get \$1m for that fourth quarter milestone, so there is some expectation that we will received further funds from quarters 1 and 2 and we are yet to received, or we haven't yet submitted quarter 4 milestones, so there is still some monies expected to be received for this financial year which will come after the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank both the Minister for Finance and the Chief Minister for those responses. What is clear of course from those answers is that three is still outstanding money and I really would like to get a better grip as to whether we feel that we are going to get the \$4.4m and I couple that question with this question, if in fact we may not receive the full amount, that is the \$4.4m, does that mean that there have been unrealistic expectations or unrealistic clauses entered into the Funding Agreement that reasonably from the outset, would not have been able to be met by us, therefore the \$4.4m is not a real figure that has been offered to us, but something less

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, that is probably more of a statement then a question. It's very difficult to

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answer from my perspective of the situation, Maybe the Minister for Finance could elaborate a little bit more but it is a difficult question to answer.

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MR SHERIDAN Yes Mr Deputy Speaker, I'll just add a little bit, that the Administration has found it difficult over the last twelve months to achieve some of the milestones. This is due to various reasons. Whether or not the commitments that we signed up to were not achievable, I think with the right resources they could have been achieved, but I am aware that the Administration, the CEO and as they say the middle floor, the executive level there, they are under resourced to handle some of these milestones. It's also been compounded by the lack of the ability to source vital people that we need to achieve some of these milestones and one of those being the Valuer General for Norfolk Island and that's to do with the land valuation. That's proven to be a very long and time consuming task that still hasn't yet been achieved, so there are things like that, that make the achievement of the milestones very difficult. If everything was in place and we had the full resources to call upon, we believe we could have achieved them all. But unfortunately we don't. We're hoping that we will get around the full \$4.4m mark. We may not get the last half million dollars, but it is the intent of the CEO and he spends 24/7 on the milestones. He hasn't had much time to deal with the running of the Public Service which is a shame because that's what the Public Service needs t this time, is some guidance and direction from the senior officers, but unfortunately the CEO Jon Gibbons, spends most of his time and weekends, working on milestones.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER Minister for Health do you wish to contribute.

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, if I could as a Minister with responsibility for milestone meeting in certain areas, it might be helpful in response to your last question Mr Buffett, as to whether there are unreasonable expectations. I example in two of my areas, in 16.1 of the Funding Agreement which require to the Advisory Board of the Hospital to provide the selection panel for the recruitment of the Director. That was clearly ultra vires. The Norfolk Island Administration under the Norfolk Island Hospital Act 1985 especially spells out that the Administration does not have the power to direct the Advisory Board and so we had a Funding Agreement requirement that could not possibly be met because it was ultra vires. In 19.1 which is in this current quarter, I have requested the CEO to seek a variation, in fact, it could turn out that it may be a removal of the milestone, simply because it cannot possibly be met, and this is the milestone around accreditation and requiring the Hospital Enterprise to demonstrate it has substantially achieved 50% of the 15 mandatory criteria of the ACHS accreditation process. The fact is, that the system changed mid stream, so what went into the Funding Agreement is no longer relevant and they have nothing to assess against, so they are just two of the issues which demonstrate a couple of question marks, which make it difficult and we are working as best we can within that type of framework to get a good result for Norfolk Island but sometimes these things slip in under the radar. That shouldn't have been there in the first place. Thank you

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the three Ministers for their helpful responses and indeed I offer compliments to the CEO and his officers in terms of addressing the Funding Agreement requirements. I have a further question still on the Funding Agreement. The questions I have asked to date relate to the year that is about to end. I would now like to ask the Chief Minister about the Funding Agreement that is to cover the next year. Could he please give us an update on where we stand with the Funding Agreement that is proposed and is not yet, as I understand it, signed

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question. As indicated in our last meeting there was a matter of public importance and it referred to our understanding of some of the issues relate to the new Funding Agreement for the 2014-2015 year and there are complex issues, for example, and I'll take one, is the annual 2.5% efficiency dividend that has been requested to be applied to extend across the board commencing in the 2014-2015 year and applied across the year

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using the 2013-2014 as the base year. The Norfolk Island Government's response to that is that we note the requirements that have been issued to us in the letter from Minister Briggs on the 5<sup>th</sup> June however the Norfolk Island Government emphasizes that ongoing subsistence budgets do not provide for capital works or infrastructure improvements which would assist in stimulating the Norfolk Island economy. There are other areas, financial reporting against the agreed budget and including all Norfolk Island Government activities, including Hospital Enterprise must be provided on a monthly basis to Minister Briggs department within five business days after the month close date. Five business days is a huge ask of any business organisation and the Norfolk Island Government whilst sharing the goal in ensuring improved financial reporting will undertake the provide the reports on a monthly basis, but the time frame of five business days cannot be achieved as the Administration of Norfolk Island does not have the resources nor the accounting software to produce the financial reports within such a short time frame. There are other areas of this new Funding Agreement that has raised some concern and there will be a letter circulated to Members within the very near future, explaining all of those issues.

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MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and thank you Chief Minister for that response. Could I ask whether there is a time frame to tidy the Funding Agreement for the year that is about to commence

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and Mr Buffett for the question, not to my knowledge there is no time frame at this present time

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker, could I ask a supplementary if I may on that, the community is very well aware from the last sitting of this House that the Chief Minister had called for the negotiations to go back to being government to government negotiations and that letter was sent from the Chief Minister to Minister Briggs informing him of that on the 11<sup>th</sup> June. Has the Chief Minister had a response from Minister Briggs is the first question and does that mean that the funding negotiations have stalled, or are the officers carrying on with the negotiations

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question, the answer to the first part of the question as to whether we have received a response from Minister Briggs regarding further negotiation the answer to that is not at this time. The second part of the question is that...

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker the second part of my question, is whether negotiations have stalled or in fact negotiations continue to be carried out by the officers

MR SNELL Thank you, the negotiations are still under way and the letter that I referred to going back to the Hon Jamie Briggs will explain our position in a lot more detail and I'll have detail of that in the very near future for Members. But negotiations are under way Mr Deputy Speaker

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DEPUTY SPEAKER Further questions without notice? No. Then we are done with questions without notice. We move on

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Are there any answers to Questions on Notice. No. We move to Papers

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### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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Are there any Papers for presentation this morning

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Government House, a staggering \$32,000 last financial year. In addition, to Jen, thank you for your tireless efforts in assisting community groups as their Patron and for your initiative and drive in establishing new community groups, particularly Natin. To both Neil and Jen we wish you god speed as you return to your family and friends in Australia. We trust that Norfolk Island will hold a special place in your memories and we look forward to welcoming you back. In closing Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge and welcome the incoming Administrator, the Hon Gary Hardgrave, who has been appointed for a two year term commencing 1 July 2014. We look forward to working with him. Thank you, Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. Any further Statements?  
No. We move on

#### MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR – NO 14

SPEAKER Honourable Members we referred to Messages earlier. There are two Messages. One will accompany the Appropriation Bill, but **Message No. 14**, I will now read to you. This is message No 14 from the Office of the Administrator and the heading is the **Public Service Bill 2013**. "I have received advice from the Commonwealth Minister following my request for instructions on 11 June 2013. In accordance with the requirements of section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I withhold assent to the Bill and hereby return it to the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly for further consideration. The reasons are as follows: While the Bill largely achieves the goals of modernising Norfolk Island's public service legislation, clause 42 of the Bill is not consistent with this goal and it should not be enacted in its current form. It is not appropriate for the power to determine the duties, terms and conditions of fixed period employment in the public service to rest with the Minister. This encourages close Ministerial involvement in operational matters, and this power should rest with the Chief Executive Officer. In relation to Clause 53, which provides the Chief Executive Officer with discretionary power over access to redundancy benefits, the alternative wording proposed by the Chief Minister in his letter of 29 January 2014 would be more appropriate." This Message from the Office of the Administrator is dated the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and signed Neil Pope, Administrator.

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. In accordance with Standing Order 183B, I move that the House take note of the Message

SPEAKER The question is that the House take note of the Message

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker in moving the motion, I will like more time to consider the Message because I have a recollection that the Public Service Bill had been ticked off by the Commonwealth under the milestones and this comes as somewhat of a surprise. I'm also surprised that the whole Bill has been refused assent, whereas in fact there are provisions under the Norfolk Island Act to deal with the clauses alone that are causing them difficulty. That's all I have to say at this time Mr Speaker and I will move for adjournment of debate if nobody else wants to speak to it

SPEAKER Any further debate Honourable Members. No further debate

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that debate be adjourned and the resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting

SPEAKER Honourable Members, the question is that debate be adjourned and the resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting. I put that question to the House

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QUESTION PUT  
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SPEAKER Thank you. That matter is made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

SPEAKER Honourable Members are there any reports of Standing Committees this morning. I've had no notice of same but I just ask. No. We move to Notices.



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
14<sup>TH</sup> NILA HANSARD — 14 AUGUST 2013**

SPEAKER Good Morning Honourable Members, we commence with the Prayer of the Legislative Assembly.

**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.

**CONDOLENCES**

SPEAKER Honourable Members Are there any condolences today. Mr Evans

MR EVANS

It is with regret that this House records the passing of **Lynette May Sheridan** affectionately known as Bub. Born in March 1965 and raised on Norfolk Island, she was the daughter of Christine and Warren Sheridan. Lynette was the youngest of five children, sister to Deb, Tim, Martyn and Sam. As a child she was close to her older brothers and considered herself a tom boy, playing outside in their playground of Ball Bay, having adventures with their cousins and the animals and spending summers at the beach. Lynette loved horses and as a child she learned to ride well. She loved spending time with her dad and was happiest when feeding the animals. Lynette did well at school and enjoyed competing on Sports Day for her Norfolk House. By 1978 most of the older children had moved out of home and Lynette moved to Sydney with her Mother. They settled in the eastern suburbs and Lynette attended Randwick Girls High where she quickly made friends and developed her own independence. Lynette loved the fast life in Sydney but her heart brought her home many times. She had four children and they made her extremely happy. Ngairé first in 1982 then Jesse ten years later. He formed a close relationship with his Mother and became her rock. During one of her trips back to Norfolk she rekindled a childhood romance and was married and had her third child Jenna. This was one of the happiest times of her life. Finally Jonah came along with his kind eyes and big heart just like his Mother. Lynette was a wonderful aunty to seventeen

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~~nieces and nephews. She was generous and would give even, when she herself had little. In the course of her life Lynette had many jobs including working at the post office, cooking with her Mother and cooking at the hospital. Lynette battled many challenging life experiences. In 2001 she enrolled in TAFE to use her own experience to help others and became a drug and alcohol worker. She worked successfully in her career for many years and helped many people who suffered from similar problems as her. This is when her kind and compassionate nature was at its best. Lynette had a fun loving nature and she enjoyed spending the day at the beach and then going home to enjoy an evening with her many friends just as she also enjoyed having a good chat over a cuppa and many nights were spent with a pot luck dinner. Lynette always saw the best in people and formed many friendships over the years. She will be remembered as being young at heart, a caring, free spirited and loving daughter, sister, aunty, friend and mother. To Ngaire, Jesse, Jenna, Jonah, Christine, Deb, Tim and Sam and their families, and to her many friends, this House extends its deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace.~~

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~~It is with regret that this House records the passing of **Joan Irwin**, a lady who has loved the Island since she and her late husband, Commander Peter Irwin, RN, Retired, came to live here in 1980. She was farewelled following a Requiem Mass conducted by Father Paul Hilder at the St. Philip Howard Catholic Church where Joan's three sons - Mark Whitmore and his wife Mary, David Whitmore with partner Jane, and Stephen Whitmore with partner Natasha, gathered with many friends. Joan was born in May, 1933 in Darlinghurst. She was the first born to Maghnus and Mabel Rankin and the elder sister to Clyde. She grew up in the family home in Earlwood, Sydney and attended St. Bridget's school in Marrickville. Joan was a blond bombshell and one of her claims to fame was that she was in the first intake of female lifesavers in Australia, based at Maroubra Beach. She loved dancing, and was a proficient ice-skater. She married Graham Whitmore in 1955, and they had three boys. As the wife of a builder, the family moved many times. Joan was always an active member of the community, beginning with the school tuck shop, and was heavily involved in the church youth group. Joan had a great interest in reading, and used her immense trivia knowledge to win a prize in the TV show, BP Pick-A-Box. She had a wonderful sense of humour and was not averse to pulling pranks. Joan and Graham separated and two years later she met and married Peter, a retired Commander in the Royal Navy. Peter introduced Joan to Norfolk. He was an avid lover of the island and Joan quickly shared his passion. They enjoyed a number of holidays here before finally relocating in 1980, to own and operate 'Impulse', a boutique in Burnt Pine. They gained permanent resident status as soon as they were eligible and built their dream house overlooking Ball Bay using a single Norfolk Pine from the property. It allowed Joan and Peter to indulge in their hobby for shell collecting and gardening and it provided plenty of room for their two dogs. The Island welcomed them and Joan often talked of their love for Norfolk and their new friends. Joan enjoyed gardening (they won a competition); cards (Bridge and Jarro); cooking and entertaining, reading and music. Their house was always full of music, be it from one of their organs or a musical soundtrack turned up loud. They were founders of the Norfolk Island Organ Society. She continued her life-long love of volunteering for the community, becoming involved with White Oaks and the Church Council. Joan loved her family and would take every opportunity to visit them in Sydney, travelling at least once a year. She was a gadget collector and was always on the lookout for the latest invention, be it an egg slicer, a mango corer or an avocado keeper, she just 'had to have it'! Joan is survived by her three sons Mark, David and Stephen, three grandsons - Christopher, Scott and Matthew and an unborn great-grandchild due in January. To her family and her many friends, this House extends its deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace.~~

~~**SPEAKER** Thank you Mr Evans, Honourable Members as a mark of respect I ask that all Members stand for a period of silence in their places.~~

~~Thank you Honourable Members. Petitions, are there any Petitions this morning. Notices, are there any Notices.~~

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**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

~~Following a meeting of MLAs with the Immigration manager yesterday — is it a fact that Australian and NZ citizen who have cash bonds being held by the Administration can immediately apply to have their money refunded?~~

~~Is there an administrative process in place for Australian and NZ citizens to follow in order to get back confidential information that was used to support their GEP applications under the old immigration regime? If there is no procedure in place, would the Minister ask for a procedure of this kind to be developed so that people can have their private information returned to them?~~

~~Given that the Minister has removed the Immigration Policy and guidelines motion from the Notice Paper and that she stated last month that —“the more we look the more we find the more change we need”, would the Minister spell out exactly what she thinks needs to be changed in either the act or the policy?~~

~~Given that by the 1<sup>st</sup> August the Minister is required to review Healthcare and medical evacuation levies will there be an increase on the 1<sup>st</sup> September and how much will it be?~~

~~Paper tabled; Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams — Medivac Flights during January to 31 July 2013,~~

~~Given that the CM has said that the Chief of Staff position is something of an ongoing consideration would the CM advise the House whether or not he has made a decision— will there be a CofS within this compound and if so, when will the position be advertised?~~

~~Would the CM provide to the House his understanding of how NI is affected by the Federal Government moving into caretaker mode?~~

~~Given that the CM responded to my QON about his government’s vision, plan and legislative program, by saying that the document is not yet ready to be released however he looked forward to providing it to Members and the community, is the CM able to provide that to Members today?~~

~~Given that the CM committed to seek assistance from the office of the Administrator to help make a list of the Cwlths support to the island since the signing of the Road Map and the dollar value, is the CM now able to do that?~~

~~Question relates to divestment of government business enterprises given that the Commonwealth has completed its tender process and a Consultant has been appointed to carry out an assessment — when can we expect to see this person or these persons on island?~~

~~Is it a fact that the NIGTB has had its annual financial grant cut and if so, by how much and, where have the cuts been made and if the CM could refer to specific areas that would be helpful?~~

~~Question relates to the Oceania Economic Development Corporation’s — would the CM assure the House that his Government remains committed to the Road Map reform program in addition to welcoming new private sector investment to the island?~~

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~~Given that a preferred applicant for the Administration CEO Position has been chosen, would the CM inform the House of his expectations of the new CEO?~~

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~~Question relates to the time it is taking for the NIA to comply with the FAG milestones — is it a fact that the Regional dept has given the NIA an extension of time to comply with May milestones — and if so, what is the deadline and what are the consequences if they fail to comply?~~

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~~We move to Papers Honourable Members~~

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~~PRESENTATION OF PAPERS~~

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~~MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker I table~~

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~~Customs Duty Exemptions "Daffodil Day" objects by Quota for \$98.40~~

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~~MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Later this morning in statements I will be providing the House with an update on health and hospital initiatives. However in papers I now table the Report titled **The Review of existing child and family support services dated September 2012** which was published online on 22 July 2013 by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional development and local Government (DRALGAS). This Report which was prepared by Gillian Calvert AO and Marie Connolly Phd stemmed from a requirement at item 18 of the September 2011 Funding Agreement for Norfolk Island to work in partnership with the Commonwealth to further build its capability to provide children and family support services on Norfolk Island. The report now tabled is the outcome of the study undertaken to achieve this goal. Mr Speaker I move that the paper be noted. Mr Speaker, the terms of reference for the review were to Examine the current framework for family support and child protection services on Norfolk Island; Identify barriers and issues associated with the provision of effective children and family support services; Consider practices, procedures and resources within the Norfolk Island Government with direct responsibilities in this area, and also consider how the government and non-government organisation agencies might contribute to a more effective protection and support network; and Consider how the Norfolk Island Government can help to support children and young people to reach their potential and assist individuals and families who are at risk or in crisis. In considering the service needs of children and families living on Norfolk Island the consultants took the following approach in undertaking the review. A desk review of available documents relating to the demographics of the Norfolk Island community, service statistics, earlier reviews and reports relating to the provision of Norfolk Island services; A series of community meetings that included a public meeting and meetings with specific interest groups; Meetings with Ministers in the Norfolk Island Government and the staff of the Norfolk Island Administration; Meetings with service providers across the sector; and Individual meetings with young people and families.~~

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~~MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. Review of existing child and family support services on Norfolk Island This report came about as a result of the Road Map and funding agreements. If we think back to 1979 the NIG was to provide a comparable standard of services to its community. And as recently as 6 weeks ago, the NIG re-affirmed its commitment to provide mainland standard services in Education and Health (new FAG). The reality is that the NIG does not and can not deliver to its~~

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~~community the standard of services that are required to be delivered by State and Territory governments and we all know that and understand why. It was as a result of such issues that the previous government sat down and worked out a plan with the Cwlth on a revised way fwd for NI. The authors Marie Connolly and Gillian Calvert referred to people having multiple jobs and the effect that has on parenting. There is reference to families where someone had a disability or a mental illness, or where they were parenting alone and the challenge they faced and they noted that women had spoken to them of returning to work as soon as one week after giving birth. Perverse effects of the health insurance scheme (healthcare system that does not take into account someone's ability to pay) The authors noted — We have found the breadth, design and operation of the safety net and mutual obligation expressed through Norfolk Island's income support, taxation, health, and employment legislation and systems to be extremely limited by comparison to mainland Australia. This inadequate safety net is critically significant when seen in combination with the island's concentrated wage structure, high cost of living, increasing job insecurity, the absence of any social housing and the notably older age profile of Norfolk Island than that of the rest of Australia. Indeed the median age on Norfolk Island is 46, as compared to 37 in the rest of Australia. They also said — It was clear to us that Norfolk Island has a strong community spirit...” Several recommendations were made ... There were expected references to unhealthy levels of alcohol consumption, domestic violence and risky behaviour and what I noted was that during their time on Norfolk Island they heard of many instances of people feeling unsafe when they openly challenged issues. As a consequence we believe that informal hierarchies of power exist on the island that support cultures of intimidation and violence and that there is an atmosphere of fear that disables criticism. Unfortunately, this is something that I encounter on a regular basis and when I encourage people to stand up and say something — they will not, because they fear retribution. That is why it is so important for Government and Administration to have their policies and procedures clearly identified — so that there is not question of us and them — it is one rule for all and everyone understands what those rules are. I also note from reading the Report that a few people on the island expressed their doubts that families were in fact confronting real hardship. We can also read that a few people have expressed a view that introducing a stronger safety net for families could undermine the strengths of self-reliance and the strong work ethic that underpins many of the values of Norfolk Island life. We have heard these views expressed by one of our colleagues however am with the majority of people who expressed to Marie and Gillian the need to protect more vulnerable members of the Norfolk Island community in ways that are respectful of diverse needs, for example, ensuring humane responses when people lose their jobs, when they are affected by mental illness, or when they require specialist care. There are 7 recommendations but I will read — Recommendation 1. “Norfolk Island residents should within three years, become part of the same income security, employment, taxation, child support scheme and benefit systems as other Australian residents including eligibility requirements, processes and support and participation requirements. We recognise a staged implementation may be needed in some areas, for example, early childhood education and care.” — Delaying corrective action is likely to cause an exacerbation of the problems making them more difficult, and more expensive to solve in the future I do not intend to talk about the break down of what has or hasn't occurred so far as a result of the recommendations. — What I will do is acknowledge the work of the Office of the Administrator and the work that they have done with local community groups. — The local community service group members and helpers are the unsung hero's in what has been achieved to date in the area of social welfare, they sometimes very quietly to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in our community and we should all remember our fate can change at any time and acknowledge those who are there to assist. In closing Mr. Speaker, I think that it is an opportune time to thank the soon to retire from Federal politics, the Hon. Simon Crean our previous Minster responsible for Territories. I thank him for his efforts and his acceptance that the NI community and its welfare is ultimately the responsibility of the Federal Government. There have been many reports and surly this one will insight change and result in a more secure future for Norfolk Island?~~

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~~MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker **Bookmakers and Betting Exchange Act 1998 – Report on statutory default**~~

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~~MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker **Gaming Act 1998 – Licence for Interactive Gaming Entertainment Pty Ltd**~~

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~~MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker **Immigration – Revocation of Policy**~~

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~~MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further papers.~~

## **STATEMENTS**

~~MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. **Health, hospital and community initiatives and the opening of DCA Safe House on 3 August 2013.** Earlier this morning I tabled the Report resulting from the review of existing child and family support services on Norfolk Island and of course this report cannot be considered in isolation of the Island's 5 year Health Services Plan currently being crafted and referred to further on in this statement.~~

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~~Members will recall that at the July 2013 sitting of the House I advised that a review had been commenced within the Administration on the provision of health and related services. The review was raised as a point of interest at the July meeting of the Hospital Advisory Board with my giving an undertaking that the review would not be undertaken in isolation of the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise which is the Island's healthcare facility. The Hospital Enterprise is a corporate entity in its own right with its Vision being, and I quote –~~

~~"to work in partnership with the government and community of Norfolk Island to provide continuing improvement in the health of the community and the provision of sustainable, efficient and affordable health care".~~

~~The Hospital Enterprise has as its Mission Statement –~~

~~"to promote, improve and care for the health of the Norfolk Island community including its residents and visitors"~~

~~In my statement today Honourable Members I will endeavour to give a brief overview of key activities that are being undertaken by or on behalf of the Hospital Enterprise in partnership with both the Norfolk Island Government and the Commonwealth Government in order to achieve the aims set out in its Vision and Mission Statement.~~

~~In the December 2012 Funding Agreement the Hospital was required to meet a number of milestones which include –~~

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~~a) Commencing working towards a level of "Marked Achievement" in at least the '15 mandatory criteria of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS);~~

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~~b) Norfolk Island Government collecting health statistics and publish quarterly, commencing June 2013, using formats and standards of other Australian health statistics, as set out by the Department and informed by Indian Ocean Territories Health Service.~~

~~c) Preparing a report that further examines what additional measures (legislative or operational procedures) might be implemented to enhance the efficient and effective delivery of health services on island, and~~

~~e) Norfolk Island Government publishing for the first time, health statistics, using formats and standards of other Australian health statistics, as set out by the Department and informed by the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service.~~

~~In March this year the Commonwealth Government provided \$100,000 to the Hospital Enterprise which entered into a Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth to achieve the following:~~

- ~~1. Delivery of the Island's five year Health Services Plan;~~
- ~~2. Advancement of the critical pathway towards accreditation of Island Health Services; and~~
- ~~3. Complementary adjustment to Norfolk Island Health legislation to achieve accreditation.~~

~~The Hospital Director has briefed me on how these projects are progressing.~~

#### ~~Accreditation of Island Health Services~~

~~In December 2012 Ms Maria Christian RN, Quality Improvement Co-ordinator for the Hospital Enterprise conducted an Assessment of how the Hospital Enterprise currently measured against the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS). The Hospital Advisory Board has received a report from ACHS on the results of the Self-Assessment NIHE conducted last December and work to attain the status of "marked achievement" in at least the 15 mandatory criteria of the ACHS are ongoing.~~

~~An educator with the ACHS visited between 8 and 12 July to conduct sessions with hospital staff on all the standards required in order to achieve a level of accreditation as required under the Funding Agreement. Support continues to be given weekly by the Clinical Governance Unit of South East Sydney Local Health District or SESLHD via teleconferences and emails.~~

~~A visit has been arranged through the Clinical Governance Unit of the SESLHD for a Clinical Nurse Consultant to visit for one to two weeks, possibly in September, to train clinical staff in aseptic techniques. This training is part of the process for meeting the mandatory criteria of the ACHS.~~

#### ~~Health Service Plan for the Norfolk Island Hospital and Health Service~~

~~With the assistance of the SESLHD Planning & Population Health Unit a firm, Nexus Management Consulting, was engaged to develop the Health Services Plan. I had the opportunity to meet with the Nexus Consultants, Greg Masters and Jill Hardwick, at the end of their visit in the week 29 July to 2 August. During their visit they had broad ranging discussions with key personnel in the health service area on the Island across both government and community organisations. It is intended that the report furnished by Nexus Consultants will include a description of current services; detail of health services utilisation; list of issues affecting future health service delivery; recommendations for provision of services and a proposed plan for health services.~~

#### ~~Complementary adjustment to Norfolk Island Health legislation to achieve accreditation~~

~~Following discussions between the Hospital Enterprise, SESLHD and the Department of Regional Australia a Local Government, Arts and Sport, Dr Tim Smyth was engaged in late April 2013 by the Hospital Enterprise to undertake a review of the Norfolk Island Health legislation. Dr Smyth has provided the Hospital Advisory Board with his June 2013 interim report which outlines a number of key findings. The interim report is to be considered by the Hospital Enterprise and the Advisory Board in the first instance. The next step is for there to be a multi-jurisdictional discussion involving the Norfolk Island, Commonwealth and NSW Governments to guide the next stage of the review.~~

~~I look forward to receiving comment from the Hospital Enterprise and the Advisory Board and to be able to table at the September sitting of the House the interim report and advice received.~~

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**Opening of DCA8 House**

~~Mr Speaker there is another significant initiative which I wish to acknowledge — this time a community initiative — namely the DCA8 community supported and managed safe house which formally opened on Saturday 3 August 2013.~~

~~In opening DCA8 I paid tribute on behalf of the Norfolk Island Government to Mrs Vicky Jack, our Child Welfare Officer, who had the initial idea many years ago and has, with the assistance of so many generous, caring people, too numerous to mention, turned this idea into a reality.~~

~~Honourable Members this project is yet another demonstration of how this community can pull together in times of need to achieve great things when called upon to do. The Norfolk Islander in reporting on the opening used the following words in their report, and I quote—~~

~~“DCA8 is a novel service, a local solution, meeting a need and providing a service which works here on Norfolk Island” and I am sure all Members here this morning join me in wishing the ongoing management team of volunteers tasked to manage this project well in their future endeavours.~~

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**NOTICES****MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR – NO 15**

~~Firstly I read **Message No. 15 in terms of the Appropriation Bill 2014-2015.** Message No. 15. Appropriation Bill 2014-2015 from the Office of the Administrator. In accordance with the requirements of section 25 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979* I recommend to the Legislative Assembly the enactment of the proposed law entitled “An Act to authorise expenditure from the public account for the period ending on 30 June 2015”. The message is dated the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and signed Neil Pope, Administrator~~

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**APPROPRIATION BILL 2014-2015 – DECLARATION OF URGENCY**

~~Honourable Members I do advise the House that the Business Committee has met and has declared that the Appropriation Bill 2014-2015 to be an urgent Bill and therefore the capacity to be passed through all stages at this sitting.~~

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**APPROPRIATION BILL 2014-2015**

~~I call the Appropriation Bill 2014-2015. Minister Sheridan~~

~~MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I present the Appropriation Bill 2014-2015 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle.~~

~~SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that the Bill be agreed to in principle.~~

~~MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I provide to the House the Appropriation Bill 2014-2015 and table the supporting documents as required by the Norfolk Island Act 1979 and the Commonwealth Finance Ministers (NI) Orders 2011, the supporting documents being budgeted financial statements for the budget year 2014-2015 and the following three financial years for the Administration of Norfolk Island and its two statutory authorities, the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise and the Tourist Bureau. Other documents include a Compliance Certificate, Financial Policies Objectives and Strategies Statement, a broad strategic priorities statement from the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise (NIHE) and the Tourist Bureau. The Appropriation Bill 2014-2015 authorises expenditure from the Public Account for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. The budgeted financial statements for the Norfolk Island Administration, the NIHE and the Tourist Bureau provides details on the estimated comprehensive income, including estimated actuals for the prior year, an estimated balance sheet,~~

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to outright sale of the business activity. Provision has been made for the operation of these services for 2014/15 during which time all options will be considered. The forward estimates have these remaining in public ownership and retains the revenue and expenditures from and to the Revenue Fund. The NI Government is committed to local tax reform and in the 2014/15 budget there is the intent to introduce Municipal Rates over a period of 4 years with the goal being to raise \$1m eventually each year. The first year of introduction of Municipal Rates will see \$250,000 raised for the purpose of Tourism related activities, Public places and Cemetery, and Environment and Planning. This measure increases the revenue for Local Government related responsibilities. Undertaking major local economic reforms, whilst improving prospects for the local economy will worsen the Norfolk Island Government's financial outlook, the increased revenue from local tax reform will be less than the loss of revenues from Government Business activity reform from divestment or corporatization. The fiscal outlook is provided in the next section and this underlying deficit will need to be made up through increasing essential services funding from the Commonwealth or from allowing the Island into the Australian Taxation System and transfer payment arrangement for the provision of State and Local Government services to the community. The Government's strong preference is for the latter. The existing forward estimates are shown in the Table 1. Mr Speaker contained in the document is a Forward estimates of income and expenditure 2013/14 to 2017/18 Table from 2013/14 through to the years 2017/18 and I just read the last line on these tables for the budget year 2014/2015 where there will be surplus of \$381,390.

Table 1

Forward estimates of income and expenditure 2013/14 to 2017/18

	Budget		Forward Estimate		
	20123/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
<b>INCOME 1</b>					
Revenue from taxes	9,552,500	9,693,200	9,983,996	10,283,516	10,592,021
Revenue from charges	388,000	396,500	406,145	416,079	426,311
Revenue from other sources	20,114,000	20,967,169	21,773,056	22,642,378	23,546,473
Grant received- Aust Govt	4,400,000	7,500,000	-	-	-
Total income budget	34,454,500	38,556,869	32,163,197	33,341,973	34,564,805
Less	-	-	-	-	-
<b>EXPENDITURE (excl depreciation)</b>					
Salaries & wages	10,243,610	10,812,132	11,028,375	11,248,943	11,473,922

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Excluding Healthcare and Workers Compensation Revenue

	Budget		Forward Estimate		
	20123/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Recurrent expenditure	24,566,240	26,044,107	26,938,908	27,848,464	28,794,403
Capital expenditure	433,500	1,319,240	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Total expenditure budget	35,243,350	38,175,479	39,367,283	40,497,407	41,668,325
Surplus/(deficit)	(-788850)	381,390	-7,204,086	-7,155,434	-7,103,520

The forward estimates for 2015/16 have a shortfall, a deficit of \$724,084; in 2016/17 a deficit of \$7,155,434 and in 2017/18 a deficit of \$7,103,520.

Mr Speaker to remove the forecast structural deficit in the budget forward estimates, without entering the Australian tax and transfer payments system would require both massive local taxing increases and expenditure reductions. The reality is that it is not possible for the Norfolk Island Government to remove the underlying structural deficit in the budget due to the high cost of supplying State and Territory level services to the community. The high cost of providing Education, Health and Law and Order services to the community is greater than the revenue base to support these. Unlike the mainland States and Territories the Norfolk Island Government is expected to fund the full cost of providing these services without the corresponding Federal transfer payment system to assist in their provision.

#### Key Financial Measures

The Government has been advised that the Australian Government has agreed to provide direct budget support of up to \$7.5mil in 2014/15 for the provision of essential services. As part of this support the Federal Minister requires that the Norfolk Island Government implement an annual 2.5% Efficiency Dividend to be applied to expenditure across the board commencing in 2014-2015 and applied perpetually across the out years, using 2013-2014 as the base year. This Efficiency Dividend has been incorporated into this year's budget. The combination of these factors has necessitated the following measures to be implemented for the 2014/15 year:-

1. New public service recruitment will require a business case prior to recruitment.
2. People leaving the service will not be replaced unless deemed to be essential.
3. Vital positions will be filled by internal transfer of non-essential staff where possible
4. Municipal rates will commence during the FY14/15 and is programmed to be rolled out over a 4 year period with the ultimate revenue raised of \$1m per year; \$250,000 is envisaged to be gained during FY14/15. The Government has provided for in the forward estimates for its contribution to the improvement in shipping services to the island. In total it has provided \$3,245 million over the 2015/16 years for the purchase of barges and related equipment for the discharge of cruise ship passengers and containerised freight.

#### Policies to reverse discretionary financial actions.

During the 2014/15 year there has been no short term measures entered into by the Government that now require reversal.

#### Changes from previous policy objectives and strategies

There are no major changes to the policy objectives or strategies employed by the Norfolk Island Government during the FY 2013/2014.

If I may continue Mr Speaker. This budget has been framed in an environment of which the future model of governance for Norfolk Island is uncertain, so the basis of the Bill has been to fund the necessary items that are needed to ensure that services are delivered to the community. The long term objective of the Norfolk Island Government is to see its preferred model of Territory self Government implemented of which would mean that the Commonwealth would fund Federal responsibilities with the State responsibilities being co-funded between the Commonwealth and the Norfolk Island Government and the Norfolk Island Government responsible totally for domestic issues. If this was to be achieved then the budget of the Norfolk Island Government would be able to be placed back into surplus within a few years but would have the advantage of having available transfer and equalisation payments under the Australian taxation system. This would place the Norfolk Island Government in a good position of being able to fully outline a long-term plan for infrastructure replacement, capital works and the ability to plan for loan repayments, all of which the Norfolk Island Government is unable to do at this time. This would enable the Norfolk Island Government to become financially sustainable in its own right instead of being a constant liability on the Commonwealth. It has been mentioned numerous times that technically the Norfolk Island Government is insolvent, which means that the Norfolk Island Government may not be able to meet its financial cash-flow obligations even though the Norfolk Island Government balance sheet is in excess of \$50m. It is essential that during this FY period that the issue of model of governance is sorted once and for all time. It is only then that the Norfolk Island

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Government can begin the road back to financial stability. This year the budget Appropriation is a little different from previous years in that to satisfy the ANAO requirements each cost centre within the Administration has been allocated only one total figure of which encompasses their wages, recurrent expenditure and capital expense components. It is then up to the manager of each cost centre to manage the appropriated amount to satisfy the years requirements. The line-by-line budget is an in-house tool for cost centre managers to manage their funds. There has also been the requirement from the Federal Minister, the Hon Jamie Briggs to introduce a 2.5% efficiency dividend based upon the 2013-2014 FY. This has taken some time to realise exactly what was meant by this dividend, as at the last meeting I indicated that a reduction of \$4.4m to the proposed budget would be necessary to meet this requirement. The Commonwealth Finance Officer has provided information of which explains the method of interpreting this requirement. In essence certain expenditure items are excluded from the efficiency dividend, areas such as: social services benefits, such as welfare payments, and local and overseas medical costs; wage and salary expenses outside the control of the Administration, such as NSW teachers, AFP; stock purchased for resale or conversion, such as fuel and liquor bond stock; custodial costs in Australia; KAVHA contribution; expenditure associated with Essential Services Funding Agreement commitments; and Commonwealth Funding Agreement Subsidy. This has meant that \$20,455,400 is excluded from the 2013-2014 base year appropriation of \$35,243,350 and the 2.5% efficiency dividend is apportioned to the remaining \$14,787,950 which means that a total of \$369,699 is to be applied to the 2014-2015 budget. I thank the CFO for this explanation and apologise for my ignorance in the way that I initially interpreted the efficiency dividend and I hope that my comments in the House two weeks ago did not cause too much angst within the Community. This has meant that to include this efficiency dividend into this year's budget I have had the service rework the 2014-2015 budget to get a balanced starting point and then the 2.5% efficiency dividend was applied. Originally the budget had a total appropriation of \$38,757,031 but after the balanced starting point and dividend application the total appropriation as just tabled is \$38,175,479, a reduction of \$581,552 without the funding year commencing. To enable this balanced starting point I had to rework my intentions for electricity pricing from 60c to 63c per unit, commencing 1 July 2014, reduce the Psyllid Eradication program by \$86,832 to \$256,000, reduce the funds for Asbestos removal by \$25,000 but leaving \$175,000 for the removal of Asbestos from the Island and reduce the Healthcare Subsidy by \$100,000 to \$250,000. The budget as tabled forecasts a total income of \$31,056,869 with expenditure (after the 2.5% efficiency dividend) expected to be \$38,175,479 leaving a deficit of \$7,118,610 of which the essential service funding from the Federal Government of \$7.5m will be utilised. This leaves the proposed budget in surplus of \$381,390 but it may mean that the 2.5% efficiency dividend of \$369,699 may actually form part of the budget (prior to Federal funding) and therefore the actual full \$7.5m may not be forthcoming from the Commonwealth as these funds are designed to meet the budget deficit and only \$7.1m may be necessary to balance the books. It begs the question who will benefit from the 2.5% efficiency dividend gain? The income of \$31,056,869 is raised from taxes, charges and other sources with over \$20m coming from the Government Business Activities. The only new source of income for the Norfolk Island Government will be the introduction of Municipal rates of which \$250,000 is budgeted for this year. Expenditure of \$38,175,479 will be split between salaries and wages, recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure. Salaries are increased by \$431,601 this year on last year to facilitate the proposed employment of an Economic Development Officer \$101,000, and to facilitate the program staff for the Psyllid eradication program, \$171,000. \$60,000 has been budgeted for pay increases to the NSW teachers. It is also intended to fill the vacancies of Legal Counsel, Occupational Health and Safety officer and fill the position of Land Use and Environment. These positions are seen as essential to facilitate the completion of many of the milestones that are being projected for the next funding agreement. Recurrent expenditure of over \$26m has been budgeted with over \$880,000 being allocated to roads with \$500,000 being for purchase of materials, this is in an attempt to reseal some of the roads and the commencement of a full roads program into the future. Other areas that receive additional funding is for costs involved with the

introduction of municipal rates, cost of the Household and Business surveys of which are to be completed in July 2014. Operating costs of the proposed high temperature incinerator, cattle grid maintenance, asbestos removal from the Island, continued Argentine ant eradication, \$256,000 for the Psyllid eradication program, utilities support and \$35,000 to print a new telephone directory. Subsidies have also been allocated to the NIHE of \$1.9m, the Norfolk Island Government \$1.3m and support for healthcare and workers compensation are provided. Grant monies are provided for sports, cultural heritage, banyan play centre, cadets and a \$300,000 contribution to KAHVA. \$150,000 has been allocated to the NIA for training programs and development of staff skills. I am pleased to advise that \$1,319,240 has been allocated for capital expenditure with \$400,000 allocated to progress the Cascade Jetty project (together with the \$13m from the Commonwealth once the contract is signed). \$80,000 for the construction of a new lighter to replace the lighter lost to an arson attack last year, \$100,000 for the purchase of bi-directional meters to commence the implementation of the recommendations of the EWG, \$146,000 for a replacement cherry picker for electricity due to the current cherry picker being out of survey, over \$300,000 for computer hardware & software, plus other smaller projects of which are required. The assessment program of the Government Business Activities is still progressing and we are awaiting a report from Deloitte's Economics of which it is hoped will provide the Norfolk Island Government with the advice so that it can be determined how these businesses will be operated into the future. As I mentioned in my statement last year the purpose of this assessment is to determine if the financial liability to the Norfolk Island Government can be reduced so that the Government can concentrate on services that are normally provided to a community and allowing private sector enterprise to take up some of the current business activities that the Government operate at this moment. Recent activity by the Australian Government's Joint Standing Committee on Territories and questions to Estimates Committees indicate that the Australian Government is still committed to reform for Norfolk Island and I understand that the Community is frustrated at the lack of progress in these matters. All indications point to Minister Briggs taking a submission to the Australian Prime Minister and his Cabinet, some time later this year and I hope that this is the catalyst for progression of Norfolk Island into the Australian taxation and social security systems. I believe that Norfolk Island still has the opportunity to be an asset to Australia not a mill-stone, and I will work hard to achieve this aim. All that said, I now like to make a disclaimer as the budget has been prepared on the basis that the Essential Service Funding of up to \$7.5m will be negotiated within the next funding agreement and made available to Norfolk Island so that we can commence to improve our service delivery to the community and to commence a program of capital works of which has been neglected over the past 3-4 years. The actual delivery of the \$7.5m may prove to be a little difficult as the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and supported by the CFO indicate that this amount may not necessarily be forthcoming as it is to be used only for essential services and that considering the NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT has indicated an increase in salaries and capital works, these may need to be offset from the budget figures of 2013-2014. They have made it very clear that they will not fund the wage increase for current public service staff and that any new positions. These costs are to be offset from within the current budget. This means that to delivery on the EDO, staff for the Psyllid program, and the \$60,000 increase to Teachers wages as well as the increase to AFP wages, \$430,000 savings would have to found within existing budget. This will prove to be difficult so it may mean that some of these activities will not commence. They have also stated that no new expenditure items can be included in the budget without offsets. They have also mentioned that only \$500,000 had been included by the ANAO in forward estimates for capital works and considering that we have at the moment \$1.3m of works planned, it may mean that some of these works do not proceed. Any amount over this \$500,000 should be offset as well. They have indicated that the budget should only include those items which are critical to keep 'the wheels of the ANI turning', and that when the ANI starts to make a profit, spending on discretionary items can be added. This places the Norfolk Island Government and the Administration in a difficult position as to move forward we need to expend revenue, not just to keep the wheels turning but to make up for the lack of maintenance of the past 3-4 years. If we adopted this position, no major

road works would be planned, just the filling of pot holes, preventative maintenance would be only possible as the planned purchase of new equipment etc. would not be possible, new programs such as the Psyllid eradication program could not be funded. Essential positions that are required to enable the economy to get some life back into it will have to be foregone, and this would mean that the capacity of the existing staff will be stretched even further. The CEO of the service at this time cannot expend any of his time to managing the public service as all of his time is spent attempting to achieve the milestones attached to funding agreements with the Commonwealth, as he is aware that the requirement to obtain these funds are his first priority as the ANI needs these funds to keep operating. I would have hoped that the relationship between the Norfolk Island Government and the Commonwealth was one of partnership with the intent that assistance (apart from financial) to achieve outcomes would be provided willingly, not this position of attempting to continually reduce costs of which reflect on the ability for the Norfolk Island Government to provide services to the community. It must be realised that a total budget of \$38m to provide for 3 levels of Government service delivery is a small amount when put into context with what other communities, such as Christmas Island require to keep their service delivery up to a standard to which all other Australians enjoy. Time will tell once the Funding Agreement negotiations are complete as to what the final figure from the \$7.5m will be possible and it is at this time that the NIA will have to adjust its budget to accommodate any shortfall, any shortfall will mean a reduction in some areas. As I mentioned before the budget was prepared on the basis of accessing the \$7.5m and this was advised to the Administrator last Friday by the Appropriation Bill and a message was requested of him to allow me to provide a Bill for expenditure of public monies. The Administrator had already advised me that if requested he would provide a message as long as the Federal Minister did not provide for otherwise as under section 7 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979. The Administrator provided me with the message yesterday, which was read out by the Speaker today and by doing so I have taken this as an indication that the Appropriation Bill that was provided with the message was supported by the Commonwealth through the message from the Administrator which included the amount of \$7.5m from the Commonwealth. The process is now that if passed the Bill it will go to Executive Council for assent (planned for Friday) where the Federal Minister does have the power to advise the Administrator to withhold assent and forward the Bill to the Commonwealth for consideration. I would like to finish up by thanking the CEO, Jon Gibbons and his finance team of Bruce Taylor and Gerry Connell for preparing this budget, a budget that has had many difficulties and time constraints of which has made the preparation very difficult, in times where their work concentration should be applied to other areas. I should also thank the Administrator, the Hon Neil Pope and the CFO, Ms Alison Savary for their guidance in relation to matters pertaining to the budget and their patience over the past few weeks. It has not been an easy task for anybody but with better resources I am sure that the job will become easier in the future. Thank you all. I think that I may have exhausted my debate for now and I now leave this matter in the hands of the House. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, as we all know from the last Sitting it has been a trying time to get this budget before the House today, and as Minister Sheridan has explained, the new process to finalizing the budget for this coming financial year continues. Minister Sheridan has outlined the new requirement by the Commonwealth for a 2.5% efficiency dividend so I won't comment on that. Mr Speaker, we around this table know and the community knows, that there is uncertainty without an agreed model of governance for the island. We continue to press this matter with Minister Briggs and continue to promote our preferred territory model of self-governance. This is a crucial element to consider at budget time as Norfolk Island continues to operate the three tiers of government – local, state and federal. Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Commonwealth for the \$7.5 million financial assistance that they have committed to providing the Norfolk Island community, through a funding agreement that is yet to be finalised, for the 2014-15 financial year. As we know, this assistance contributes towards maintaining essential services for this island

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community. Mr Speaker, I would like to highlight some of the positives that are in the budget before us here today.

The Norfolk Island Government is acutely aware of the economic situation here on Norfolk Island and looks for solutions. In our paper to Minister Briggs in his February 2014 visit we first raised the initiative of an Economic Development Officer for the Island. We again raised this initiative in our submission to the Joint Standing Committee's inquiry into Economic Development. Whilst there are still a number of issues to work through with this particular proposal with the Commonwealth Department, we hope it will progress. An Economic Development Function and the engagement of an Economic Development Officer for Norfolk Island is a crucial role and will be a key driver in economic recovery; assisting existing businesses and new businesses with a view to ensuring businesses and the island as a whole become financially sustainable. For those members in the community that are interested, more details on the Economic Development Function can be viewed in our Joint Standing Committee submission that is available through their website, or interested persons can contact the Assembly Secretary to obtain a copy.

Minister Ward may speak on this next point, therefore, I will mention it just briefly, I am also pleased that there is an eradication programme for the psyllids problem that we have here at the moment. We have a unique opportunity to eradicate this problem. If not, it could have disastrous effect for local crops including potatoes, tomatoes and capsicums. We are all aware that we currently have importation restrictions on produce, and we need to address this problem for our agricultural and tourism industries on the island. Again for this next point, I am in Minister Ward's portfolio, which flows over to mine from a tourism angle. We have allocated \$500,000 for road works materials in the budget. This is a positive, since previous budgets have not been so generous in this area. Mr Speaker, even with the 2.5 percent efficiency dividend the allocated subsidy for the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau remains constant for this financial year at \$1.3 million which is a positive for continuing to build and enhance Norfolk Island as a tourism destination. In his Budget statement, the General Manager has advised (and I quote): "Key outcomes for the 2014/15 financial year will be a continuation of increasing visitor numbers, building destination awareness, enhancing visitor experiences, supporting Australia and New Zealand tactical sales campaigns, investing in new niche traveller markets, building capacity for market changes on island, providing leadership, building organizational capacity and accountability." Mr Speaker, I will now conclude my remarks as Minister Sheridan has spoken at length on the other areas and I will give other members around this table the opportunity to contribute to the debate. In closing Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for Finance and the officers of the Public Service for the immense work that they have undertaken leading up to the presentation of the budget today. But before I close I would like to, in response to a previous matter discussed in Questions Without Notice, is the General Manager's statement from the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau, I would like to read. The Norfolk Island tourism industry is in a better position at the end of this financial year than the past two previous years. Monthly tourism figures have seen year on year positive growth for the past twelve months. 60% of the market are target baby boomer market segment. Visitor survey results continue to show significant levels of consumer satisfaction whilst anecdotal evidence suggests that stakeholder confidence through distribution channels and some supplier segments have increased. This improvement in the 2014 financial year is an indication that the tourism industry is benefiting from a sustained program of reform implemented by the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau management since January 2012. These substantial reforms have included significant changes to the organisation management and Human Resources Structure. Assessments and adjustments to overseas representation roles and updated staff resource and productivity plan, financial management review, structural changes to the creative sales and destination marketing programs, the development and implementation of the Tourism Strategic Plan 2013/2023. The success of these reforms are highlighted in the following major outcomes over the 2013/14 financial year. Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau results with the 2012/13 ANAO audit. A 9% increase in visitor numbers year to date March 2014 and overall Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau budget reduction since 2012/13 of \$328,358. The Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau's

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- To ensure the efficient and effective delivery of health services to the Norfolk Island community
- To strive to maintain and improve the health of persons in the Norfolk Island community; and
- To plan for the long term development of the delivery of health services to the Norfolk Island community.

And, in performing it's functions, the Enterprise must, so far as is practicable, comply with;

- The principle that health services provided by the Enterprise are to be so provided at the true economic cost of the services.

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The 2014/2015, Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise budget is based on the actual financial activities of the Enterprise in the 2013/2014 financial year and include income and expenditure required to maintain the Enterprise to provide a wide range of Health services to the Norfolk Island community, to continue to strive for full accreditation through the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards and to provide the Norfolk Island Community with appropriate health services to be identified through wide community consultation. Activity statistics to the end of May, 2014 are 7,394 consultations, an average of 672 patients per month. Inpatients totaled 339, an average of 31 per month with a daily occupancy of 8.63 which included aged care residents. The work that the Enterprise has done towards accreditation through the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards has resulted in many changes in the way the Enterprise operates and the Enterprise continues to work on these changes in the way it does it's business including strengthening Governance arrangements and ensuring that the practices meet standards required for the safety of the community and staff of the Hospital. Many of these changes come at a significant cost and the Director and staff are introducing as many of these requirements as possible in a cost effective manner, however there are a number that have been incorporated into the 2014/2015 budget.

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The key outcomes will be achievement of full accreditation through ACHS in the 2014/2015 financial year, the development of a five year Health Services Plan and increasing the number of preventative health programs to reduce the number of hospital presentations.

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Budget Priorities 2014/2015, from the Director.

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The Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise has incorporated the following key outcomes for the 2014/2015 financial year:

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Achievement of full accreditation through the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. Following the Accreditation Survey undertaken in March 2014 it was identified that the Enterprise has a number of "Not Met" actions that need to be achieved prior to receiving accreditation standards. The Enterprise is therefore continuing to work towards this goal. Funds have been allocated within the budget to achieve this and such costs include significant electrical work to meet body protection standards and to check and tag all electrical appliances and cords, provision of sterilizing systems for Endoscopy work. Provision of training for staff in such areas of Advanced Life Support and Infection Control and continued mandatory training for all staff including CPR, Fire Training and documentation training. Ongoing training of staff in specialty areas such as Ultrasonography. Governance standards are being undertaken with the assistance of the South East Sydney Local Health District. Progression of the 5 year Health services Plan including as a priority engagement of a consultancy service to undertake wide community consultation to assess the communities health needs, and I will pause there for a moment and go back to the question without notice from Mrs Ward, asked earlier, and I understand, it's all in the reading of the document and as I'm rereading from which Mrs Ward read, "and to provide the Norfolk Island community with appropriate health services as identified through wide community consultation, in other words, there's nothing to say there that the consultation has occurred. He is saying, as he has said in his budget priorities, as a priority engagement of a consultancy service to undertake wide community consultation to assess the community's health needs and Members are all very aware as we've said it often enough in the House that the Nexus report by its own admission did not undertake community consultation and therefore, that's a priority. Okay. So carrying on. Requirement for consultation services on asbestos assessment and Hospital Airflows as required by ACHS. Provision of medical services through

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employing two permanent Doctors early in the new financial year thus eliminating the need for locums and providing continuity of care. Provision of preventative health strategies including Quit Smoking, Well Women and Well Men clinics, Diabetic and Cholesterol education, skin checks and other identified programs. Continuous development of policies and procedures relevant to the standards required by both the ANAO and ACHS.

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The Director has my full support for the budget he has provided and he, the Advisory Board and I will be closely monitoring expenditure over the ensuing financial year whilst at the same time progressing the development of the five year Health Services Plan for the Enterprise. The next step as has already been explained, is the engagement of a consultancy service and that is expected to happen towards the end of July. In conclusion Mr Speaker the Director is finalising the response required under the June 2013 Funding Agreement at clause 12c which reads –

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“The Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise budget will be benchmarked against equivalent services in New South Wales or the Indian Ocean Territories to identify appropriate service levels, against specific staffing levels, to ensure benchmarks are not eroded or where greater than New South Wales standards, appropriate savings measures can be applied”. I’ll just pause there to point out that this is just an example of a milestone requirement which doesn’t tie together. It benchmarks against equivalent services in New South Wales or the Indian Ocean Territories, but then to make sure they are not eroded against New South Wales. So that having been said, what the Director is doing is he is benchmarking against the Indian Ocean Territories, and just yesterday in conversation with the Manager of the Christmas Island Health Service I have had a brief conversation with the Director around that conversation and the information gleaned from that conversation is quite interesting; and it’s a bit like asking to compare apples and oranges. For example, they have three full time doctors; we have 2.6 full time doctors; they have an 8 bed hospital with 10.5 full time equivalent nursing staff; we have 24 beds including 12 aged care beds and 12.5 full time equivalent nursing staff; they have no aged care facility and no operating theatre. I look forward to receiving the results of the benchmarking exercise. Thank you Mr Speaker.

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker, Last year, when Minister Sheridan presented the 2013/2014 budget, I said I hoped this would be the last budget of this type we get to see. Sadly it was not to be and this 2014/15 budget is again one of austerity. When we endorse an annual supply budget we are keeping a range of services functioning without which this community as we know it today would not function. When this Assembly took office a little over a year ago we knew that government and much of the private sector finances were in a dire state. This fact has been reinforced in so many ways with continuing closure of a range of businesses and more families leaving. Last week the proposed local municipal rates system was released. I remain firmly of the view that taxing of land in a place with a limited income stream that cannot support such a tax will not help the revenue collection or the community’s wellbeing at this time. While our Commonwealth counterparts regard this measure as a crucial component of reform, I believe we need to re-build our economy before considering hitting this community with such a severe impost. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to our CEO Mr Jon Gibbons and the members of the Rates Working Group who have shouldered an incredible burden on the land rates issue. CEO Gibbons has produced over 30 versions of rating models to come up with this one that is designed for Norfolk Island conditions, rather than merely lifting something inappropriate from another jurisdiction. The reality is Mr Speaker, we are facing changes unlike anything in our history and we have to adjust to these changes. This does not mean we should meekly go along with everything that our counterparts put forward, but aim to work constructively to achieve the best possible results. We have to restore confidence and purpose. So many visitors have said to me “you people don’t realise what you have here!” And they are right. While many have sought and researched new industries and sources of income, our geographic isolation and small landmass continue to preclude or limit the success of these business concepts. It remains with us to further the Cascade Jetty project both to generate some stimulus into the economy particularly for our tradespeople, and to create new opportunity for the retail sector. This is a responsible

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budget, but like the last, cannot address the needs of this community. While some things could have been done differently, we can be proud of how much this island community has achieved over the last thirty odd years of self-government, but we understand the economic difficulties being experienced by the people in this community. It is critical, as we develop a new governance system based on the Roadmap reforms that we do not place unrealistic tax burdens on a community living within the constraints of so little local area income. Government finances are tight today because the community is doing it tough - not because of lavish government spending. In the next few weeks a home income and expenditure survey and business income and expenditure Survey will be conducted. I urge every person to take this survey seriously. Please don't be too proud to admit the difficulties and hardship. These surveys should identify what taxes and charges can be borne by the community. There are two matters in this budget that I must comment upon. Firstly I welcome the inclusion of \$500,000 for significant road work materials. Most residents will welcome this provision for materials which is in addition to the roads standard operational allocation. The second matter is of great concern to me, and that is that a carefully planned and costed eradication project for the agricultural pest Psyllids and their associated bacterial disease, has been cut by some \$86,000. I am seeking advice as to whether the remaining allocation could possibly cover a credible eradication attempt. Prior to learning of this cut back I had contacted the Australian Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Barnaby Joyce asking him to consider assisting Norfolk Island with this high risk biosecurity issue. I call upon the Commonwealth to meet their reform undertakings and to work constructively with us to rebuild business confidence and certainty. While I hold great concerns about the austerity and required efficiency dividend and also the projected new revenue demands, I support the budget as presented. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker jut in relation to my statement in regards to the Tourist Bureau it was remiss of me not to make a note of the sterling work that has been done by the Advisory Board to the Norfolk Island Government, Tourist Bureau led by Mr Mike Perkins and I thank them sincerely for their role, and some of their role includes, destination awareness, the creative and public relations programs focussed on increasing consumer awareness and defining market perceptions and well as sales and marketing through co-operative advertising, online promotions, niche market initiatives and special events support and it goes without saying that without this support by Government, current visitor numbers and growth would not be sustainable and Norfolk Island tourism would suffer significant decline. The Norfolk Island Government, Tourist Bureau's leadership is most important in destination management through initiatives outlined in the Norfolk Island Tourism Strategic Plan, as I mentioned earlier, 2013-2023, continue to provide a framework for the industry to move towards the innovation, diversification and development which will be required for long term industry sustainability and success, and again I congratulate Minister Sheridan for his work and the staff of the Administration of Norfolk Island in putting together the budget and I certainly support the budget. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker, I too would like to commend the Minister for Finance and the staff of the Administration for framing a budget in difficult circumstances and having said that I just make a couple of comments following on from the Chief Minister. Obviously through my participation on the Advisory Board of the Norfolk Island Government, Tourist Bureau and as a tourism accommodation property owner operator I applaud the budget in maintaining the spending effort in relation to tourism. You cant really say that tourism is our main wealth generator. It really is our only wealth generator and as such it is important that we maintain our tourism effort and I support the comments of the Chief Minister and the Minister for Finance in this regard. Also in the matter of the road construction and maintenance I support the comments made by the Chief Minister and the Minister for the Environment as the cost to tourism operators as well as the impost on our own cost of living, that the matter of our roads needs to be addressed and this pressing issue is not to just mention that the standard of our road network impacting on us, it also impacts on our visitor's experience.

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Where much more could be desired or expected from this budget, under the circumstances I commend the budget. Thank you Mr Speaker

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MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker I ratify what the other Members have said about the Bill, and I support the Bill and I certainly commend Minister Sheridan on the work he's done and hopefully it will prove to everyone that this Government is committed to going forward with the reforms that we've committed ourselves to do and I think with Deloitte's and things like that we can go forward with a bit more determination and clarity and hopefully fairness from both parties and continue improving relations between our two Governments so hopefully we can keep going forward and it's a great step to keep that process going. Thank you Mr Speaker

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker just very brief, I'm very comfortable to see the budget put up by the Principle of the Norfolk Island Central School has been agreed to on all points however, I would ask the Minister for Finance just to give a little more clarity around the 2.5% dividend and the schoolteachers projected new salaries, as to how that is to be funded so there is clarity for the school and their budget

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker and Ms Adams for that query. The pay increase we had allocated within our salaries and wages, but as I mentioned before that may have to be addressed because there may be a requirement to offset that within our salaries range, of \$10.375m from the 2013/14 year so those details will be worked out but currently under the budget that's been appropriated those funds have been allocated within the existing budget. As to the 2.5% efficiency dividend, that's not applied to teacher's salaries. If it is applied to the education area at all it is only done to their recurrent expenditure which is some \$400,000 I believe but I will confirm that. I just don't have that paper with me about that, because it's a grant and – no not it's not. I will be able to tell you in a sec.

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and through you, I just want to make sure that there will be no disadvantage to the recurrent expenditure at the school as a consequence of the new arrangements last evening from the Commonwealth

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MR SHERIDAN Kaa fain et wen yu want et

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MS ADAMS Not to worry. We can deal with that later. Thank you

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MR SHERIDAN If I find it I can come back to the debate, Mr Speaker

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. This Appropriation Bill is a pretty bland document. Nothing to get too excited about but without things stop. Whilst thanking the Minister for his efforts it's unfortunate that the budget has only just been finalized and made available finally to Members in the last day or so, but we were forced into this position by a pretty ridiculous process, in fact, a tad childish on the part of Commonwealth officers. It appears that a phone call between Minister Briggs and the Chief Minister seemed to clear the log jam. It's a pity that this type of communication did not happen earlier. There's not a lot of difference in last years except for an increase just under \$3m I think it is although I heard there's been some changes in relation to that this morning and we have a so called efficiency dividend. It sounds like winning the lottery but it's not. I wonder who the hard working clerk in the Commonwealth has thought up the term "dividend" when they are actually ripping you off. I don't think the word "efficiency" was in the Commonwealth Public Service vocabulary when I worked for them and they must have a new volume out. I wonder what it says "efficiency" really means? I wonder how long this process will last because the reality is that to be successful in the not too distant future, services will be provided at no cost to Government by of course, no employees. One would think that the efficiency dividend has a limited life expectation.

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**MRS WARD** Thank you Mr Speaker if I may just add a few comments. I represent people in the community who will be asking about where is the restructuring of the budget around moving Government run businesses and services out into the private sector. I think Minister Sheridan has made it very clear that there's going to be a continuation of holding that line of not doing anything, so not much is changing in this coming financial year until that Deloitte report is in, so for people who are expecting to see change, understanding that over the last decade there has been a 25% contraction of the economy and we've had a 20% drop in the population. The Government's would have been doing an awful lot more than they have been doing over the last four years to deal with that issue but I just have to acknowledge that Minister Sheridan has been very open and transparent about why that is not changing. That is the position that the Government's are choosing to hold so that's it, so I really have nothing more to say about the budget. It hasn't changed. What I will express my deep concerns about the fact that we do not have a signed Funding Agreement so assumptions are being made that one will be delivered on. Minister Sheridan has privately indicated to me that he is confident that the Funding Agreement will be signed and delivered on but we've heard today that we don't have a time frame. Minister Adams has said that broader reforms yet to be identified. That to me leaves us very much up in the air and \$7.5m is tied to that Funding Agreement so while the Government has clearly tried to separate expenditure from revenue, when you make a calculated risk on a projected revenue of GST for example, that's based on a tourist figure. That is a calculated risk. I'm not so sure listening to the comments today, I would call the Funding Agreement a calculated risk. I'm sorry to say that. I'm sorry that some of the comments around this table did not give me certainty today. No time frame. Where does that leave us. The comment that Minister Sheridan made about their being, it was about the Government not being insolvent, the comment about their being insolvent where we had a \$50m equity, I mean, it goes back to the step that I imagine the Commonwealth will be asking, you know, are you insolvent or not, do you need this money or not, well as I understand it, as Members have been informed, the working capital or the cash at bank really sits between \$3-4m so nobody should make an assumption that there's going to be enough cash to get through the next twelve months without that Funding Agreement. I put that on the record. Thank you Mr Speaker.

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**MR SHERIDAN** Thank you Mr Speaker, I just will make things a little clearer for people. The Deloitte's issue and the assessment of the GBE's that was planned to take place this past twelve months, but with the delaying of the Deloitte's assessment and the paperwork coming through it would have been foolish of the Norfolk Island Government to start to divest themselves or change the structure of GBE's without this report. Now that report is due any day. I saw an email this morning, the CEO had chased it up through the Department and they said we should have it in the near future but I said in my policy statement that in the next financial year, we had funded for those GBE's to be included. That was only because we are unsure of what this Report will say and what time frames will be taken to assess the GBE's and what action will be taken. You may find that half way through the financial year, that there may be some movement to change the way that those activities are undertaken so I just clarify that a little bit. A Funding Agreement signed. Yes I understand Mrs Ward's concern with this because she's always really indicated that it's necessary to have a signed Funding Agreement prior to the budget being able to be presented. I don't hold that view. I understand her concerns though. Now it's up to the Norfolk Island Government to ensure that we make the best out of this Funding Agreement. That we do achieve, the Commonwealth has allocated up to \$7.5m. it's up to us now to earn our money and to ensure that we get the most that we can out of this funding. It's been appropriated by the Federal Government. Now it's up to us to convince the Commonwealth that those funds are required. If not, the budget has been presented with that \$7.5m in there. If not, that means that we'll have to reduce and this is what I said in my statement, we will have to reduce some services or we will have to find some cuts to accommodate certain issues. That's not my preference. I would like to see a budget where we have sufficient moneys in it so that we can provide some activities for the private sector to join with the Government to earn some money, for the Government and the Administration to bolster

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their resources and to put a better output into the community, I would like to see that achieved. In regards to the \$50m I think I made mention that the ANAO has said that we are not financially viable and that is because we don't have the cash savings to provide for our day to day expenditure. We jut don't have it. When I talked about the \$50m it's total equity in the Administration of Norfolk Island. The financial statements clearly indicate that it's the financial assets and take away the liabilities, that the worth of the Administration at this point in time is \$50m. It's well over \$50m. So we are cash strapped so we can't meet our obligations so you might say we are not a going concern in that respect but if we had to realize the assets, well if we did have to go into liquidation like a normal business who went broke and couldn't afford to make our way, we would be able t realize our assets and pay for our liabilities so in that sense we are a going concern but I understand the ANAO's comments and I understand the comments from everybody else that yes, we are broke, because we don't have the funds available, the cash flow, to enable us to run day to day as we would like and meet our commitments without some deficit funding from the Commonwealth and it's certainly appreciated because then we would have to realize some of our assets to maintain the day to day operations of the Administration. Enough said for the day for me thank you Mr Speaker

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SPEAKER Thank you Honourable Members. I believe we have concluded debate in respect of this matter so far. The question before us is that the Bill be agreed to in principle and unless there is any further debate I will put that question to you

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The ayes have it. The Bill is agreed to in principle.

Honourable Members is it the desire to dispense with the detail stage? We so dispense with the detail stage Honourable Members. Therefore Minister I seek a final motion

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill be agreed to

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SPAKER The question is that the Bill, be agreed to. Is there any final debate Honourable Members? We'll go straight to voting on that particular matter. I put the question

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That Bill is agreed to Honourable Members

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INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that this House agree that the fourth Quarterly Report of the Infrastructure and Business Development Committee tabled on 21 May 2014 be passed to the Norfolk Island Government for its progression.

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SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that the motion be agreed

MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. This motion formally refers the IBDC Report for the quarter January – March last to the Norfolk Island Government for its consideration. The Report contains recommendations which brings the total of recommendations to 28 provided by the committee to the Norfolk Island Government for the four quarters it has operated since its inception. Only two related to Culture and the

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South Pacific Commission appear to have been dealt with the by the Norfolk Island Government to date. I cannot stress to you forcefully enough the importance of the Committee's recommendations to the essential goal of expanding the Island's economy. Unless the Islands current economy is expanded we are doomed to an ongoing life of mediocrity if not a basket case wallowing in welfare. It was said some ten years ago that tourism is certainly and will need to remain a major contributor but given the increased demands by the community on the Norfolk Island Government to provide services it is unfortunate but a fact that 40,000 per year will not bring in adequate funds to meet these new demands. We must expand the economy beyond tourism to diversity to hedge our bets. The set the scene for expanding the economy, we need more appropriate parameters in which business may operate on Norfolk Island. The IBDC's recommendations are aimed to provide precisely that. Thank you Mr Speaker

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank the Chair of the Infrastructure and Business Development Committee fro bringing the work that he has done and continues to do on this committee. The Chair has reported to this House on the deliberations of the Committee and presented the Committee's Reports dated 17 July 2013; 16 October 2013; 19 February 2014 and 21 May 2014. These Reports were provided to the Norfolk Island Government Ministers on 23 May 2014 to enable the government to consider the recommendations. Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise that the Norfolk Island Government is preparing a consolidated response to the Recommendations contained in the Reports and hopes to be in a position to table its Response at the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly. I will be supporting the motion. Thank you Mr Speaker.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. Further debate.

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker I echo the words of the Chief Minister this morning and continue to applaud the work of the Infrastructure and Business Development Committee. As far as I'm able to give an undertaking on behalf of the Norfolk Island Government the comprehensive document that the Government now has before it, its response to the recommendations will be before Cabinet next week. Thank you Mr Speaker

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SPEAKER Thank you Minister. Further debate. The question we have before us is that the motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. That motion is agreed

**IMMIGRATION ACT 1980 - APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR GENERAL ENTRY PERMIT**

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that for the purpose of paragraph 17A(1)(e) of the Immigration Act 1980, this Legislative Assembly resolve that Douglas Foote be authorised to make an application for a general entry permit under the Act. Thank you Mr Speaker Members are very much across this issue. I provided to all Members on the 16<sup>th</sup> June background to the application from Mr Foote who is seeking to make Norfolk Island his permanent home. The island having been his home for extended periods of time for some 42 of his years. Two of Mr Foote's three sons were born on Norfolk Island to an Australian mother and they are Australian citizens. Mr Foote of course along with his father Eldon Foote and his sisters Debbie Garske and Laurie Evans are well known to most of us. Mr Foote wishes to make application for the grant of a General Entry Permit under section 18 which is the Special Relationship clause under the Immigration Act. I certainly support the motion and I look to Members to also have

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their support that it be agreed that Mr Foote make application for a General Entry Permit. It's not giving approval to that General Entry Permit it approval for him to make application for a General Entry Permit as the Act requires for a Canadian national. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker just briefly, of course from those who are around Dougie's years we've probably known Doug fairly well and of course his father Eldon certainly did a lot for this Island as far as education and other bursaries and so yes, I certainly commend Ms Adams and will be supporting this application

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker I support the motion. I too have known Doug and his family for a huge number of years, a long time, and his parents and I certainly support the motion and I admire him for wanting to come back to Norfolk Island to make this his permanent home and I wish him the best of luck

SPEAKER Thank you Honourable Members. The question is that the motion be agreed to. Any further debate. No further debate. I put the question that the Motion be agreed

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. That motion is agreed

#### CUSTOMS ACT 1913 - EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that under subsection 2B(4) of the Customs Act 1913, this House recommends to the Administrator that the goods specified in column 1 of the Schedule imported by the person specified in column 2, and on the conditions mentioned in column 2 of the Schedule, be exempted from duty.

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##### SCHEDULE

<u>Column 1</u>	<u>Column 2</u>
<u>Goods</u>	<u>Importer/conditions</u>
<u>Hydrosmart Enhanced Output In-line Filter</u>	<u>Norfolk Island Bowling Club and Bowling Council Inc</u>
<u>- amount of duty applicable \$716.73</u>	<u>Conditions: Nil</u>
<u>Windsurfing equipment to train beginners</u>	<u>Norfolk Island Sailing Club (NISC)</u>
<u>- amount of duty applicable \$720.00</u>	<u>Conditions: Nil</u>
<u>Uniforms for Commonwealth Games Team</u>	<u>Norfolk Island Amateur Sports Association</u>
<u>- amount of duty application \$1213.38</u>	<u>Conditions: Nil</u>

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Thank you Mr Speaker. As I may have alluded to before when I tabled some other exemptions that I had already signed off on, this one involves importation by the Norfolk Island Bowling Club of which I'm a member and also the Norfolk Island Amateur Sports for uniforms for Commonwealth Games Team and I will be partaking in that exercise so I will abstain from the vote on this but I would just like to acknowledge that these non profit organisations undertake within the community especially the Sailing Club and the Norfolk Island Amateur Sports. We all know that the Bowling Club as many of the clubs, they do pay their way with paying GST on their commercial activities, but in the main they are there for non profit reasons and they provide a good area for sport participation in Norfolk Island and they have produced some great champions up there at the Bowling Club and whilst I'll abstain from this I'll leave it in the hands of the House

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker I intend to support the motion and whilst some people may consider this has some commercial connotations we have

to remember that places and organisations like the Norfolk Island Amateur Sports Association, the Bowling Club and the Sailing Club, all of these organisations provide a great deal of tourism benefits to Norfolk Island and the Government in its austerity cannot afford to support them in as many ways as we would wish to and this is one way that we can support them in their endeavours to continue to perform services that are of benefit to the community and certainly to our tourism industry. I certainly support the motion.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. The question is that the motion be agreed to. Any further debate. No further debate. I put the question that the Motion be agreed

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

MR SHERIDAM ABSTAIN

The ayes have it thank you. That motion is agreed

### ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### KINGSTON AND ARTHURS VALE HISTORIC AREA (KAVHA) – REVIEW

MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. this motion's been on the books since February last and it was interrupted by an announcement of a review of the KAVHA Management Plan and in that Plan there would be governance arrangements for KAVHA, would be canvassed so it was left on the books until now, and it appears to me that it was an appropriate time to bring it forward and explain to the community what is actually happening. The KAVHA review is currently on, it's pretty well advanced from what I can gather and it is believed that a draft of the plan will be available very shortly for public comment. The advance plan has gone to various groups for comment including the review group and also the Board I understand, and so I think that the appropriate method now would be to leave the motion on the books at this time and see what the outcome of the review of the plan is. Whether it may be required to continue and it may not, depending on the outcome of the plan once it is released and I understand that the responsible Minister has a statement to make on this regard so I will leave that for the time being and in due course I will seek leave to adjourn

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Just for the record I'll just recap the process. Members will recall that some time ago there was engagement of GML Heritage Context and Jean Rice to undertake review of the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area 2008 Conservation Management Plan. They visited the Island. There was extensive community consultation at that time, both of locals and visitors. At the markets. There was an online survey that people could participate in and it is my understanding that the response to that online survey was regarded as being more responsive than what usually comes from that type of surveys. At that same time, a local review team also played a big role in the process. Earlier today you asked me about had the Government been consulted. Certainly I as Minister with responsibility for KAVHA participated in as much as I could as I was off Island at the time, but I had a meeting in Sydney with the review team to be brought up to speed as to what was happening and they have been back subsequently to the Island briefly and at that point in time, the community and myself had the opportunity to be made aware of where they were traveling. And so, on the basis... oh I must come in here and say now so that we get this quite clear. The Conservation Management Plan is no longer the name of the project. It is the Heritage Management Plan going forward because this is necessary under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act the EPBC Act and as well as meeting the relevant provisions of the EPBC Act preparing an HMP will also involve coverage of a broader range of issues with potential for improved more holistic conservation and management of the sites heritage values. So just turning now to what has been happening more recently. A KAVHA Board, the KAVHA Board being Mr Buffett

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and Mr Andre Nobbs being the Norfolk Island Members on the KAVHA Board, along with the Commonwealth KAVHA Board members were part of a workshop in Canberra and that workshop was facilitated by the team of professional consultants with senior representatives of both the Australian and NI governments was held in Canberra last week to work through the content of the draft Heritage Management Plan for KAVHA. Those discussions were broad ranging and included discussion on the values, principles and policies in the draft plan. For the record a local review team comprising Mr Brett Sanderson who is my delegate, Mrs Jodie Quintal, Mr Miles Howe, Ms Liz McCoy, Mr Kane Anderson and Assembly member Mr Ron Nobbs are this week also to complete a review the draft plan with a view to providing key stakeholder feedback to the Consultant team by the end of the week and I believe you are meeting this afternoon at two o'clock. The Consultant team will make final revisions to the Draft which will then be provided to the KAVHA Board for them to review and approve the Plan at that level prior to being released for public exhibition. The public exhibition phase will provide a month for community review and comments. Information will be published in the local newspapers as well as the KAVHA webpage prior to the commencement of public exhibition. I am advised that at the workshop in Canberra, participants agreed a target of mid-July for the Draft Plan to be on exhibition and as soon as a firm date is known I will advise the community accordingly. In conclusion it is my understanding as part of this process that there will come a time when the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island Governments will consider and endorse the final Heritage Management Plan and its in the lead up to that process that I will be expecting the Legislative Assembly along with the Norfolk Island Government on having input. Thank you Mr Speaker. I am very happy Mr Speaker that you as one of the Members on the Norfolk Island contingent on the Advisory Board were wishing to say something, I'm more than happy for you to do so

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SPEAKER I think you've covered the relevant background and I thank you Minister. Any further debate

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm on that group as the landholders elected representative, not as an MLA

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MS ADAMS That's as I understood it. I'm sorry, I should have mentioned that

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MR NOBBS No, that's alright. I just wanted to get it clear in case someone thought that you have two bites of the cherry

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MS ADAMS That would be nice

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MR SPEAKER The question is that debate be adjourned and the resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of Sitting. Was that your intention Mr Nobbs

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MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker and I so move

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SPEAKER Thank you and I put that question to you Honourable Members.

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

That motion is so adjourned. Thank you Honourable Members

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**IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014 - IMAGRIESHAN (CHIENJEN) BIL 2014**

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker I move that the bill be agreed to

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MR SPEAKER Thank you Minister. Any final debate in this matter. I put the question.

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QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The Bill is so agreed. We've completed Orders of the day

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MR EVANS Mr Speaker I move that his House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 10.00 am

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MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Evans. Any debate on this matter. I put the question.

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QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The motion is agreed.

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ADJOURNMENT

MR NOBBS Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the house do now adjourn.

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MR SPEAKER The question is that the House do now adjourn. Is there any adjournment debate.

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker just a quick acknowledgement in this forum of the commitment which was put into a Press Release by the Hon Minister Jamie Briggs that there will be a continuation of the Air New Zealand contract until at least the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016. That is great comfort to many, many, many people of not to everybody in the community that the Australian Government has seen fit to continue to assist the Norfolk Island community in that way. Thank you

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker I suppose I should say a few words as Minister for Sport in regards to the Commonwealth Games Team that's departing Norfolk Island I think before our next sitting of the House. I think the majority of the team will depart on the 14<sup>th</sup> July with some departing on the 18<sup>th</sup> July but they'll all be gathering there in Glasgow in Scotland for the games, over the period of 23<sup>rd</sup> July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> August I believe the closing ceremony is. Norfolk Island sports people are participating in lawn bowls, which I'll be participating in myself, in badminton, squash and also shooting, both pistol and skeet so I would jut like to wish all of these, I think there's plus 30 people travelling in the group, officials, athletes and I must say that some of these athletes have been training so hard they look very trim these days. Really trim. I think they're peaking at the right time, but they have their coaches, their officials, and of course the Norfolk Island Amateur Sports and Commonwealth Games Association Chief de Mission will be attending and of course the Chief Minister will be going out three for a couple of weeks during the duration of the games and is going to get spoilt by some of the people living up there, but I'll be living in the Village with the rest of the athletes there but I would just like to acknowledge the team going away and wish them well, and if I

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could make special mention of one of the bowlers who is participating, one of the lady bowlers, Carmen Anderson. Recently she played singles up there, representing Norfolk Island, she recently won the Black Douglas Tournament which is a huge tournament in Australia and only this week she won the New South Wales singles championship so she's in good form as so we expect great things of all sports people who are travelling to Glasgow for the Games.

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**SPEAKER** Thank you Minister Sheridan and if I might add two words of encouragement, as we endeavored to do when we had the Queen's Baton in this Chamber here on an earlier occasion, and we have great confidence that these competitors will stand us in good stead when they compete

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**MR SNELL** Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you mi Sheridan. I intend to take some leave to attend the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow as mentioned. I will be paying my own expenses although I have been privileged enough to be invited to attend some functions whilst over there. Some I can, some I can, and Minister Sheridan has agreed to substitute for me and one in particular that's very important, and that's the commemoration of World War 1 celebrations to be had of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Glasgow and it's a big occasion, 1450 invited guests, 450 dignitaries and officials, and I apologise that I can't be there, but nevertheless mi Sheridan has accepted to substitute for me and between us all I'm sure we will be able to encourage the sportsmen from Norfolk Island to fly the flag and to give them every support that we possibly can, and I certainly also wish them the best and I'll be barracking for them from the stands. Thank you Mr Speaker

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**MR SPEAKER** Thank you. Any further adjournment debate Honourable Members. No. We conclude. Then I will put the question that the House do now adjourn.

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

**MR SPEAKER** Honourable Members this House therefore stands adjourned until Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 at 10.00 am.

4) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan — Update on Sporting activities during August 2013

**MR SPEAKER** As there are no Messages from the Office of the Administrator nor Reports of Standing Committees we move on

**NOTICES**

**NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU ACT 1980 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER AND CHAIRPERSON**

**MR SNELL** Mr Speaker, I move that this House in accordance with section 4 of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Act 1980 recommends to the Minister that he re-appoint Michael Perkins to be a member of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Advisory Board for the period of two years commencing 9 September 2013 and that he be Chairperson of the Tourist Bureau Advisory Board for that period.

~~SPEAKER~~ Any further debate? I put the question that the motion be agreed to

~~QUESTION PUT~~

~~AGREED~~

~~That motion is agreed to~~

~~NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU ACT 1980 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER~~

~~MR SNELL~~ Mr Speaker, I move that this House in accordance with section 4 of the *Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Act 1980* recommends to the Minister that he appoint Anita Toni French to be a member of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Advisory Board for the period of two years commencing 9 September 2013.

~~SPEAKER~~ Any further debate? I put the question that the motion be agreed to

~~QUESTION PUT~~

~~AGREED~~

~~That motion is agreed to~~

~~PROTECTION OF MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT 1987~~

~~MS ADAMS~~ Thank you Mr Speaker I move that in accordance with section 9 of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1987*, this House recommends to the Minister that Beryl Phyllis Evans and Rhonda Evelyn Griffiths be re-appointed as members of the Norfolk Island Cultural Heritage Committee for the period 26 August 2013 to 25 August 2017.

~~Honourable Members the appointment of—~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ Eve Semple  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Rhonda Evelyn Griffith  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Beryl Phyllis Evans and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Neil Tavener~~

~~Honourable Members the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act deals with the protection of movable cultural heritage of Norfolk Island, namely, objects that are of importance to Norfolk Island for ethnological, archaeological, historical, literary, artistic, scientific or technological reasons. The Act categorises the objects which fall within the meaning of the Act.~~

~~The appointment of members of the Norfolk Island Cultural Heritage Committee under the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1987 expires on 25 August and before speaking to the motion proper I would like on your behalf to thank Mr Neil Tavener for his years of community and voluntary service on the Committee. Mr Tavener is not seeking re-appointment at this time.~~

~~Honourable Members Mrs Semple is off Island at the moment and I have yet been unable to seek her agreement to re-appointment. I trust that she will continue in this valuable role.~~

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In the meantime Honourable Members I have brought to the House this morning the re-appointment of Beryl Phyllis Evans and Rhonda Evelyn Griffith as members of the Norfolk Island Cultural Heritage Committee for the period 26 August 2013 to 25 August 2017 and seek your endorsement of their re-appointment.

~~SPEAKER~~ Any further debate? I put the question that the motion be agreed to

~~QUESTION PUT~~

~~AGREED~~

That motion is agreed to

~~ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 19 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION~~

~~MRS WARD~~ Thank you Mr Speaker, I move I move that the House take note of Minister Adams' answer to Question on Notice (number 19) asked at the 17 July 2013 sitting of the House relating to the immigration website. The question related primarily to the need for Australian and New Zealand citizens to have onward air tickets. I will lead off by saying Mr. Speaker that this matter is in the process of being resolved however I felt that it was important to briefly speak to the motion in order to provide information to the listening community who is interested in immigration matters. It is important to me give the community an assurance that their elected representatives uphold the law and that the Minister will ensure that policy changes are implemented by the CEO of the Public Service and that if uncertainly exists, that it is clarified. Minister Adams has tabled a document titled "Discussion Paper on airline ticket policy, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013". The first statement that the paper makes is this; "Currently there is a long standing requirement for persons other than residents to have means for onward travel from NI or to have lodged a cash bond in lieu." Question is, "should this requirement continue?" As I said this has been resolved now, but the problem was that this statement about an ongoing requirement for persons other than residents had been made null and void when the Immigration changes were assented to on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May and the changes were reflected in the New Policy and Guidelines Published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. The change reflected at section 14A (4) of the Act clearly shows that "The holder of an unrestricted entry permit has the same rights under any enactment as the holder of a general entry permit...". That means that now only a TEP (FN) needs to be considered for an onward ticket for travel out of NI. Australian and NZ citizens can travel to NI, just as we can travel to Australia or New Zealand on a one way ticket. Can I just note that any risks associated with that where analysed and identified to the Commonwealth officers last year. Where I first became aware that the changes were not being implemented was when the Immigration website went live at the end of July which led to my Question on Notice No. 19. We know that Minister Adams didn't need to bring this question to us what she needed to do was insist that the changes were implemented based on clearly articulated and documented changes both to the law and the policy but the Minister did bring it to us and just so that the listening community is aware there was strong support for the airfare issue to be clarified and that it should be removed as is and was originally intended for Australian and NZ citizens. We have been assured by the Minister that DIAC will be update its Fact Sheet 59

~~□ TIM (ground handlers and travel agents)~~

~~□ Website will be update~~

~~□ people who are entitled to receive a cash bond refund will do so and I trust that this will happen... there may be some time delay?~~

Coming back to the answer provided by Minister Adams to my Question on Notice No. 19. Clearly it was materially wrong but I now trust that the Minister will see that the immigration department requirements are updated. So I hope that we have managed to clear a few things up, for everyone involved. In closing if we believe that immigration,

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~~investment and growth are key elements in our economic recovery, then we must continue to do everything we can to remove barriers and create flexibility across the board and make the recovery happen and I appreciate that takes some change in thinking.~~

~~MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker  
Paper tabled; Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams  
Immigration Discussion Paper on airline ticket policy~~

~~SPEAKER Any further debate? I put the question that the motion be agreed to~~

~~QUESTION PUT  
AGREED  
That motion is agreed to~~

~~ORDERS OF THE DAY~~

~~MARINE SAFETY (AMENDMENT NO 2) BILL 2013~~

~~SPEAKER Honourable Members we resume on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and Mr Ward has the call to resume. Mr Ward~~

~~MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker~~

~~SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate around the table. I will now put the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle~~

~~QUESTION PUT  
AGREED~~

~~The Bill is agreed to in principal. We move to the Detail Stage.~~

~~Is it the wish of the House to dispense with the Detail Stage. We so dispense. Minister Ward I seek a final motion~~

~~MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker I move that the Bill be agreed to~~

~~SPEAKER Thank you Minister Ward. I put the question~~

~~QUESTION PUT  
AGREED~~

~~The ayes have it. The Bill is agreed.~~

~~CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013~~

~~SPEAKER Honourable Members we resume on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and Mr Sheridan has the call to resume. Minister~~

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~~MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker~~

~~SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate around the table. I will now put the question that debate be adjourned and resumption of debate be made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of Sitting. I put that question~~

~~QUESTION PUT  
AGREED~~

~~That matter is so adjourned. Honourable Members we have concluded Orders of the Day.~~

~~FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DAY~~

~~MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 10.00 am.~~

~~MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any debate.~~

~~QUESTION PUT  
AGREED~~

~~ADJOURNMENT~~

~~MR EVANS I move that the House do now adjourn,~~

~~MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any adjournment debate Honourable Members. No adjournment debate. Thank you, Honourable Members I put the question that the House do now adjourn.~~

~~QUESTION PUT  
AGREED~~

~~MR SPEAKER Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 10.00 am.~~

~~Form~~

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