

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Opening of Meeting by Clerk

Your Honour the Administrator, Mrs Kerr, Honourable Members of the Sixth Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen - Good afternoon.

This meeting, the first of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, is convened pursuant to the following notice which appeared in the Norfolk Island Government Gazette dated 15 May 1992:

"I, Alan Gardner Kerr, Administrator of Norfolk Island, under subsection 40(2) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, do by this notice convene a meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, being the first meeting of the Sixth Assembly, to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers Kingston on Wednesday 20 May 1992 at 3.00 pm. Dated this 14th day of May 1992 and signed A G Kerr Administrator."

I now invite all present to be upstanding whilst the Rev Watts reads Prayers

Prayer

REVEREND WATTS:

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

Return to Writ

CLERK: Thank you Reverend Watts. I have received a Return to the Writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on the 13th day of May 1992.

By the endorsement on the writ it is certified that the following Members have been elected:

John Terence Brown
David Ernest Buffett
Geoffrey James Bennett
William Winton Sanders
Michael William King
Lester Reid Semple
Ernest Christian
Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson
Brian George Bates

I lay the Return on the Table of the House.

Swearing in of Members

CLERK: The Deputy Clerk will now approach each Member in turn so that they may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation of allegiance and the oath or affirmation of office

DEPUTY CLERK: John Terence Brown please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BROWN: I, John Terence Brown, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, John Terence Brown, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: David Ernest Buffett please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BUFFETT: I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Brian George Bates please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BATES: I, Brian George Bates, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, Brian George Bates, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Lester Reid Semple please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SEMPLE: I, Lester Reid Semple, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, Lester Reid Semple, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Geoffrey James Bennett please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BENNETT: I, Geoffrey James Bennett, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, Geoffrey James Bennett, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson please read and subscribe the affirmation

MR ROBINSON: I, Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson, do solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. I, Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson, do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island

DEPUTY CLERK: Ernest Christian please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR CHRISTIAN: I, Ernest Christian, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, Ernest Christian, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: Michael William King please take the bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR KING: I, Michael William King, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, Michael William King, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

DEPUTY CLERK: William Winton Sanders please take the bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SANDERS: I, William Winton Sanders, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God. I, William Sanders, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God.

The Administrator signs the attestation form

CLERK: His Honour the Administrator signs the form attesting the Members describing the affirmation by Members of the Sixth Legislative Assembly (118)

Election of President

CLERK: Honourable Members the next business is the election of a President of the Assembly. Are there any nominations

please?

MR BUFFETT: I move that John Terence Brown be elected President and do now take the Chair as President

CLERK: Mr Brown do you accept nomination

MR BROWN: I accept nomination

CLERK: Thank you Mr Brown. Is there any further proposal? The time for proposals has now expired. I declare that John Terence Brown has been elected as President. Mr President would you now please take the Chair

MR ROBINSON: Mr Brown I would just like to offer my congratulations. It's good to see you there

Election of Deputy President

MR PRESIDENT: The next business is the election of the Deputy President. Are there any nominations?

MR BATES: Mr President I move that David Ernest Buffett be elected to be Deputy President

MR PRESIDENT: Mr Buffett do you accept nomination

MR BUFFETT: I accept nomination

MR PRESIDENT: Are there any further proposals? Time for proposals has expired Honourable Members and I declare that David Ernest Buffett has been elected Deputy President. For Honourable Members Mr Buffett I extend our congratulations to you

MR BUFFETT: Thank you

Administrator's Speech

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members I now invite His Honour the Administrator to address us

HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATOR: Mr President, Honourable Members, Madam Clerk, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. My wife Judy and I are greatly honoured and pleased to be with you on this historic occasion, the first meeting of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. We congratulate you, Mr President, and Honourable Members on your election.

The Minister for the Arts and Territories, the Honourable Wendy Fatin MP, has asked me to convey to you her congratulations on your election to the Sixth Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and to pass on to you her best wishes for a successful term of office.

The Minister is looking forward to meeting you when she visits the Island in June and to joining with you in celebrating "Bounty Day". She would also welcome the opportunity to discuss with you at that time, your plans and priorities for the next three years.

The Minister has asked me to say how pleased she was that a mutually satisfactory solution could be found to resolve the issue of voting in future Federal elections. She hopes that the Sixth Assembly will maintain the good relationship which the Commonwealth has enjoyed with previous Assemblies, and that the co-operation which characterised the recent negotiations between the two Governments will continue into the future.

The Secretary of the Department of the Arts, Sport the Environment and Territories, Mr Tony Blunn, has also asked me to extend to you his congratulations on your election and his best wishes for your work as Assembly members.

Mr President and Honourable Members, having completed well over a decade of government, the institution of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly

is a formidable one with an enviable legislative record. The people of Norfolk Island, through their representatives in the Assembly, have shaped the Island and its institutions and placed their stamp on its future. This signifies the Norfolk Island philosophy of self-help and is the essence of democracy.

Much was done by the Fifth Assembly - in difficult economic times. In the Adjournment debate on its last day of sitting, the then President and Honourable Members spoke with understandable pride of its record of achievements.

The commencement of Years 11 and 12 at the Norfolk Island Public School, the Healthcare and the Workers' Compensation Schemes, the Water Assurance Scheme, the control of your airport, and the replacement of the Norfolk Island telephone system were among those mentioned. The Commonwealth was pleased to be able to contribute to some of those achievements. I look forward to playing my part in encouraging further support from the Commonwealth in major schemes of this nature. The Fifth Assembly also approved the transfer of a further nineteen heads of power to Norfolk Island control.

More is to be done, however. The Sixth Assembly will deal with the transfer of a wide range of additional powers, including Courts, Fishing, Environment Protection and Consumer Affairs, among others.

Mr President and Honourable Members, yours is a considerable task. You will have before you not only those matters I have just mentioned, but a proposed budget for 1992/1993 and substantial reports on a Review of the Public Service, a Port Facility, the Immigration Review, the Financial Institution Levy Report, the Forestry Working Plan and the Tourism Report. There is also in hand a comprehensive review of Crown Land Policy and the prospect of a review of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Memorandum of Understanding.

As members of the Sixth Assembly you not only inherit the work of your predecessors but you will add, as the elected representatives of the people, your contribution towards full internal self-government for Norfolk Island.

The policy of the Commonwealth Government towards Norfolk Island, as expressed in the instructions given Administrators by the Federal Minister for Territories, indicates that:

"The principal purpose of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 is to give the people of Norfolk Island the greatest practicable degree of internal self-government."

The instruction goes on to say that:

"The successful implementation of this policy demands the utmost effort on the part of both the Administrator and the elected representatives of the people of Norfolk Island to maintain a full measure of co-operation and to reach a consensus of view on the many important matters of policy that concern both Norfolk Island and Australia a whole."

Mr President and Honourable Members, in our respective roles we are servants of the public of Norfolk Island and we have a deep responsibility to account for and discharge that service.

As the Commonwealth's representative, I will, for my part, offer and take every opportunity to further relationships between the Commonwealth and the Norfolk Island Governments, with the Assembly as a whole and with the you Mr President and Executive members in particular, in the betterment of Norfolk Island.

I conclude by voicing my and my wife's best wishes for a successful Sixth Assembly. Thank you.

Mr President's Reply

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Your Honour. Your Honour, on behalf of all of the Members of this House I welcome you and Mrs Kerr today, which

is the first occasion on which you have joined us in our Chambers, and I thank you for addressing us so warmly.

I thank you also for the messages which you have conveyed to us from the Minister for the Arts and Territories and from Mr Blunn. We will look forward to meeting with the Minister when she visits Norfolk Island in a few weeks time to attend our Bounty Day celebrations.

I acknowledge with thanks your reference to the enviable record of the Legislative Assembly since the commencement of Self Government in 1979, and your reference to some of the achievements of the Fifth Assembly.

You have also referred to some of the challenges which will face this Sixth Assembly, and to our respective roles as servants of the public of Norfolk Island. I am sure that all Members appreciate your assurance that you will take every opportunity to further relationships between the Commonwealth and all of us here in Norfolk Island.

Your Honour, we all look forward to a happy and productive association with you and your Office and we express our hope that you and Mrs Kerr will enjoy your time as part of our community. Thank you.

Suspension of Sitting

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members I now propose to suspend the House for two minutes. I'd ask that Members and guests all join me in standing while His Honour and Mrs Kerr, the Official Secretary and the Reverend Watts leave the Chamber. Would you please stand in your place so that we can start again soon.

Resumption of Sitting

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members the House has now resumed its sitting.

Executive Offices

MR PRESIDENT: The next item of business is to determine the number of executive offices and their respective designations

MR BUFFETT: Mr President I move that pursuant to section 12 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 -
firstly all previous resolutions under that section be revoked;
secondly there be four executives offices; and
thirdly these offices have the following designations -
. Minister for Community Services
. Minister for Finance
. Minister for Health and Education, and
. Minister for Immigration and Tourism

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Buffett. Is there any debate Honourable Members? There being no further debate I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

Appointments to Executive Offices

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members we move onto the next item of business, which is the proposing of members to fill each executive office. I call for nominations for the position of Minister for Community Services

MR SEMPLE: I move that Michael William King be chosen to be the Minister for Community Services and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Semple. Is there any debate Honourable Members? No? Then I will put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR PRESIDENT: We move now to nominations for the position of Minister for Finance

MR CHRISTIAN: Mr President I move that Geoffrey James Bennett be chosen to be Minister for Finance and the Administrator be advised accordingly

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Christian. Is there any debate Honourable Members? There being no further debate I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR BATES ABSTAINED

MR PRESIDENT: We move now to the position of Minister for Health and Education

MR SANDERS: I move that John Terence Brown be chosen to be Minister for Health and Education and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Sanders. Is there any debate Honourable Members. I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR BATES ABSTAINED

MR PRESIDENT: I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Immigration and Tourism

MR ROBINSON: I move that William Winton Sanders be chosen to be Minister for Immigration and Tourism and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Robinson. Is there any debate? There being no further debate I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members at this stage I table the Administrative Arrangements by which the Executive Government is to be handled during the term of this Assembly

MR BENNETT: Mr President I move that this Legislative Assembly notes the Administrative Arrangements tabled by yourself Mr President

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr President. Is there any debate? I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

Fixing of the Next Sitting Day

MR PRESIDENT: We now move to the Fixing of the next sitting day

MR BENNETT: Mr President I move that this House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 10 June 1992 at 10.00 am

MR PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr Bennett. The question is that the motion be agreed to. Is there any debate? There being no further debate I put the question that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 10 June 1992 at 10.00 am

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

Adjournment

MR PRESIDENT: We move now to the adjournment

MR KING: Mr President I move that the House do now adjourn

MR PRESIDENT: Honourable Members the question is that the House do now adjourn and I put that question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR PRESIDENT: This House stands adjourned until Wednesday 10 June 1992 at 10.00 am

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