

**Prayer**

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

Thank you Honourable Members. This is a Sitting that is especially convened, not in our usual time frame of things but has been properly convened so that we might meet this afternoon

**Leave of Absence**

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr President. I seek leave for Mr Mike King

MR PRESIDENT Is leave granted? Leave is granted thank you

**DISPENSATION OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE HOUSE**

MR CHRISTIAN Mr President I seek leave to move a motion in the terms appearing on the Programme concerning dispensation of business before this House

MR PRESIDENT Is leave granted? Leave is granted Mr Christian thank you

MR CHRISTIAN Mr President I also move that consideration of the business before the House be dispensed with other than the matter of determining the specific question to be addressed at referendum to ascertain the opinion of the electors in respect of the establishment of a quarantine station on Norfolk Island

MR PRESIDENT Thank you Mr Christian. Is there any discussion on that motion before I put the motion to the House? The question is that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, Standing Orders are put aside so that we may continue on this one question

**REFERENDUM - DETERMINATION OF QUESTION**

MR CHRISTIAN Mr President I seek leave to move a motion which determines the specific question to be addressed at referendum on the matter of the establishment of a quarantine station for alpacas

MR PRESIDENT Thank you. Mr Christian

MR CHRISTIAN Mr President I move that the following question be put to the electors of Norfolk Island, and the question is - Are you in favour of a quarantine facility for alpacas being established in Norfolk Island, subject to conditions reflected in the resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 15th March 1995? Thank you Mr President. This clears the way forward Mr President to seek the wishes of the people of Norfolk Island in regard to the establishment of a quarantine facility here to process alpacas. Mr President, I must stress at this time that the facility is dedicated to alpacas and it is not intended to consider any other exotic animals or variations of exotic animals to be processed through this station without coming

back before the Assembly for further assessment before any licence to vary to alpaca station is granted and I support the motion

MR PRESIDENT Thank you. Debate Honourable Members. Any participation in debate?

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr President. Mr President I support the motion and I think that the question is well worded in that it shows that the question before the people is not whether yes or no we should have a quarantine facility but whether we should have one subject to strict controllable conditions, thank you Mr President

MR BENNETT Mr President I support the concept of a referendum as I outlined on Wednesday. My first choice of a question would have been slightly simpler one, for example the first part of the one we are about to debate today simple, are you in favour of a quarantine facility for alpacas being established in Norfolk Island.

However, we've had a fair discussion about it and I bow to numbers of course. The amended motion taking that first sentence and joining it on with the second one to come up with the motion before us today, I have one concern about it and it is simply that the motion refers to conditions reflected in the resolutions of the Legislative Assembly, it doesn't talk about those things that we determine by that resolution. It will be interesting, I haven't got a dictionary to define reflection but it probably could be said as more or less about what was determined and if you have a look at some of the conditions that form part of the motion on Wednesday, we are talking about the financial benefits, the performance standards, the indemnification process, the licencing arrangement, the prescribed performance standards again and about the expenses incurred by the Administration in the establishment of the adequacy of the operation of the facility. It is possible that people may well seize on this and say, okay, the resolution doesn't really say in specific terms what these conditions are. If it's a little bit lose it will clearly, I think, damage the case for the proponents, however that's the way the numbers run and I'll certainly because I favour the question being determined by referendum, I favour the referendum process. It's a matter that will impact on the lives of everyone who lives here and future generations and I believe the democratic process gives us a say, or everyone a say by referendum is one I really have a great deal of admiration for. I will support the motion

MR BATES Thank you Mr President. I disagree that the question should simply be "Are you in favour of a quarantine facility for alpacas being established on Norfolk Island" because I believe that is very wide open. This question endeavours to indicate to the people that it is the Government's intention to obtain some real benefits for the Island along the lines of the resolution and I think this narrows the situation rather than leaving it wide open which the first part of the question really does

MR PRESIDENT Further debate Honourable Members

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON I certainly support this motion because it gives the opportunity to the voters on Norfolk Island to look at the principles set out in the debate on this question on the 15th March and that debate made clear that the government certainly would not be interested in pursuing this question unless (a) all possible aspects that might be dangerous are controlled in every way possible and (b) that there are real benefits for the people of Norfolk Island and that there are systems of control established which can be oversited by the Norfolk Island Government and which can ensure that this facility is run properly with adequate care and for the benefit of the people of Norfolk Island as well as for the benefit of the people who are actually running the facility. I think we need to tie

everything down as much as possible but yet leave us room to negotiate because unfortunately we are not at the point where we have completed our negotiations hence I favour the present format of the question

MR ADAMS                    Thank you Mr President. I favour the wording of the question. I don't think it is at all ambiguous and I certainly don't believe that it allows in any way a backing away from standards or even indicates the Assembly in any manner will in the future will tend to back away from the strictness of the regime of health etc involved in the motion. My only concern at this stage Mr President is actually the lack of information that's presently available to the public and again Mr President I call on the Minister to bring forward as much information as he can to put forward generally so that at the required date people are able to make an informed decision whether it be a no or a yes, at least they have available to them the same information that we've had at Kingston here, thank you. I support the motion

MRS SAMPSON                Thank you Mr President, the other speakers have probably said it all for me. I support the motion, I have no problem with the word "reflected". The conditions that were discussed on Wednesday were not set in concrete, we will certainly try to get them set in concrete but we have to have a starting point and the word "reflected" does allow us a little bit of manouvring room and for that reason the question as put is quite satisfactory to me

MR PRESIDENT              Thank you Mrs Sampson. Any further contributions around the table Honourable Members. No. Then we seem to have exhausted debate there. Did you wish to have some final words Mr Christian

MR CHRISTIAN              No thanks Mr President

MR PRESIDENT              Okay then. Thank you for that Honourable Members. I will put the question. The question is that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, that motion is agreed to and therefore Honourable Members the question for the referendum that we determined on Wednesday, should be had, is now quite clear to us.

#### **STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT**

Let me just mention this in response to all of that. I will sign an instrument forthwith which calls a referendum on that specific question. There is an expectation that there will be gazette notices that will appear next week to formally convey that detail to the Norfolk Island community in writing and on that basis we would have polling day for a referendum on the 3 May 1995, that would be the expected date. There would be a time to send out both yes and no cases on the 12th April and the roll for this referendum is likely to close on the 5th April which really means that between now and polling day there is a period of approximately seven weeks. Those dates may just be useful for you to know the progression of things and appropriate documents will appear publicly to give substance to all of that, thank you Honourable Members

#### **CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT DAY OF SITTING**

Could we fix the next sitting day which would really be a confirmation of the date that we earlier fixed when we met last Wednesday

MR BENNETT            Thank you Mr President, I move that this House confirms its decision of 15 March 1995 to adjourn on rising until Wednesday the 12th April 1995 at 10.00 am

MR PRESIDENT        Thank you Honourable Members, I will put that question forthwith

QUESTION PUT

QUESTION AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, we will come together again on that date

**ADJOURNMENT DEBATE**

Adjournment debate, Mrs Cuthbertson

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON    Mr President I move that the House do now adjourn

MR PRESIDENT        Thank you. The question is that the House do now adjourn. Are there any final comments before we actually do that? I put the question Honourable Members, the question is that the House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. This House does stand adjourned until Wednesday the 12th April 1995 at 10.00 o'clock in the morning.

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