

**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, Amen

Honourable Members at the commencement of this Sitting a new Member is introduced into this Assembly consequent on the by-election held on the 16th of August to fill a casual vacancy in the Assembly. I table a copy of the Administrator's authorisation to the Speaker of this Assembly under section 32 of the Norfolk Island Act of 1979 to permit oaths or affirmations to be made before me. I will ask the Clerk to read and table the return to the writ for the by-election which will specify the successful candidate for entry into this Assembly.

CLERK Mr Speaker, I have received a return to the writ for the by-election of the Legislative Assembly held on 16 August 1995. By the endorsement on the writ that it is certified that George Charles Smith has been elected. I lay the return on the table.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members I ask that all stand in the House while the oaths are taken by George Charles Smith.

CLERK Mr Smith, can you take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths.

MR SMITH: I George Charles Smith 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 George Charles Smith do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island: So help me God!

MR SPEAKER Thank you Honourable Members. Would you all be seated thank you. Mr Smith congratulations and welcome again to this Chamber. Honourable Members will know that Mr Smith is a former Member both as a Member and in executive office and we are delighted that he is amongst us again. Welcome Mr Smith. I'll just sign the appropriate documents consequent upon the swearing in. Mrs Cuthbertson.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I seek leave for the Honourable Mr Michael King who is away because his father is not well.

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Cuthbertson. Is leave granted. Leave is granted.

**Condolences**

Honourable Members I ask if there are any condolences this morning? No condolences

**Petitions**

MR SPEAKER Are there any Petitions?

**Notices**

MR SPEAKER Any Notices?

**Questions without Notice**

MR SPEAKER Are there any Questions without Notice?

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Buffett, you'd know I'd be there. First questions are to Mr Christian and what progress has been made with the proposed importation of fruit.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The Health and Quarantine Officer is at this time doing some work on reviving a motion that was brought before the House I think approximately two years ago. That motion proposed the importation, I think, of apples and pears from selected disease free areas in New Zealand and Australia from memory and the Health and Quarantine Officer is going through that process again of ascertaining whether the areas that were disease free at that time are still disease free at this time. Hopefully at the next meeting of this House I will be able to bring forward a motion.

MRS SAMPSON Another one for Mr Christian. Where does the Minister propose to locate the fumigating equipment that was removed from the Bean Shed.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The fumigation equipment that was removed from the Bean Shed, as I understand it, has been relocated or will be relocated to old Radio Shack in Airport Grounds.

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. My first question is to Mr Christian too as a responsibility for Roads. Recently MLAs discussed the possibility of a plan to seal all unsealed public roads and that have residences on them. This to be over a period of at least three years. Could the Minister inform the House of any progress that has been made in that area.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The Works Superintendent as I think he is now called is preparing a plan at this very time for me but in regards to sealing all remaining unsealed roads over a period as Mr Bates has said of approximately three years but I am pleased to be able to advise the House, Mr Speaker, that the sealing of the unsealed portion of Stockyard Road has already commenced.

MR BATES A question for Mrs Lozzi-Cuthbertson responsible for legal issues. Does the Minister propose to table guidelines in connection with the Legal Aid Act and if so does she intend to explain them so that those needing to refer to them can understand them.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes I do intend to table the guidelines later this morning. I thought the guidelines were reasonably clear. We worked very hard on them and I do understand that perhaps some people may have difficulty in understanding how the income and asset test works. But at the moment the brochure for applicants is being drafted. The application forms are almost ready and the brochure certainly it will set out things in a much simpler format than the necessity somewhat legalistic tone of the guidelines does. So the explanation is coming in a brochure rather than today on the air.

MR SPEAKER Further questions without notice? Mrs Anderson.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a question for Mr Adams as Minister for Shipping. In view of the proposed boycott and bans on French products and services in light of resumption of nuclear testing on the Muroroa Atoll, can the Minister advise whether the service provided by the French registered motor vessel Capitaine Wallis which services the Island will be adversely affected.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank a Member for the question. Mr Speaker, the information given to me in recent times from the Sofrana Agent on Norfolk indicates that we can expect no hiccups in the program for the Capitaine Wallis in regards to Norfolk Island. I understand they have received information from the Waterside Unions or Dockside Unions to the effect of that they will impose no ban etc in the near future. So we should have no concerns regarding scheduling of the Capitaine Wallis. Thank you.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a question for Mrs Lozzi-Cuthbertson as acting Minister for Postal Services. Can you please advise what the current backlog of mail to the Island is.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker and Mrs Anderson. I am advised by the Postmistress that at the moment there is no backlog of mail. On the other hand personally I do know I am awaiting for parcels, there are part of a 7 parcel consignment that part of which was on the Capitaine Wallis. So somewhere along the line there are parcels of mine although there is not supposed to be any backlog.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mrs Cuthbertson. I have another question, this time for Mr Christian as Minister for the Environment. A number of local residents have expressed an interest in membership of the Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee. Can the Minister please advise how such people might become members of this Committee.

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker that is a difficult one to answer of the top of my head but I think from memory that the members of the Park Committee are appointed on a three yearly basis and only the other day I sought advice from the Secretary to Government as to the process of appointment, terms of appointment and the process by which public interest could be sought and at this stage I am still awaiting that response but it's not too far off.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm not too sure which Executive this question needs to go to but I hope that one of the three can answer the question. Bearing in mind that 737 and BAC 146 air services are about to commence from Australia later in the year will the Minister who has responsibility for the Airport Terminal reconstruction please advise when work will start on this project, how much has it cost so far and how much will it cost in the end.

MR SPEAKER This is a matter in Mr King's portfolio and Mrs Cuthbertson is handling that in his absence. Mrs Cuthbertson.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Smith. I really am afraid that I cannot answer that question on behalf of Mr King. I know that he has been looking very closely at the plans and the work that has been done on this issue by Mr Bennett, but he is rethinking some of the plans because they really appear to be far too expensive but if you would like to put that question on notice I'm sure Mr King will answer it next meeting.

MR SPEAKER Further questions without notice. Mrs Sampson.

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. This one to Mrs Cuthbertson. Noting that the Public Service Reform was high on the agenda at the commencement of this Assembly what steps have been taken to achieve this?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker and Mrs Sampson. The Minister who had responsibility for the Public Service until the last meeting, Mr King and the CAO have had extensive and fairly detailed discussions on how the Public Service should be restructured, their redrafting of the Public Service Ordinance and so on.



Anderson.

MRS ANDERSON                    Thank you Mr Speaker. A question for Mr Christian following on from the previous question. The models of the proposed or the suggested beautification of Burnt Pine have now been on display in the Post Office for a number of weeks. Can the Minister advise what public comment he has received following that.

MR CHRISTIAN                    Mr Speaker I have received no adverse public comment in respect of the models displayed in the Post Office and in fact I have received representation from only one person in the community who has said for goodness sake lets get on with it and not lose the initiative and that's where the matter stays at the moment.

MR SPEAKER                    Further questions without notice. Mrs Sampson.

MRS SAMPSON                    Thank you Mr Speaker. This one to Mr Adams and I acknowledge that he has only had this one in his portfolio for a month or so. As it is now four months since the House agreed to a motion on waste minimisation, could you please inform this House as to the progress being made on the points that constitute the motion and very briefly they were public awareness and education, incinerator, disposal of car batteries, glass crushing and tyre shredding, dangerous chemicals and hazardous wastes disposal.

MR ADAMS                        Thank you Mr Speaker. My knowledge of the motion that Helen speaks of includes those things but I understand Mr Speaker, that in the budget proposal there was an amount of 100,000, a bid actually of 100,000 put in for a batch incinerator for the                    . That later was changed to a proposal for \$70,000 to undertake a process of inquiry into costs and availability and suitability of a batch incinerator. The result of that one has come back and although this price needs updating, it appears that a 4 x 2 feet batch incinerator, the price of that, we are looking somewhere in the area of possibly \$550 to \$600,000. Now that is a substantial amount of money. I'm not sure, Mr Speaker, whether that was something we originally, an amount that we originally prepared to take on board. Now as for the other things that were included in the motion, Mr Speaker, I have to be honest and say if we are going to add a glass crusher to that price of say 600,000 in round figures that may be another 50 to 60,000 if we are going to add a tyre shredder to it. I suggest if we want to proceed on that given those facts and those figures I think we will have to doing some serious budget wielding of the knife somewhere along the line. But as for the public education program I'm at the moment working on a program of exactly that. The people at the Tip tell me, Mr Speaker, that one of the major problems regarding the Tip or one of the major ways of improving the situation there is public sorting of the rubbish that appears at the Tip and that will probably be one of the major things that will be involved in the public education process. There are a number of interested persons in the community who have put together a range of suggestions and some of these, or most of these will be included in the forthcoming review. So as best I can that's the answer to that one. Thank you

MRS SAMPSON                    Just a supplementary one on that. Could Mr Adams possibly tell us what's happened to the disposal of the used car batteries because that, I think, has been around for quite a few years now.

MR ADAMS                        Thank you Mr Speaker. As I understand at the moment the car batteries are no longer pushed over the chute at Headstone. They are now being collected in an area within Administration and the disposal of these will be looked into in the future. The idea at the moment, Mr Speaker, is they actually be shipped out of here and they be sold to recyclists rather than being put in a position where the lead content in them in a position to be put back into the food

chain. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MRS SAMPSON Summing up on waste minimisation, is Mr Adams aware of the fast deterioration of the burning cage at Headstone due to being winter conditions where you have high seas and a very heavy salt content and what is being done about it.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm being drowned in rubbish today. I have inspected the burning facility, Mr Speaker, within the last two weeks and I've investigated a number of ways of actually improving this facility or renewing it perhaps and I've since found out that I do not have the facility or the resources to actually undertake such a function. I believe, Mr Speaker, that there is money in the Roads budget for updating the burning cage and perhaps Mr Christian as Minister for Works might be in a better position to indicate what's in the pipeline regarding the renewal of that facility. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MRS SAMPSON Mr Speaker, please may I redirect that question to Mr Christian.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Just briefly there is a an amount of money allocated each year to the Works area for maintenance to the burning cages at Headstone and I myself know that they are in a bad state of disrepair but at the moment I cannot advise Mrs Sampson as to when the remedial work will take place. But I can certainly give it some priority.

MRS SAMPSON Thank you. I'm sorry for Mr Adams but there is more on rubbish. Have you had any discussions with the Fishing Club re the proposal of creating an artificial reef using car bodies and if so are there any objections by any particular bodies to this proposal.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and Helen. I have not directly had any discussions with the Fishing Club, Mr Speaker, but I understand from reading the Minutes of the recent meeting with ANCA there was a proposal from the Fishing Club itself that car bodies and perhaps a number of other items be used in the creation of artificial reefs and therefore habitats in the surrounding waters. The only, perhaps not drawback requirement that's been attached to that is from the ANCA Conservator Mr Speaker suggesting that a deep sea dumping permit will be required if this action is to be taken. Thank you.

MRS SAMPSON And one last one for Mr Adams. About four weeks ago a member of the public caught a fish at Headstone which appeared to have lesions indicating that it may have been diseased. This fish was to be sent away for analysis. Has this been done and if so have any results come back.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Helen for the question. Mr Speaker, my knowledge of the fish episode is that I have had a meeting with the relevant section of the Administration who has undertaken to establish a proper facility to undergo research on this fish would appear to have some sought of lesion on it. Once the place has been identified and located, the fish will be sent there for analysis and any results will be brought back to the House and I'll let Helen know in due course.

MR SPEAKER Any further questions without notice? We have concluded questions without notice Honourable Members, thank you.

### **Presentation of Papers**

Are there any Papers to present this morning?  
Presentation of Papers, Mrs Cuthbertson.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I table the new chart showing Members of the Legislative Assembly and Ministers with executive responsibilities.

The administrative arrangements are the same as those agreed to on the 10th July 1995 but the name of our new colleague, Mr Smith, has been added.

On behalf of Mr King I table the statistics for inbound passengers for July 1995. And again on behalf of Mr King I table the Revenue Fund Monthly Financial Indicators.

And finally I table the guidelines pursuant to paragraph 14 1(a) and 1(b) of the Legal Aid Act 1995.

MR SPEAKER Any further Papers Honourable members. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I table the report of the Employment Conciliation Board and the Tribunal, Mr Speaker, as required under section 75 and 89 of the Employment Act and I move that the papers be noted.

MR SPEAKER The question is that those Papers be noted. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. There are two reports there from the various bodies concerned with this thing. Just a few short words about them. There was a change in the Chairmanship of the Conciliation Board which results, Mr Speaker, in two smaller ones constituting the overall Employment Conciliation Board report of which there were six disputes from the period of time where Mr John Robinson was the Chairman and a smaller number in recent times under the Chairmanship of Mrs Brenda Reed. There were three disputes before conciliation. Also with that, Mr Speaker, is the Employment Tribunal report of 94/95 which I am required to table. That is quite a lengthy one Mr Speaker, but if any Members wish to read it, it's on the table. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Any further participation on the debate that the reports be noted. The question is that those Papers be noted.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you, those Papers are noted. Any further Papers. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I table at this time and Explanatory Memorandum of the Employment Amendment No. 2 Bill of 95 and I move that it be noted.

MR SPEAKER The question is that that Paper be noted. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I lay on the table of the House and exposure draft of the Employment Amendment No. 2 Bill of 95. This Bill has come about as a result of a comprehensive and broad ranging review of the current Employment Act 1988 undertaken by a Legislative Assembly Working Group. Because many of the issues in this Bill will be of interest to employers, employees and other members of the Norfolk Island community, I have not introduced this Bill at this time Mr Speaker, but seek merely to table it. The Bill proposes amendments to the Employment Act in the areas of the application of the Act to apprentices, employment contracts made with persons not currently in Norfolk Island, clarification in relation to payment for public holidays, the employment of young persons, harsh, unjust and unreasonable termination of employment, occupational health and safety, compulsory insurance and compensations for incapacity as well as

the proceedings of the Employment Tribunal. Mr Speaker, this list which I have just read will indicate the scope of this Bill. I urge at this time interested people to purchase a copy from the Legal Unit of the Administration and if they have any comments on the amendments please contact me in the first instance. I will take these comments into account, Mr Speaker, when the draft Bill is finalised and introduced, I hope in the October meeting of the Assembly. I thank the House Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question before us is that that paper be noted. Any participation?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to commend Mr Adams for bringing this bill before the House and for exposing it for comment by interested parties, and a great many people will be interested in what is proposed by way of amendments to the Employment Act. It has been alot of work in trying to get the bill to this point and I am sure there may be a need to make minor adjustments still but hopefully at the end of this process we will have an Employment Bill which will ensure fair working conditions for all the people of Norfolk Island

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further participation? The question is that that paper be noted

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you, that paper is noted also. Are there any further Papers this morning? No further Papers

#### **Statements**

Are there any Statements? No Statements this morning? No Regulations to be tabled? Thank you

#### **Messages from the Office of the Administrator**

MR SPEAKER I move on to messages from the Office of the Administrator. I have received the following message from the Office of the Administrator. Message No. 84. On the 18 July 1995 pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 His Excellency the Governor-General declared his assent to the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995, which was Act No 13 of 1995, dated the 24th of July 1995, Alan Kerr, Administrator

#### **Reports from Standing and Select Committees**

Reports from Select and Standing Committees. Mrs Anderson

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to report on the Select Committee into Electoral and Constitutional Matters. This Report is nearing finalisation. I am confident that it will be ready to be presented to the House at the next meeting. I would however, foreshadow that one of the Members of the Sub-Committee, Mr Adams, will be away from the Island so therefore if he hasn't had time to fully approve of the final Report it will have to be delayed but at this point in time I am confident that it will be ready

MR SPEAKER Thank you. That completes the preliminaries to Notices Honourable Members, so we commence Notices this morning and move to No. 1

#### **NOTICES**

**NO 1 - MUSEUM TRUST ACT 1987 - APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES**

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that for the purposes of subsection 5(1) of the Museum Trust Act 1987, this House resolves that - Nancy Jocelyn Smith; Thomas Leslie Lloyd; Leslie Quick Brown; Margaret Lesley Christian; Margaret Rosemary Jowett; Ronald Coane Nobbs; and Neil Alexander Tavener, be appointed as trustees under the Act for the period from 25 August 1995 to 24 August 1996. Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend the motion to the HOUSE. The Museum Trust is working extremely well under the chairmanship of Nancy Smith and I've heard excellent reports about Mr Ron Nobbs' ability as secretary and Mr Speaker I take pleasure in announcing to the House today that the Museum's area has been successful in securing the helm wheel or steering wheel whatever, from the "Resolution" which Members and listeners will know was built here in Norfolk Island in Emily Bay and unfortunately sank in Vila Harbour some years ago

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. Participation in this debate? There being no further contributions Honourable Members I put the question that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, the motion is agreed thank you

**No 2 - PUBLIC SERVICE ORDINANCE 1979 - RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

And Mrs Cuthbertson, you have the call

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House, for the purposes of subsection 13A(1) of the Public Service Ordinance 1979, recommends to the Administrator that Charisse Clarke be appointed to be a member of the Public Service Board for the period 1st September 1995 to 31st August 1997. Thank you Mr Speaker, Mrs Clarke has been a resident in Norfolk Island now for many many years, involved in commerce and a great many other activities besides. Because of her position as a real estate agent she had an opportunity to be involved with a wide range of people, both people who are trying to sell their property and people who are interested in coming to the Island. She is in a unique position to understand so much of what is going on in the Island and I think her contribution to the Public Service Board should be extremely valuable and I commend her nomination to the House

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate Honourable Members

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm of two minds about the appointment of Miss Charisse Fischer, or Clarke sorry, to the Public Service Board. Not because I have anything against Charisse Clarke Mr Speaker, but because I have some doubts as to the effectiveness in the way in which the Public Service Board has been working of late. I think Mr Speaker, before I could support this motion, I would need some indication from Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson, as to a time frame for a review of the role that the Board plays in appointing Members to the Public Service and indeed, creating positions. I understand of late Mr Speaker, there have been difficulties encountered by the CAO basically along the lines that he is appointed by the Assembly to head up the Public Service but is in fact not able to effectively administer the Public Service because of problems with the Public Service Ordinance itself and the Board forms part of that. Mr Speaker I would be happy to hear some words from Mrs Cuthbertson

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. The concerns Mr Christian has

expressed are not new to me. They have been voiced by the CAO and by other Members of this House and I must say I share some of those concerns. I think the review of the Public Service Ordinance is long overdue and within that review the restructuring of responsibilities of various bodies within the Public Service, including the Public Service Board. Whether at the end of that Review the responsibilities or indeed the existence of the Public Service Board will be the same is certainly something that is wide open at this moment, but as I indicated earlier to a question put by Mrs Sampson, I think it is important that we involve whoever is appointed to the position of CAO in the next few weeks in looking at this restructuring. It would not be particularly wise I believe for us to move before this appointment and before this new person, of whom we expect a great deal has an opportunity to look around and make in input into the changes we have in mind. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I wonder if Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson is able to advise the House whether the Board is able to sit at the moment without Mrs Clarke as a Member

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker, yes of course the Board can sit one member short but unfortunately a great many of the decisions of the Board have been deadlocked because the votes go 2/2 and I think we do need the proper number of people on this Board to get decisions through and to get work done

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker, I also share Mr Christian's concerns about the Public Service Board. I would like to see the Review of the Public Service Board move as speedily as possible. I can remember that it was supposed to have been started way back in the days of the Fourth Assembly so it has been around for many years now. It seems to end up in somebody's bottom drawer and if there is anything which I feel this Assembly can do to expedite the Review I think we should help, thank you

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I too share the concerns for the lack of alacrity of the Review of the Public Service Ordinance, but I don't think that that is any reason for opposing the appointment of Mrs Charisse Clarke. I believe she will be an excellent Member of the Public Service Board and I do support the motion thank you

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker, I would just like to emphasise the importance of breaking some of the deadlocks that have developed in the decision making process. For the Review of the Public Service Ordinance to be completed will take, let's face it, at least three or four months, then for the draft to be exposed, to be discussed, to be reviewed, will also take an extra couple of months, so we are looking, with the Christmas period in between to six months at the earliest before we can complete this process. All I can promise you is that I will not let it sit in my bottom drawer or anybody else's bottom drawer. It will be done and it will given priority but in the meantime I think it is essential that we have a Public Service Board that functions, it can make decisions and things can be progressed. So I commend this appointment to the House and I hope it will be supported

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I listened with interest to the comments by Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson that some decisions of the Board have been deadlocked and I would wish that Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson could assure this House that she is not attempting to influence the deliberations of the Board to bring about her personal desires by way of the appointment of this person to the Board

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker, I find that suggestion not only offensive to me but to Mrs Clarke. Mrs Clarke is a competent, self motivated person with great integrity. To suggest that in some way she could be an influence

for somebody else is unfair and uncalled for and I hope that that's not what Mr Christian was suggesting

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I can assure Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson that I in no way am attempting to denigrate Charisse Clarke, she is a very capable person but what I do emphasise Mr Speaker is that there are problems with the function of the Public Service Board in relation to the Public Service Ordinance, and if appointing an additional member to that Board to fill a vacant position, prolongs the undesirable situation then I don't think that we should be appointing a Member. We should be taking steps in consultation with the new CAO to work things out rather rapidly because I'm quite concerned Mr Speaker that if we go down the road today and make this appointment, then what Mrs Sampson has referred to about having it put in a bottom drawer may very well happen again

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Mr Speaker I really find some of the suggestions that Mr Christian is putting forward, unbelievable and insulting. No question of it, insulting. I've given my undertaking that it will not be put in somebody's bottom drawer. I have worked efficiently, in fact I've worked a lot more dependably and efficiently than Mr Christian, so please keep that in mind. If you are going to start insulting me you will find some retribution. Now, everything I've undertaken and given an undertaking to this House has been done. It has been done fast and it has not been delayed. I have not delayed any matter more than is absolutely necessary because of other people and other circumstances. Now, I think the Public Service Board should have its full complement in order that it will operate efficiently and not be deadlocked. I am making a considered and sensible recommendation to this House for an appointment to enable that Board, within the Public Service Ordinance as it exists, to operate, for the benefit of the Island. I have no intention to influence Mrs Clarke and I don't believe Mrs Clarke could be influenced anyway, so I do not see what Mr Christian is driving at. What is he trying to achieve by this motion

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Firstly the motion before the House is not mine. I am free to debate motions that are before the House. Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson seems to have taken objection to that and she thinks I am doubting her ability to work. Well that's not the case at all Mr Speaker. For lots of various reasons, things that should be done by Assembly's, present and past, for one reason or another, don't get done and that's not pointing the finger at any particular Minister, it's just the fact that these things happen so I would hope that Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson doesn't take exception to what I have said, and doesn't attempt to inhibit my right to freely debate things before the House

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON I do not wish in any way to restrict Mr Christian from debating but I do object that he impunes my motives and my behaviour and in fact I am concerned that this House has not taken steps to stop him from doing so. Anyway, I cannot say much more than I've already said. I think this motion is important and I commend it to the House

MR SPEAKER Further debate? No further debate. The question is that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAINMR CHRISTIAN

With Mr Christian's abstention the ayes have it, the motion is agreed thank you Honourable Members

**IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker I move that the Legislative Assembly, under section 6(4) of the Immigration Act 1980, recommends that the executive member appoint Monica Jean Anderson as a member of the Immigration Committee for the period 24th August 1995 to 23rd August 1997. There is one vacancy at present on the Immigration Committee, Mr Speaker. I believe Mrs Anderson is imminently qualified to bring another point of view onto that Committee, that is the point of view of the Chamber of Commerce which represents a significant body of employers on this Island and immigration has been linked to economic activity by all sorts of studies throughout the world and as our economy has been in the doldrums there for some considerable time I consider that through Mrs Anderson's appointment perhaps we might influence the economic aspect of the immigration policy in a positive way and I commend her appointment to the House

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I think there's a little bit of a tone in that debate that perhaps the present committee is not looking at these things and I think it is quite proper to point out that the committee can only work within this policy, the policy set by this House, within the legislation that it works by and that the Minister has the opportunity to override any recommendations made by the Committee. I just detected a little bit of a slight on the present members of the committee that they weren't aware of the problems in the economy and that they were not doing their job in terms of the guidelines which they have and I just want to make that point fairly clear that the Committee can only work within the rules that it has to work with

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I totally agree with everything that Mr Bates has said and I certainly had no intention of suggesting in any way that the Committee is not aware of the situation in the community and is not working within the guidelines and is not concerned about the economic downturn. In fact, in a few minutes when I talk about the quota I intended to mention a visit by the members of the present committee to express these very concerns to me shortly after my appointment to the responsibility of Immigration, so if that was in any way indicated I regret it. I think that the present committee is doing an excellent job and I know that they are concerned about these very issues and want to see what can be done to help the economy through the immigration policy. Thank you Mr Speaker

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend Mrs Cuthbertson for selecting Mrs Anderson. I have great faith in her ability to be a very effective member of the Immigration Committee. The only problem I have is for the period 24th August 1995 to the 23 August 1997. As Mrs Anderson is a member of this Assembly I would have assumed that the period would be 24th August 1995 for the term of the Seventh Assembly. If Mrs Anderson is re-elected in the next Assembly I think it should be looked at again from that point onwards but I'm just making a technical point on this particular point

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. To explain the technical points. The appointments have to be for two years under the Act but if Mrs Anderson ceases to be a member of the Assembly at the next election the appointment would lapse under the Act

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I do have a bit of concern not because of Mrs Anderson's ability, I'm sure that she will be fine for that position. I worry when we have members of the Assembly's on boards and in this case we'll have two, is that right? Now if the board consists of five members then I feel that certain decisions could be compromised because two Assembly Members on the board plus the Minister also having a say overall that if somebody wasn't happy with a decision by the board that they would straight away have three members of

the Assembly "against" them if you like. If the Minister could assure me, or anybody that might be in this situation that that sort of thing couldn't happen

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I can't assure anyone that the decision made by the Board and approved by the Minister may not be liked by the person who is affected, but under the Act the person then has the right to appeal, that decision to the Administrator and to Canberra which is fairly removed from this Assembly and the influence that members of this Assembly might have on that decision

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I would just like to take up that point. Having been on the immigration committee for some years now, that neither the previous Minister Mr King, nor Mrs Cuthbertson has ever tried to influence anything that I've ever said on the Immigration Committee and I just want to make that point that none of them have ever said to me, that I should do this or I should do that, and I think I would be very hurt if they did but I can't see that situation developing really because it certainly wouldn't happen in my case that I would simply be doing what the Minister wanted me to do because I was a representative on the Committee

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I think I should comment on that Brian. I wasn't suggesting it in that way, but I was suggesting that perhaps if somebody had made an immigration application and the board rejected it and the next avenue that that person would have would be to go to the Minister and if the Minister was influenced the other way around, by the two members of the Assembly that are on the board the odds rather stack up against the person being heard properly I feel

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. We've got onto this subject in a couple of areas today. I don't understand why a member of any board or committee who happens also to be a member of the Legislative Assembly should have any more sway or voice than any other person who is on that same committee. The fact that we have MLA tagged behind our names doesn't give us any more clout

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I still think that Mrs Cuthbertson has made a wise choice. Mrs Anderson is heavily involved in Chamber of Commerce business, she and her husband run a successful business in town. She is very interested in tourism and I think that the fact that Mr Bates is already on the immigration committee merely provides two people with a good knowledge of different fields of business. Mr Bates is a part time (if I don't insult him if I say) member of the public service, Mrs Anderson is a person who works with private enterprise down town and I think both people would be admirably suited for the Board and I can't see any conflict of interest in any way, thank you

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm not suggesting a conflict of interest. I agree that Mrs Anderson would probably make a fine member of the board. I just have this problem and I have had for quite some time about the Assembly appoints boards so that people have a good avenue to approach people without the Assembly involvement. If it came down to that, why not have five members of the Assembly being the Immigration Board, to take it to a ridiculous point. I don't have any problem with the appointment of Mrs Anderson but if we are appointing boards so that people don't have to come to the Assembly first, that they've got an avenue that they can go through, then what is the point of having a board if we all end up on it

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. If I could allay some of Mr Smith's concerns and I do understand the cause of the concern, we do have boards in order to have the community involved in the decision making and we have three very competent members of the community on that board, who have served for some time and



MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that for the purposes of subsection 21(1) of the Immigration Act 1980, this House resolves that it be declared in writing that a further 17 general entry permits be granted during the period from 24 August 1995 to 8 February 1996. Thank you Mr Speaker, having only recently taken over responsibility for overseeing immigration I want to take a few months to study how well the present policies and laws of Norfolk Island, before I decide if anything can or should be changed but a close reading of the legislation and of the twenty page information booklet on Immigration into Norfolk Island, which was issued by the Administration in December 1993, and is still current seems to me to provide a balanced framework to regulate the inflow of new people to this lovely place, however there is no avoiding the evidence that for the first time in many years Norfolk Island has no long list of people waiting for quota places to become available, in fact, there are still places available from the quota announced in February this year. Further, our population as made up of residents and GEP's has been stagnant at approximately 1520 for over two years. The number of TEP's on the island has also steadily declined over the years from around 500 in the early 1988 period to the 1994-95 average of 288. As has been demonstrated by numerous studies conducted in various parts of the world a healthy economy depends on more than one force to stimulate demand and production. Everyone recognises the importance of a buoyant tourism sector. Less obvious however, is how much the economic activity is actually generated by immigration. Economists in Australia have long recognised the stimulus created by the inflow of immigrants. They buy property, they improve it, they buy cars, furniture and household goods. They come to a new place full of hope and positive feelings about the future and infuse some of that spirit in the place they have chosen as their new home. Over the years the economy of Norfolk Island has benefited by this inflow of capital, activities and ideas as well as from the tourist industry. It's importance cannot be underestimated. The problems being caused by the fact that at the moment productivity has dwindled to a trickle are quite serious and need to be addressed. These problems affect anyone who owns property on Norfolk Island whether it is for sale, and unfortunately a great deal of property is for sale, and whether it is not, because houses and all buildings are at present selling at less than replacement value, the equity each one of us has in his or her family home has shrunk so that if the average family needed to raise a loan they would find that the value of their main asset, the family home, has diminished and they may not be able to obtain the level of finance they require. Prices always drop if there is a drop in demand in it is fair enough for the government not to encourage profiteering but at the same time, it is also essential not to let the value of a normal family home to become unrealistic. We cannot afford to have a stagnant immigration inflow. It is placing more strain on the tourist industry upon which we depend so desperately so if it is not the immigration policy or the law that is causing the problem what is. The real estate agents tell me that over the past year there have been a flash of enquiries from people interested in moving to Norfolk Island but somehow these do not translate into applications. The members of the Immigration Committee have been to see me concerned about the situation. There is no ill will there, no wish to keep applicants out and I think that is an important message for people to know. The Immigration committee operates within guidelines and the law. The Immigration Officer has also spoken to me about what he describes as a need to get the message out that it has never been easier to come to live in this lovely place. The Immigration Committee, the Immigration Officer and I all agree there should be no need to lower our standards. People have met them before and they are not harsh or unreasonable. What we will consciously set about doing from now on is to administer our standards in a positive manner and look for aspects which may prove to be hindrances without good reasons and do something about those hindrances if it appears sensible. That is the first basic step. As well I have canvassed a simple plan of action with my colleagues, the Committee and the Immigration Officer to turn the situation around. First of all I've started talking to the tour operators and in the next few days will get to see







MR SPEAKER Further debate, Mrs Cuthbertson.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I am informed that this is the wording that has been used over and over again for the granting of extra positions on the permit queue if you liked to call it that. If it is to be changed now I think we would probably have to get the advice of the Crown Solicitor but this is the format of the motion that has been put to this house over and over again but if Mr Christian feels strongly we could change the wording by leave, perhaps to read the seventeen general entry permits be made available during the period from the 24th August 1995 to the 8th February 1996.

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker, I am quite happy with that wording because that is indeed what the motion seeks to do but I did have some doubts with the motion as it is on the Notice Paper because I'm just a bit concerned about the effect of it.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Can I speak again if I may Mr Speaker. It is that a further seventeen general entry permits be made available to be granted during the period of the 24th of August 1995 to the 8th February 1996. I seek leave to amend the motion accordingly.

MR SPEAKER Leave is granted.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I was just wondering like if that came about because there has never been a vacant waiting list before and probably in the past that motion has stood, it was applied because there was always somebody waiting for a general entry permit. I support the motion as it stands and I think we have to be a little careful that we don't look at the issue the wrong way. I mean immigration has come about because people wanted to come here and live because the Island has been doing very well and now that it is not doing as well, people are wanting to come here in the numbers they did before. I think the main thrust of what we should be doing is turning that around. I understand what you are trying to do Minister and I appreciate that and support you but I think we have got to look at it the other way round. I think Mr Adams mentioned that before. Make the economy buoyant and we'll be knocking people back again. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Further debate Honourable Members. Any further debate around the table. No further debate, but I will firstly put the question that the amendment be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. The amendment is agreed. The next question is that the motion as amended be agreed to. Is there any debate before we put that question. The question is that the motion as amended be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it. That motion as amended is agreed, thank you.

**NOTICE NO. 5 - EMPLOYMENT ACT 1988 SETTING OF MINIMUM WAGE**

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I move that the Executive Member recommend to the Administrator that he make regulation under section 108 of the Employment Act 1988 to set a minimum wage of \$7.00. Mr Speaker, it is one of my duties as Executive Member with responsibility for employment to

actually set a minimum wage. This minimum wage, Mr Speaker, has lapsed for some time as it requires under the old pre-amended legislation, Mr Speaker, it required the Executive Member to make a determination on a yearly basis. If this is not done then a minimum wage amount figure lapses and that, Mr Speaker, is what with the position we are in at the moment, there is in effect no minimum wage. However the amendment we recently agreed to I think a number of months ago has changed that to some degree and the situation is now that once the determination has been set there is no effective sunset clause, if you like, on the figure set. So as there is no minimum wage, Mr Speaker, I seek to set this figure of \$7.00. This figure has come about Mr Speaker through, I put this together in conjunction with the Registrar of Companies going back on, this is based essentially on the RPI figures over the period of seven years from 1988 when this figure of \$5.00 was the original figure of \$5.00 was put together. It was not agreed to at that time and neither was the rest of the Act, Mr Speaker, until I understand 1991. The fact is, however, that the figure of \$5.00 was put together in 1988 and I have used the RPI figures in that preceding seven years to date to establish that figure. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate. Mrs Cuthbertson.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I wish to commend Mr Adams for putting forward this minimum wage figure. I think it is essential that a realistic figure be set as a minimum wage and that employers around the Island recognise it. It is not an excessive figure, it is indeed very realistic and if anything on the low side and I note that this House may want to review it if the income and prices survey that will be undertaken later this year reveals that in fact that some consideration has to be given to this. Anyway I commend the motion and I wish to support it.

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I support this motion. It is difficult for me to come to grips with plucking a figure virtually out of the air of \$7.00 and as Mrs Lozzi-Cuthbertson says is reasonable. I personally don't know if it is reasonable or not. I really think that for a young family trying to educate their children and purchase a house and maintain a reasonable standard of living it is far too low, however, I realise of course that there are other factors involved. One of the reasons why initiate the move towards finding out just where the poverty line on Norfolk Island is and what the cost of living here is is for these very reasons so that no one will pluck figures out of the air. We have some real basis for our petitions. In the meanwhile I do commend Mr Adams for taking this initiative and I will support the motion.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I intend to support this motion. My initial feeling was that the matter should lay on the table until the next meeting to allow for public comment, however, I don't believe any fair minded employer would consider paying less than \$7.00 to an adult employee however menial the job. Mr Speaker, that equates to \$280.00 for a 40 hour week and I believe it will be difficult for anyone to survive on less than that. Some of my colleagues have suggested that \$280.00 a week is not sufficient for a man to raise a family but that is not what we are addressing here. \$7.00 is proposed as the minimum wage payable to an adult employee. This employee might be newly into the workforce or inexperienced and requiring training at the employers expense. Any qualified employee would undoubtedly be paid more than this minimum. Good staff are the back bone of any business and as a wise man once said if you pay peanuts you get monkeys. Mr Speaker, I believe that it is important that a minimum wage be determined and I support the motion.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. As Monica rightly says, Mr Speaker, that \$7.00 is not to be regarded as an award rate. In some areas of the community the minimum wage has been regarded or the idea of the minimum wage has been eroded

to a position to where some sectors do regard it as a reward rate and that is quite incorrect Mr Speaker. To further on a point forward by Mr Bates, the fact is, Mr Speaker, that figure certainly was not plucked out of the air. Mr Speaker, if Mr Bates has some time, we have got graphs, we have got every RPI figure, quarterly, totally back from 1983 so, Mr Speaker, I wouldn't want anybody to get the impression that this one was plucked out of the air. Thank you.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I intend to support Mr Adams motion here today. However like Monica Anderson and Brian Bates and others before me, I don't think \$7.00 an hour provides enough for a person to live on, a single income or a single income family and it certainly should not be used as an aware type arrangement and I am aware of situations where the minimum award wage or the minimum wage has been abused when it comes to the payment of overtime provisions and things like that in the Employment Act. I think Mr Adams has foreshadowed today that he is bringing forward some changes to that Employment Act in the near future and the impact of this \$7.00 minimum wage may need to be taken into consideration when the balance of that Act or any amendments to that Act are debated here in the House, however in the absence of actually having a minimum wage in place by legislation today, I don't think any Member around this table could oppose what Mr Adams has before us, so I support him.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Just one further thing. Some Members indicate they feel that the \$7.00 minimum wage is a little on the low side. The forthcoming ABS study may well prove that we might need some movement in that and if so if that determines that we require some movement in the future the \$7.00 may well need to be reviewed then and if so it will be done at that time. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I agree with this motion naturally. I mean \$7.00 as everybody is saying is the least that should be paid and I doubt whether there is many people who pay such a low hourly rate except the ones that pay me. I'm talking about up here but I do have a little bit of concern Mr Adams, does this apply to all age groups. If Members have talked about adult wages, it's not in the motion here. I know there used to be a scale for 15 year olds, 16 year olds, 17 year olds, I mean does this apply to all scales the \$7.00.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. The answer to Mr Smith's question is the fact that this applies to an age group of 18 and above. Below 18 there is a percentage breakdown. I think broken into three or four classes as a minimum wage, so for argument sake if you employ a 12 year old or whatever, he or she will not be required under law to be paid \$7.00. There is an incremental process. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SMITH Does this actually give them an increase at the same time.

MR ADAMS Well yes Mr Speaker it certainly does do that.

MR SPEAKER Further debate. No further debate. The question is that this motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you.

**NOTICE NO. 6 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE INTRODUCTION OF A GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ON NORFOLK ISLAND**

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I seek leave to move the motion

appearing on the Notice Paper in my name in an amended form.

MR SPEAKER Leave granted? Leave is Granted. Mr Bates.

MR BATES Mr Speaker I move that 1) a Task Force decided by this House be formed to investigate and report on if it would be of benefit to the Norfolk Island community and the economy to (a) abolish customs duty, financial institutions levy, accommodation levy, fuel levy, liquor licence fees, an additional hire vehicle registration fees and (b) introduce a goods and services tax. 2) The Task Force be required to investigate and report on (a) the level of a goods and services tax required to return to the Government a similar nett amount of revenue as is presently received from those items which would be abolished, (b) the cost of collection of a goods and services tax both in the public and the private sectors and (c) the benefits or otherwise of imposing a goods and services tax on residents and the economy. 3) In addition the Task Force be required to keep the public as fully informed as practical of its findings so that public acceptance or otherwise of any changes which the Government might eventually propose as a result of the Task's Force final report might be gained. Mr Speaker, this is not a proposal to abolish customs duty, FIL and other taxes and to introduce GST. It is simply a proposal to investigate whether it would be a benefit to do so. There is also a proposal to find out what the public thinks about it. I personally have no intention of doing anything other than to try to get information. No doubt there are benefits which could be obtained through GST.

It should reduce the cost of groceries and other high consumables and reduce the cost of goods sold to tourists. The duty free image could be truly promoted. It would shift the goal posts but it would also create a level of playing field. It would get rid of that hated FIL once and for all and close the loop holes. There is also the down side, the cost to both private individuals and the public purse to police and collect. There may be many other things against it. The rate may be too high but, Mr Speaker, if there is any chance it will improve the economy, reduce the cost of living, boost industry and generally benefit the residents of Norfolk Island then it would be neglectful for us not to investigate it. And investigate it in full consultation with the public is all this motion suggests. I don't want to discuss too heavily the pros and cons of it. That will come after investigation and consultation, but I would like to hear what other Members think.

Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Debate Honourable Members. Mrs Sampson.

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I'll support Mr Bate's motion. I have no problem with investigating it but I'm just wondering if he is going to put a time frame on it because we are going to have an incoming expenditure review which is also emanated from Mr Bates. Do we wish this to be, this investigation to be done before that income and expenditure review or are we going to leave it until afterwards because I feel that if we do move along a goods and services tax this is going to effect the other review. I am trying to work out as to whether there is going to be an overlap or whether there is going to be, perhaps we say an antagonistic between the two reviews, some conflict shall I say, between the two reviews. Perhaps Mr Bates could help me on this one.

MR BATES Mr Speaker I have not considered the aspect of Mrs Sampson is putting forward. I think that this survey has got to be done correctly, it has got to leave no stone unturned because if at the end of the day it is decided to move forward along these lines and there is any chance or suggestion that it is not going to work, it's going to put us in a pretty difficult situation. This has got to be a thorough investigation and it's also got to have the people on side. The people have got finally make the decision as to whether they want to go in this direction or not and I think it would be a shame to rush it through simply because of some other business that this House may be undertaking. In saying that I don't

suggest that the Committee should take overlong to find out all it needs to find out or the Task Force find out all it needs to find out but it would be ashamed if it were rushed simply because of some other issues I think.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. If I could clarify what the study, what the income and expenditure study is going to achieve and the form it will take. It is now planned for it to start on the 17th October of this year and finish by the 4th December also of this year. It will extend over six weeks. It will involve a number of household answering questions about their expenditure and income patterns. This Task Force as I understand it will have the job of collecting information or finding out how a goods and services tax would work, how it could be applicable to this situation in Norfolk Island, whether it would be beneficial or whether it would have a negative influence. Just what level such a tax would have to be set at. This is a fact finding situation from which I imagine a report will come which will be canvassed widely and so on whereas the study we are proposing to find out what the situation with regards to income and expenditure being incurred by the people of Norfolk Island at the moment is is a one of snap shot that is sought of, takes place over six weeks and then the statistics are taken out. The two things could be looked at together when the results are available but I don't see how they would influence each other.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I support what Mr Bates attempting to achieve here. I think it's long overdue. That we explore the benefits or otherwise of a GST and its impact upon how we do business in Norfolk Island. I hear what Helen Sampson has just said but I don't think the gathering of the information will in any way impact upon the surveys that will be undertaken later this year because we are not actually implementing a GST, so it won't have any impact and the fact finding, or the information gathering should start immediately that this motion is passed by the House and I can only commend Brian for bringing this forward and wish him well in his research. Thank you Mr Speaker

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend Mr Bates for introducing this motion. A review of our tax base is long overdue. We currently have customs duty, FIL and plethora of small taxes and levies, most of which seem to target the commercial or accommodation sectors and many of which are open to abuse. Much has been said both for and against GST and opinions are sharply divided. I think it's important that we stress here that Members of the Assembly are not advocating the introduction of GST or otherwise to Norfolk Island but it is equally important that we should investigate GST and determine whether it would be beneficial to the Island community and fairer and more equitable than our current taxation system. Only then can we take a decision, Mr Speaker I support the motion

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker I consider the question, feasibility or otherwise of a goods and services tax certainly workable and therefore worth consideration. Really what we would be considering is more properly regarded as tax reform. If this task force as put forward by Brian is agreed upon and determine benefit for the community from such a tax reform along the lines suggested by him, so much the better and I support the setting up of this task force given that it is only enquiring as this stage. As mentioned earlier, fact finding, not actually implementation. Madam Deputy Speaker, a number of points that I would like to briefly remark on and they are for instance, I can't think of any other place or country where there is a GST system in place and where the GST system is not working in conjunction with an income tax regime. The question is whether or not the GST system is underwritten by the income tax or the two affected by each other? Does one need the other and Madam Deputy Chair, however I think of it, the GST has no major drawbacks and it should be more equitable than some of the difficulties in our present taxation system, and so much the better. It is certainly worth consideration. There are a number of other things too Madam Deputy Chair, perhaps found to be a difficulty in our business sector, for instance

one of those is the 10% import duty. It does appear to make things more awkward for importers. They have to for instance pay the 10% up front way before they are able to resell and therefore recoup their tax impost I suppose you could regard it as, this to me Madam Deputy Chair also implies or by de facto means that they are paying a provisional tax. A provisional tax in my way of thinking is not an equitable tax at all, and not only that they have 10% of their stock tied up in duty effectively. If that 10% can be removed that also means that straight away they are on a more viable footing and can buy in more stock. So without drifting too much in the pros and cons of GST I think that Brian's task force is an excellent idea and I commend him for the initiative and I will support the motion

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you Mr Adams. Further participation Honourable Members

MR SMITH Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I support the motion. I think it is well worth having a look at, but I would like to reiterate Mrs Anderson's comments that it shouldn't be construed that we are following this path down to GST. I think that needs to be well established in people's minds that this is only a task force to look into an alternative taxation system

MR BATES Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. If this motion is successful I will come back to MLA's with names for the task force and from there come up with a motion for the next sitting. My initial feeling is that the task force should be no larger than five, and I've already had a few names given to me including some representatives of the Chamber of Commerce. If any organisation or individual wishing to be considered would contact me over the next week or so, I will put their nomination or their name forward. It is my view that although a small task force will be more effective, no view from any organisation or individual should be passed over without proper consideration and if the Assembly sees fit to include me on the task force, it will be my aim to see that all points are considered. It will be important for the task force to consider all the negatives as well as the positives and how any recommended changes if there are any could be fairly implemented, Thank you Mr Speaker

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you Mr Bates. Further participation Honourable Members? No. The question before us is that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you

**NO 7 - NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION**

We move now to Notice No 7, Mr Buffett

MR BUFFETT Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that this House affirms the opinion of its Members that nuclear testing should not take place in the South Pacific Region, and that all diligence, speed and support should continue to be exercised in preventing the Government of France from undertaking such activities. Madam Deputy Speaker, much public debate has gone on and much posturing against the French has gone on in recent weeks about this matter. Our voice has been lent to those protests and this motion is designed to give public confirmation of our expression of concern and indeed anger in some essence about the activities that are projected to take place at the Muroroa Atoll site in the South Pacific. It is fair to say Madam Deputy Speaker that French testing is not new in that particular area which in itself is part of the present risk at the Muroroa Atoll. Earlier tests have deposited nuclear waste in sealed areas below the sea bed on the Atoll pinnacle and the projected nuclear explosions that are to



motion passes, how we may get this message across. I see that we move to prevent the Government of France, I think that is an impossible task, I don't think we can prevent them from doing anything, but there must be something we can do to further voice our difficulties with it. I've just quickly passed my eye over the petition and seen the names and I'm wondering if Mr Buffett had any views as to whether that paper may be used in the furtherance of the sentiments of this motion or whether it was just going to remain on the table of the House

MR BUFFETT Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker, the thought I had in mind is, that if Members are of a mind to support this motion and I would hope that they would be that we would then convey the context of the motion, we would be able to support it with the petition that has been lodged and I have endeavoured to show Members and we would lodge it in a number of quarters. Obviously we would lodge it in the Australian Government quarter. We have been fortunate in that Mr King has been representing us at an Environment Ministers Conference in which this matter has been discussed and we have given support in the vein mentioned in this motion and it would give added impetus to that that has already been said and indeed there may be international quarters in which may be able to make our views known, particularly as we have an affinity with the Pitcairn Islanders who are very close to this particular test site. Indeed, if there are other suggestions from Members as to where we might register this then those suggestions of course would be welcome. I'm not necessarily suggesting that we join the New South Wales Government who have said that they will charter a vessel because I think that that has come to an unseaworthy end but I would not want to put aside that if there was international thought that there should be a presence somewhere to act as a deterrent that Norfolk Island should not consider how it might be a participant

ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you Mr Buffett, Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I totally support this motion. I find the whole concept of nuclear testing appalling. The consequences go on for thousands of years and it is something that cannot be stressed enough that recorded history of humankind is only some twelve thousand years as a maximum and yet we are talking about some consequences that will go on for 200,000 years if anything goes wrong with the Mururoa Atolls or the Fungataufa Atolls. The other problem that very clearly has been mentioned at various times is that the French have prevented anyone from going to Fungataufa and there is strict access to Mururoa, exceedingly tight to anybody who wants to measure just what the consequences of their testing have been. I note as Mr Buffett has noted that Mike King spoke strongly at the Heads of Government meeting of the South Pacific Government Ministers held in Brisbane last week about this very issue, representing Norfolk Island's point of view but most important we have this motion before the House and we have the opportunity to also make our feelings and concerns heard. Anything we can do to get the message across to the French that this is not acceptable, and indeed to the Chinese in due course because they also have resumed testing, has to be done, and maybe in due course if the attitude of the world permeates the people that make such decisions, one day we will see the ending of such horrible, terrible activities. I certainly support the motion

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I fully support Mr Buffett's motion. Nuclear testing should not take place in the South Pacific region, nor anywhere else for that matter and we should affirm this in the strongest manner possible, whenever possible. Maybe we are just a speck in the ocean compared to the size and might of metropolitan France, but we have a voice and it should be heard. To M. Chirac we say, "Non, aux essais nucleaires", thank you Mr Speaker

ACTING DEPUTY SPEAKER Honourable Members, there being no further debate I put the question that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, the motion is carried. Mr Buffett you have the call

**NO 8 - ADVANCEMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT**

MR BUFFETT Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I move, given  
\* that it has been 16 years (this month) that Norfolk Island commenced its passage to internal self government  
\* that this process is yet incomplete; and  
\* that many diverse views and attitudes have been pursued in the Island since this process commenced -

It is timely for this Legislative Assembly to hereby reaffirm its vision, and give impetus to the following goals in directing the Island's future -

1. Achieve full internal self-government for the people of Norfolk Island;
2. Protect and preserve the Island's unique heritage, traditions and culture;
3. Sustain the ecology and natural environment of Norfolk Island;
4. Maintain and improve where possible an adequate standard of living for all residents of Norfolk Island; and
5. Promote and maintain industry and employment at a level appropriate to achieve economic self-sufficiency in Norfolk Island recognising within this process the Island's small size and its cultural and ecological sensitivities.

Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, this motion really is about maintaining a vision. A vision of where we want to go as a Norfolk Island family. What is desirable for us to have and why and when it is practicable for us to be in possession. The contents of this motion are not new. Most have been around for some years. Been around in our minds, and in our hearts, or indeed in some documents such as the Norfolk Island Act, Memoranda of Understanding, some pieces of Norfolk Island legislation, motions of this Assembly, Reports of Committees, Review and Commissions by Consultants, private views, public utterances and indeed a number of other sources as well, so they've been around for some length of time. This motion, the design of this motion, collects them in a documented form and gives them expression. It collates and reaffirms goals that have commenced or have been developed since 1979 when we started on our journey to internal self government. This motion might however, introduce additional methods to give more impetus to achieving these goals. The text of this motion documents, or sets out, in a written form, a vision in five simple paragraphs. The design is for them to be reference points, touchstones for we, as nine members and for the community. A statement from us on the Norfolk Island family's behalf about our intentions, a clear indication of where our efforts should lie and the direction in which we are to travel. Importantly it gives room for accountability in keeping that particular course. Of course, a vision hasn't any substance unless there are specific proposals or actions to bring it to pass and when I speak about each item in a moment I will endeavour to introduce some practical suggestions and identify action, some already in hand, others that might be initiated that might move towards achievement of these goals. You may well ask Mr Acting Deputy Speaker and Members, why is it necessary or important to bring forward a motion such as this. Well I think there are a number of reasons. Firstly, when we commenced the process to internal self government in 1979, the aim, although broad in nature was clear. We were to achieve internal self government. The Council which was the predecessor of this Assembly, negotiated long and hard and I've got to say successfully. We had visits from the Commonwealth Minister, who was Mr Ellicott, and there were addresses to the Council and there were public addresses. There was public and private debate and discussion. Now all of the detail wasn't necessarily sorted out. That must be acknowledged. It really could not have been possibly so. That in itself, would of course, have taken years and our commencement would have been

delayed by equal measure, but the general direction was cast and we set out with the light burning bright before us. Now, today in this time frame, the inevitable amount of detail that has been generated in the self governmental process has on occasions, not always, but on occasions, done a number of things. Sometimes it has covered our path. Other times it has diverted our attention. Sometimes because it has made our life difficult, it has obscured the vision and I think we need to be reminded of our goals. The goals that I'm endeavouring to express here in this motion because our resolve must be upheld, our belief in ourselves must be reinforced and it must be encouraged so that's one reason that I think this needs to come forward. Secondly, it is sixteen years since we started and we are not there yet, so quite simply our earlier efforts and enthusiasm must be renewed. Thirdly, we've had a diverse number of key players enter and exit since we started.

For example, we have had changes to the Legislative Assembly, there are hardly any of the original members who are actually still with us in the Assembly arena. We've had something like seven Administrators, we've had regular changes in the principal of the public service, we've had regular changes in Australian Ministers, we've had no continuity in Commonwealth Department personnel. Maintenance of a vision with constant change of those categories of people really takes some concentration and a continuous education process therefore a reference point, this motion that I'm endeavouring to talk about, therefore a reference point such as this, has really become essential. Coupled with this constant change of people we have pressures and proposals from both outside and within, from many people who might be say new players and as they come along they want to pursue proposals of course. Some of social change, some of economic attitudes and a whole range of other things. Sometimes they may be in danger, not always, but they may be in danger of being decided, those matters without consideration of whether those proposals accord with our basic aims and desires and whether they will enhance and achieve our self government goal. The specifics of this motion if I might then turn in that direction. It says this. It is timely for this Legislative Assembly to hereby re-affirm its vision and give impetus to the following goals in directing the Island's future and there are five points, and I would like to briefly say something about each. Firstly, the first one is "Achieve full internal self-government for the people of Norfolk Island". The Norfolk Island Act of 1979 is really the charter document for Norfolk Island's self government. There was a long lead up to this piece of Commonwealth legislation. An enquiry, which as you will remember, grew to a lengthy Royal Commission. There were hard negotiations by the Norfolk Island Council. It's sixteen years this month since we commenced. It was the 10th August 1979 at which time some 41 heads of powers were transferred to us from the Commonwealth. The list now of course approaches something like a hundred heads of powers and yet some key areas such as land remain in Commonwealth hands. The devolution powers from the Commonwealth to Norfolk Island of its totality really has always required the best of surgical skill. It's been quite an effort to be able to extract those things that we have thought should come to us, and I've got to say that there is one quite alarming factor in this process of devolution of powers. There does appear to be retention of areas of significance or of value, that is, retention by the Commonwealth. For example, National Park area, the Philip Island area and some major public lands, and I just want to mention that if I am right in perceiving that, it needs to be said that self government is not solely a giving of words. It's also the transfer of substance and there is the expectation that we will make our way and if that is the case, and it is, the substance to do so should not be withheld from us in Norfolk Island. I think the time has come in this self governmental process to reverse the present method. The present method whereby all the stated powers are transferred and those not stated are retained by the Commonwealth. That's how it works at present. I think we should move to a situation which we should negotiate with the Commonwealth, those powers of a national nature to be retained by the Commonwealth, for example defence and foreign affairs, and the balance transferred to us. In other words, the specification for retention made and the balance should come to us and indeed it may be timely to nominate two or three of our number to specifically address and to

advance this issue and to advance it with some vigour. It's been sixteen years if I might just remind you again.

The second point, "Protect and preserve the Island's unique heritage, traditions and culture". Norfolk Island's total being in its current form, really does derive from its settlement by the Pitcairn Islanders, all 194 of them. Their heritage, culture, traditions, laws, their ways, are things that we have inherited and it makes Norfolk Island what it is, as it is today. It may well be said that there has been some dilution over the generations, and especially links with the wider world, they are natural evolutionary processes, but the basic fabric does remain and this basic fabric is the key to Norfolk Island's difference or separateness because without it Norfolk Island would be no different to Australian parts, New Zealand parts or some other neighbouring parts and to those of the basic fabric, the descendants of those original settlers, the Island of course has more, it has emotional, indeed, things that you might call mythical attachments as well as the practical and the economic substance. In it we find comfort and in it we find stability as well as being a lifestyle in its totality and it is something that we need to protect and nurture, this heritage.

The third point, "Sustain the ecology and natural environment of Norfolk Island". Without a doubt Norfolk Island's birds (I look to Mrs Sampson), its plants, and indeed their environment are special in this particular place, and whilst they are interesting to those who come to visit and they are of value to those of scientific studies, it's also part of this heritage here of ours, part of our emotional and equally part of our practical and economic substance. It's important to say that Norfolk Island's environment is not something that can be divided from the whole and given away, it is an integral part of our daily being and in this context we've got to develop from our own resources and from our own people to care for it, as the environment and whilst skill and experience of others may be needed in the development of our own, dependence on external resources is not a long term solution. The development of a Norfolk Island Forestry and Conservation Resource which is something that has been pursued by Mr Adams at this moment, is working towards this and it does deserve our support and indeed there are other activities not only by governmental instrumentalities, but by private people who have a concern for the environment in Norfolk Island. Their efforts should be supported because it will lead us to being self sufficient in caring for our own environment here in Norfolk Island. The fourth point is "Maintain and improve where possible an adequate standard of living for all residents of Norfolk Island". This is an important factor which we have to an extent, already discussed today. We have talked about immigration quota's, and we have talked about some economic aspects that flow from some of those, and indeed there have been warnings and cautions about how we should tackle some of them so that they might give a genuine adequate standard of living in Norfolk Island and I just want to say that Norfolk Island's situation has experienced, say in the past fifty years, a significant lifting of its living standards. There are not a great deal in the way of formal statistics about this but there are some things that can be mentioned, that will demonstrate to you that we have come a long way. It must be said that not all of these things can be attributed to the Legislative Assembly but it is part of Norfolk Island's being. Our brief is to ensure that the standards that have been got to date are not lessened and where we are able to improve them we should get on about doing it.

Let me just tell you a couple of things. Fifty years ago, say in 1947 a basic population of something like 856, there is an additional number of temporary people which might bring it to 929, around the 900 mark just by way of demonstration. A not very significant public purse, certainly not the \$8 million that we experience today, most houses without electricity, wood stoves, pit toilets, most roads unsealed, no full scale industry, there wasn't the tourist industry and we understand it today, although there have been intermittent industries in the meantime, no completion of secondary education, limited trade training facilities, limited employment, no basic wage that we talked about today, no workers compensation, no RPI to indicate to us what movements were in the pricing areas, no healthcare, no social welfare in the as-of-right situation as we know it today.

Now as I've said earlier, the improvements that we recognise now, because where I've said no, no, no to all of those things, you will recognise that they all exist today here in Norfolk Island and so that has meant a significant increase over a period of half a century in the standard of living in Norfolk Island. I've already said that we can't claim credit for that, but we can claim credit for some, for example the water assurance scheme, secondary education, workers compensation and healthcare. They are things that have happened since 1979 and we can say that we have had a hand in bringing those to pass for the Norfolk Island community's benefit. Our brief must be to maintain them and to continue to improve them for Norfolk Island's people.

The fifth point, "Promote and maintain industry and employment at a level appropriate to achieve economic self-sufficiency in Norfolk Island recognising within this process the Island's small size and its cultural and ecological sensitivities" It is very difficult to achieve a number of the other things unless you really do have a sound economic base and we've talked about that to some extent today also. We have, for example, Mr Bates earlier motion about looking at goods and services and to see whether that might not give us a sounder base in an economic sense for the Norfolk Island community to conduct some of its operations.

We have talked about some employment and unemployment arrangements within Norfolk Island and how difficult it is, given the economic climate that we are experiencing at present and I do know that at another time in this meeting, a member will raise some concern about the economic situation in the Island which we equally should be looking at. This part, number five, indicates that our responsibility should be to promote and maintain industry and employment at a level appropriate to achieving our economic self sufficiency. Mr Bates motion may well assist that process and indeed in drawing attention that we have an aim to move in this direction may move the minds of members to do other things that might equally move us forward in those very essential areas and I look at people like Mrs Anderson who is involved in the commercial area, and Mrs Cuthbertson, and they will recognise too that promotion and maintenance of those things of industry and employment is an integral part because they work in it and understand it to be something within this list of things that we should be careful about in directing the Island's future. To summarise Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, this is an endeavour to refurbish this vision about where we are going in Norfolk Island and I invite members to participate in the debate about this direction that we are moving in and to encourage members of the community to enter into the debate so that after a period of time, because I intend that we might talk about this today and leave it until say next month or thereabouts, and then come back, so that we might determine a set of items that might be this touchstone of which I speak for us, we members and for the community to move forward with. We talk alot about planning. We need such touchstones towards which we should direct our planning and I think this is an essential first step for those who are interested in the planning process. I'll offer opportunity for others to speak for the moment

MRS SAMPSON

Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I commend Mr Buffett.

I'm glad that he wants to adjourn the motion. I think he has given us much food for thought. I have certainly no argument with his motion. I do feel that alot of lip service is paid on this Island by perhaps not only members of this Assembly but other prominent members in the community that the lip service is for the good of Norfolk Island and then one finds them saying this and going off pushing their own personal barrow and I feel that Mr Buffett has known that I have been somewhat critical of him over the Assembly for not coming down from the Speaker's chair to give us the benefit of his wisdom from the floor. He knows this, I have spoken to him on this and I feel that his shall we say call to arms at this particular meeting is most timely and I look forward to going back and reading hansard and commenting on his views, perhaps in either the next Assembly or the one after that but certainly I am wholeheartedly behind his motion and I'll leave it at that for the time being

MRS ANDERSON                    Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I support this motion. I think it is appropriate for the Legislative Assembly to reaffirm it's aims for the future of Norfolk Island. We've taken some positive steps forward to achieving the aims outlined in Mr Buffett's motion but at times, and in some quarters we have also been giving conflicting messages which would appear to conflict with those stated goals. Mr Adams has a firm grip on the measures required to ensure protection of the Island's natural environment but I question whether we can be said to be doing anything to maintain the adequate standard of living for all residents of Norfolk Island, or to maintain industry and employment at a level appropriate to achieve economic self sufficiency. Norfolk is stagnating. It lacks leadership, it lacks a sense of purpose. If we are to become self sufficient we must be prepared to enhance our only industry, tourism, or find alternative sources of revenue. We must investigate newer opportunities, new ideas, not just put them in the too hard basket because they might not have come to fruition before the end of our term of office. We must set up a framework for progress on which subsequent Assembly's can build. We must be prepared to be innovative and take some calculated risks if we are to do more than just survive. We want internal self government. Today we affirm this. From tomorrow on we must prove it. Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker

MR ADAMS                        Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. As the motion states I believe it is timely to re-affirm the ideal of self government, of self determination. Self Government Madam Deputy Speaker was certainly the presiding ideal in 1979 as it still is. I think it is fair to say that Norfolk has proved itself to be functioning well under this process. It is my firm opinion that Norfolk is a good example of a successful self determining homeland for its people. Sure, we've got our problems, and Madam Deputy Speaker you've just mentioned a few of them but who hasn't, but overall we have a successful community by anybody's yardstick. Madam Deputy Speaker some have said even around this table, what has self government done for Norfolk Island and I think that's a key and important point and as I've said prior to this statement I think what self government has done for us, it's guaranteed us our identity. It's guaranteed us a majority say in our affairs, one that I might add, was not present before 1979. It has also provided us with an ability to respond more timely, with more consideration and caring to arising situations or situations that would or could happen if decision making for us came from afar as opposed to the situation we have before us today. Madam Deputy Speaker our other options would probably have been, barring the self government option, I would suppose it would be integration into a massive system and I guess this would really mean disappearance would be a better term, we would simply disappear and be absorbed into the... or perhaps to become an outpost of a major system perhaps under a colonial type arrangement. Madam Deputy Speaker I think self government wins hands down in the face of these two options or any others. Madam Deputy Speaker one of the areas of our situation that needs addressing is our environmental area. Under a self governing arrangement I believe it is unsatisfactory that the Legislative Assembly does not have prime managerial responsibility for our most significant environmental areas and these include such things as public lands, national parks. Madam Deputy Speaker in view of my difficulty with these arrangements I should like to add some words to the end of Mr Buffett's motion to reflect my concern about our low level of managerial input and responsibility to these areas of our environment. I think it is important for us, as Mr Buffett has alluded to, that if we are on a serious road to self government then that's exactly what it means, we are self governing in all areas, not simply to pick up the tab in some areas that others may not want to whilst they keep the plum in other areas if you want to consider it that way. Madam Deputy Speaker I believe in this context that the original plan of management for our National Park for instance, calls for a review of the arrangements to be held at the ten year mark at the request of either government. Madam Deputy Speaker what is in effect an amendment by myself to the motion of Mr Buffett I would see as the commencement to that process and the further development of a self governing direction for

Norfolk Island. Madam Deputy Speaker I agree with this motion to re-affirm our self governmental basis to look to build on our achievements thus far and as the motion dictates we should continue to work away at our direction as a whole community and seek to better achieve the directional objectives which are best for us. Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. Much as already been said by previous speakers and certainly excellently well by Mr Buffett and I wish to express my full support for the idea of focusing the direction of which we are moving. I think self government is essential to any community that wants to have a clear sense of identity as Mr Adams has mentioned and a sense of responsibility as an adult body of people setting their own aim and direction in life and controlling the way that direction is taken. I cannot imagine Norfolk Island without self government. I think it is one of the important aspects of this community that people have this feeling of responsibility for where they are going and this feeling of direction. It gives a very special character to the community and I commend the people who have worked for it in the past and who are still working for it. I am delighted Mr Buffett wants to lay this motion on the table to allow some input from the community. A new generation after all has grown up in the past sixteen years. A generation which may not have taken part in the working towards self government. Who may not quite appreciate how important it is to the community and it would be wonderful if they could make an input in the debate and the direction in which we should be moving and I think it is essential for the community to have an input in something that is as important as setting directions for the future so I commend the motion and support it

MR BATES Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I note that this will be carried forward to the next meeting. My initial thoughts were that I certainly support the initiative taken by Mr Buffett, I think Mr Adams briefly mentioned that probably we've only ever had three courses, one is integration into Australia, the other one is internal self government and the third one is independence and you hear these difference issues bandied about in the community at different times, but I believe that the people of Norfolk Island have clearly chosen this path of internal self government and it is not the role of any elected member to do anything other than do his best to continue on that path. He shouldn't be looking at other paths and I think it's time that we remind ourselves of that and that we continue to work in that direction. I have concerns that the republic issue in Australia will again stir up those here that advocate independence and I fear that that will give them another time to start running around and making big noises overseas and with the United Nations and where-ever they can get somebody to listen to them but I think it is timely that we do just remind ourselves of our commitment and I support the sentiments behind this motion thank you

MR ADAMS Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I would just like to reiterate that at the appropriate time I would like to move an amendment to Mr Buffett's motion thank you

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I too have a number of points that I would like to have added to Mr Buffett's original motion and I just wondered whether Mr Adams would consider delaying his amendment today until the next meeting so that we could come forward with a complete list of the amendments rather than doing it in a piecemeal sense. I'm happy for him to go ahead today but I just wanted to indicate that I fully supported Mr Buffett's motion and I'm heartened that he will in fact adjourn debate on the motion today because I intend at the next meeting, in addition to any other amendments that may come forward, to have some additions added to the motion which would clearly spell out or define a path to full nationhood for Norfolk Island but I am not able at this time to actually put words to paper to reflect what I intend to try and achieve. There is

some unfinished business with this motion

MR BUFFETT Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. Could I just reaffirm that I am very comfortable with suggestions for amendments to be brought forward to be discussed because we need to talk it out. That's the very purpose and we need to agree on a common path. I have endeavoured to set it out as I have perceived it and indeed there may be some better way of doing that and indeed some areas may well be better refined than I have been able to do so I would welcome suggestions coming forward to be talked about by us around this table

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. For the benefit of people listening out there the amendments that I would like to foreshadow do not in any way change the nature of what Mr Buffett is trying to achieve. It in fact adds to it. It is just that by using the word amendment it tends to give people the impression that you are actually trying to change the content, and that is not my intention

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Mr Adams you've mentioned that you would like to move an amendment, you have also mentioned to us that you won't be here for the meeting next month. Do you propose to move your amendment at this meeting or would you like it incorporated in any amendments that Mr Christian might read

MR ADAMS Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I don't think it would be detrimental to the process if I went ahead with my amendment at this time, bearing in mind that I won't be here at the next meeting of the House. It doesn't sound as wide sweeping as Mr Christian's amendment. It really is another goal which is really what the other five are, as goals and a direction and in that light I would probably be keen to proceed with my amendment today

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Therefore are you seeking leave to move that amendment

MR ADAMS Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker, I am

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Leave is granted

MR ADAMS Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker, I move that a new paragraph numbered six be added at the end of the motion reading "assume primary management responsibility for all public lands in Norfolk Island including the Norfolk Island National Park, thank you

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you, do you wish to speak on that amendment Mr Adams

MR ADAMS I consider that I have spoken to some degree on that Madam Deputy Speaker and perhaps I would be interested to see if other members had some feedback on that point

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you, further participation Honourable Members

MR SMITH Is this in the amendment is it?

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER We are discussing the amendment. If you wish to speak on the motion as it stands Mr Smith feel free to do so

MR SMITH The original motion Madam Deputy Speaker I am very pleased to hear what has come from David today in his motion. I think it is one of the most important things that has come out of the Assembly in quite some years. As Members will be aware, the planning of such an important issue for Norfolk Island, hasn't been an awful lot of it in the last few years. I remember sitting around this table six years ago and tabling a thing called "Goals for Norfolk Island". It

didn't go anywhere and I'm going to assure Mr Buffett that I'm going to assist him where-ever I can to make sure that what he's got here goes somewhere and if Mr Buffett wants some help in that I'll certainly be pleased to give him that assistance, and I commend your motion David

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON If I may speak on the amendment Madam Deputy Speaker, I hope that in the interim between this sitting and the next sitting, and unfortunately I am reminded that Mr Adams will not be here, we will have an opportunity to look at the consequences of this amendment. I really don't feel that's important, what would be the consequences of including this. If it is a goal that is to occur in the future, certainly I have no problem with that, but how are we going to implement it and how we would move towards it I certainly would like to find out

MR BUFFETT Could I just say this. If in fact bringing it on at the next sitting is going to cause a difficulty because somebody is not going to be here - because I think it is an issue that all members should participate in - I'm quite comfortable that we bring it on in October instead of September if that would help the process there and it might allow for example further consideration of some of the things that you are referring to, that they might be sorted out and answered if they are of concern at this moment. I probably would not like to leave it much longer than that, because sometimes these things have come on before and I wouldn't like it to be indefinitely put off, and Mr Smith smiles when I mention that

MRS SAMPSON Thank you. I agree that time is of the essence. I think enthusiasm has a horrible habit of evaporating. We all know that and I think two months would be the absolute limit before we could bring this to finality and just another question I've got, if I may ask Mr Adams, the primary management responsibility for all public lands in Norfolk Island "and related off shore islands", is this included

MR ADAMS Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I believe the term "Norfolk Island" does include the off shore islands, as I understand it

MRS SAMPSON Thank you, I'll take Robert's comments on board and yes, October is fine by me but no longer, thank you

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Further participation Honourable Members? Honourable Members I believe Mr Buffett you would like to move the adjournment?

MR BUFFETT Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker, if we are at that stage I will do that. I move that this matter be adjourned and made an order of the day for a subsequent day of sitting

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Honourable Members the question before us is that the matter be adjourned and made an order of the day for a subsequent day of sitting

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Thank you, the ayes have it

MR SMITH Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. I would like to seek leave of the House to move a motion

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Honourable Members. Mr Smith is seeking leave of the House to move a motion that is not on the Notice Paper

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Thank you. Mr Smith, leave is granted

MR SMITH Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker, I do apologise for having to bring this motion on this way but as I was only appointed this morning I thought it was inappropriate to try and do it before that. This motion is that this Assembly, recognise that there is a serious downturn in the economy of Norfolk Island and that immediate steps be taken to gauge the effect that this has caused on the community and develop a strategy that will return the economy equivalent to or better than which we have enjoyed in the past, in particular, in the '80's. The first part of this motion requires a gathering of historic information for us to create a picture of recent years of the boom times for Norfolk and overlay that picture on our present situation so that we have a sound base to work from in developing our future strategy. For example, we know that the population is shrinking, we know that land values are reducing, we know that business activity has dropped, there is little investment in the Island, there is unemployment and underemployment, there is no waiting list in the immigration area, and worst of all there are residents moving away and looking for work. We know that this is happening, there has to be factual information to get a clear picture of our circumstances and a basis to work from to improve it, so to facilitate to bring you forward of this information I request information from the executives of the government to get the following information for us as quickly as possible to allow us to start rebuilding a sound and secure future. For example, from the Immigration Minister, is required a graph of the comparisons of yearly population trends from 1985 in the following areas, the yearly levels of temporary entry permit holders, the yearly levels of GEP's and residents, and how many residents and GEP holders are known to be off the island for any lengthy period, and I think we actually got some of that information this morning, didn't we Monica, emphasis should be placed on productive age groups, and in particular the 18-60 year group if possible. Yes, I think what I'm looking at here, there is little point in counting children in the overall figures. I would request from the Minister for Finance the following information. In graphical form, the performance of all revenue raising avenues for the past ten years including the Government Business Enterprises, with notations if possible of when there was a political change to any of the taxes or charges for budget reasons, for example, FIL started off at a small level and it jumped in 1990, I think it was, to give us an indication of how the Island has been performing generally in that time, and I say generally because we won't know from the government's figures exactly how things are being run. I have here a paper from 1980 and Members may be interested in some of the things that were said in the budget speech by the Chief Minister at the time, Mr Buffett, and it was talking about the Public Account Expenditure Bill for 1981-1982, and you may be interested in some of the facts of it. The budget for that year was presented as a balanced budget, income and expenditure of almost \$2.8m, in fact, income to date and rates of expenditure indicate that we can expect a surplus of \$290,000. This is in 1981. Customs Duty at that time had collected approximately \$887,000, almost half of what it is today, postal operations including philatelic had topped \$1m, interest on investments at that time had collected \$109,000 which is I think about a quarter of what it has been in the last couple of years and these three items alone show an income in excess of estimates of \$246,000. A very health situation in itself and I think that is the point of what I am talking about here.

Fifteen years down the track we are not much better off financially. We have been by increasing taxes, charges just to make it alright but I think we are running out of ideas for that. Maybe the GST is a solution, we won't know yet. We won't know for quite some time I don't think but if we can get the information from the Minister for Finance when he comes back and also from the Minister responsible for Tourism, we need information in similar form visitor yearly totals but showing peaks and troughs by month and I think that is very important when the Minister does come to do that. I think there is little point in just having a yearly or a monthly total without showing where our troughs are, the length of stay and bednights for

each year. I would like to know what the age groups of the tourists have been over the ten years, which country that their travel originated from and if possible, the status of visitors for that period, for example, whether they were retired, managerial, our age group or whatever. I would request the Minister for Planning and Commerce to immediately instigate a sample market research programme in our neighbouring countries to establish our source market views of us as a holiday destination and arrange for a snapshot research programme from our own business proprietors to evaluate their performance perhaps over the last three years, if that is possible which in turn can give a valuable guideline for any decisions that we can make. Some of that information sounds like it is going to be pretty hard to get, but I know alot of the information is already available so if the Ministers would care to look in the right places they will find it alright and then if we can get most of this information as soon as we can I would ask that the Minister for Tourism arrange a meeting between all nine MLA's, and that's very important, between all nine MLA's, and our marketing people, Bob Doyle in Australia and Bryce Henderson in New Zealand, and the Tourist Board, the Tourist Bureau Manager and somebody else, I just can't remember who it is, but the idea of this meeting is to discuss the results which will have come from the information we have gathered so that we can plan our attack and strategy to try and stimulate Norfolk Island's economy in the short term before we get into the big issue of planning. Mr Speaker, I will leave +that at that point and I would like to hear what other members have to say or any questions they may have to ask me of what I'm trying to achieve

MR SPEAKER

Thank you. Debate Honourable Members

MR CHRISTIAN

Thank you Mr Speaker, I support what George is trying to do. There definately has been a downturn in Norfolk's economy. People, particularly younger people are doing it extremely tough out there. We have them in increasing numbers leaving the Island because of the lack of worthwhile employment here and we need to do something about that, but it can't all be doom and gloom. There are seasonal things and I do hope that at the moment Norfolk is only experiencing a temporary downturn. But we should look as well Mr Speaker, to some of the things that are positive about our economy. After reading an article in the Financial Review in recent times it is quite apparent that the economy of our pacific neighbours is in tatters. Western Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands are all experiencing negative growth in significant degrees in excess of 5-6%. Norfolk Island I think is unique in a number of ways. It is unique in one very important way, it is the only island economy that I can think of, including Australia and New Zealand, in the South Pacific that stands alone, is debt free, has a net positive worth, it's industry is not dependent upon aid from any country and thereby, by not being dependent we make a net positive contribution to the economies of Australia and New Zealand by way of the goods that we import from them, in other words, they are not giving us the money to buy the goods back from them and I think we can hold our heads high Mr Speaker, and whilst I do acknowledge that things are a bit tough at the moment there is light at the end of the tunnel and we are still in a very healthy financial state in the larger economic terms Mr Speaker, we have no national debt, we still produce surplus budgets. I acknowledge that what Mr Smith has said in his motion, that we have achieved some of the growth in public funding through massive tax increases, but Mr Speaker it must also be said whilst acknowledging what George has said, that I think there is agreement around this table that saturation point has been reached and it is time to review how we raise our public finances and Mr Bates motion earlier today, I believe is the first important step in doing it. It will broaden the economic base, it will probably allow us to become more efficient in the way we go about our business of administering the island, we could get rid of the inefficiencies and make the dollars that we do earn, perform. Mr Speaker I can only commend George for his genuine concern for the welfare of the people of Norfolk Island and congratulate him for bringing this motion forward with sincerity to do something about it, thank

you

MR SPEAKER

Thank you. Debate

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I agree that planning of a wider scale is long overdue. I also want to make the point that planning at a more specific level certainly appears to be to always be taking place, it is just bringing all of these issues together and framing them into a larger overall plan, perhaps has not been done before, I do not know what other Assembly's have done but certainly I do not perceive it as something that has been done so far in this Assembly. I am a little concerned in that we may hope to achieve more than it would be possible for us to achieve more than it would be possible for us to achieve. Norfolk Island is a very small economy although as Mr Christian has said it is doing extremely well by comparison to other economies in being in the black and paying its own way but at the same time we are influenced by the two larger economies on either side of us, New Zealand and Australia how they are going affects us and continues to influence how we are going to perform. The best kind of planning is going to have to take into consideration what is happening elsewhere and not simply the tourist industry but their economies over there and how that situation influences the people coming here. Over that unfortunately we have very little control in any kind of term, short or long term. Still, I think it is a very worthwhile exercise that we should be getting together and looking at the overall situation and trying to charter an economic course for the island, just as you have outlined Mr Speaker, an idealistic course for the island, a focusing of direction. Certainly the two go hand in hand. I am concerned about the possibility whether we have the expertise of handling such huge economic issues but if the planning process throws that up as one of the problems then we will have to tackle that and perhaps have to import it. I think it is important to also notice that the present Assembly has done several things to try to bring about new industries and new directions and a renewal of the economy already. The study that has been undertaken to try to establish an off-shore finance centre here is one of those initiatives that hopefully we will take to fruition in the near future. Unfortunately, there again, with the best will in the world we are so dependent on what Australia will say, on whether it will allow us to do it but it would make a tremendous difference to this island's future if we were allowed to establish such a centre, but at least the research has been done and we can proceed to the next step now. The other important initiative that has been taken is the hiring of a Commercial Director with expertise in trying to improve the viability of what industry's we have, what government enterprises we have, and looking at other new opportunities. These are skills that perhaps might be short in the community, I do not know, but certainly we have at least brought in a person with those skills and hopefully we will see some results before the end of this financial year. I commend George for bringing forward this proposal and I will certainly support it

MR BATES

Thank you Mr Speaker. I support George's motion. I think parts of it are unnecessary. At the beginning, that we recognise that there is a serious downturn in the economy. I think every Member around this table has recognised that ever since they have been in office and I recall that the economy was discussed by the Sixth Legislative Assembly and they puzzled as to what they could do to improve it and suggested we do a couple of things in the short term because we had the funds to do it and one was to get on with the airport terminal building which would create employment and use local materials, and the other one was to get ahead with the police station which would create a little bit of employment within the community. Well I think everybody knows the history of that. The police station has actually been moved into very recently but as far as helping the economy in the short term they've virtually done nothing. I think too often in the past we've patted ourselves on the back that we've been able to balance our budget. Balance our budget at all costs really, not really thinking what balancing our budget is doing to the economy as a whole and I think we have to



wonder if George could clear it up. The motion we are being asked to vote on, is that the one before us on the strategies that you read out George? are we being asked to vote on the strategy without being issued with a copy?

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. No, that's to looking at developing a strategy

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. The motion as written down here says partly to develop a strategy that will return the economy to, or better than that which we enjoyed in the '80's. Mr Speaker I'm totally in accord with the general thrust of that, but aren't we being asked to do the impossible. I mean, how do you record what level the economy was in the 1980's. To my mind the most accurate and the general rule of thumb as to how you measure an economy is by the figure of gross national product. There is no way in the world we can come up with a figure of GNP so how can we possibly say yes to this motion and have a figure that we are going to aim at, rather than a vague idea that it was all better in those days. Speaking of planning Mr Speaker, we really need to be able to plan the figure that we are aiming at otherwise we are just working along with the general concept that we are now. I wonder if George could clear that up for me please

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker, yes I think that is important, what you've been saying Robert, that we have no way to judge the gross national product but that is what I'm asking for in this motion from the executives. The only way we can tell is by past information and that's why I said the historical information on population levels, tourism levels and financial levels. It's the only way we can judge it and if I said to you, or if I did ask you right now, what's the economy like now, you could probably say, well it's good, or it's bad, but what would you base that on. I can't do it. I've got my own ideas about it, but I think this is what I'm asking for in this motion, to bring forward all this information so that we can actually look at it, and I did this in 1990, we had a tourism conference and we had all the graphical information and it was quite startling what we got out of that. We thought things were reasonably okay but there were some really bad trends that were happening in that time and that's four or five years ago. There's couple of other things that need looking at, it is kind of deja vu this motion here and I didn't intend it to be like that, but similar comments are coming out in this meeting here today that came out in 1990 or whenever it was that I put my goals motion down. There are some cliches that we can't help mentioning and we all do it. Like "the mainland economies are affecting Norfolk Island". For heavens sake, there's 18,000,000 people in Australia and there's probably four million in New Zealand, we are looking at a number of 30,000, people coming here. Surely all those 30,000 people haven't got money invested for example and without getting 15% they are all going to not spend so much money. This is a serious problem that we have to come to grips with and not pass it off and say, yes it's a good idea but let's just leave it for a little while and see what happens, because that's my main thrust here. The first part of the motion is for us to recognise that there is a serious downturn and what I would like members to do is say yes or no because there is a very general perception in the community that this Assembly so far can't come to grips with the economic situation. I'm sure that you all know that there is a problem but let me go back to the budget meeting, I listened quite intently to that meeting and there was a debate that went on for quite some time about, yes Norfolk Island is doing well and no, Norfolk Island is not doing well. For heavens sake, it was the budget, we knew that there were some serious problems but it's a matter of members, in this motion in the first place, to say yes, we agree that there is a problem, or no we don't and it is very easy when we are debating something to say yes and no at the same time as some members have already done, so that's a very important thing. If Members agree that there is a problem and if we all agree then we have to do something about it and that's the second part of this motion, to develop a strategy in the first place and fix the immediate problem, which there is, and Monica you would probably be able to

speaking well on this because you are at the Chamber of Commerce, you know the Members of the Chamber of Commerce, you know that the business sector isn't totally happy, we should all know that a lot of workers aren't very happy because they haven't got any work, I mean that's a bad enough indication. Mrs Cuthbertson, you would agree too because you are the Minister for Immigration, you cannot fill those positions for GEP's, you can't unless you sell them or something or whatever. That's an indicator and these are the things that I've been talking about for a long time that need to be addressed. I had a discussion with a Minister who is not here, a few months back, and he said George, there's nothing wrong out there. Everything's okay. Look I can prove it, and he had some graphs for last year that showed the electricity sales were up by \$3,000 and this sort of thing, and he said, "...the trouble is..." and I don't know whether this happened in this Assembly "...the trouble is you're all talking down the economy" and frankly, I think that Minister has been watching Paul Keating for far too long because that's a load of rubbish to talk down an economy. You've got to be realistic about it and I am certainly not with this motion trying to talk down the economy and not being positive, because although it may sound that I'm saying, oh all these bad things are happening, I'm saying we have to recognise them first and then be positive about doing something about it and it's really really important and I don't know if Members agree with me on that or not. If they don't then I'll shut up but we've got to do something, as far as I'm concerned I can see that we need to and we have to do it now, we can't just waffle on for a few more meetings, a few more months and next thing our terms up and somebody else will come in and they will do the same thing, and it has happened for a long time. There are some really great things that have come out of the Assembly's but nobody can really get a grip of what is happening and I am asking for this information to be brought forward as soon as possible so that we can all look as a group of nine and actually see what's happening, we can see the trends. We all know that they are there but we've just got to do something about it. There was one other comment that Mrs Cuthbertson made about we might have to import special people to do up the information I'm talking about, well I understood that we had employed a - is that what you mean? Well we won't worry about that. Mr Speaker I think I'll leave it at that just for the moment to see if anybody else has any comment

MR SPEAKER

Thank you

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm surprised that Mr Smith is still in doubt as to whether he has support around this table, I think everybody who has spoken has given their support, they recognise the problem, they support the idea of planning and getting this information together. Not a single person I've heard so far has said anything against it. If it sounded like a cliché when I said that the economies around us affect us, well unfortunately, it is a sad fact of life and one of these days you might learn it. It isn't a cliché, but it's fact and it's going to be a really uphill job for us to counter to what is happening to societies that are around us. The other doubt I expressed, and I still express it, is that we can do a lot of planning but to bring it about it going to be somewhat more difficult than we can hope. We have to do it, I agree with you, we have to tackle it and we have to do something about it and what I said about maybe having to bring in outside expertise is not to do about the graph, the graphs are easy as pie to do, the information gathering has almost all been done, most of the information you asked for is available, it is what you do about it. That is specific specialised economic knowledge. We just don't have it. I don't know of anybody that has that kind of economic knowledge on this Island. I don't know of anybody that has that much in the rest of the world. Economics is the most incorrect and imprecise science and what one group of economists believe will work another group say it won't work and unfortunately it is left to people to fly by the seat of their pants, people like ourselves who have to make a decision of which group of experts you believe and what happens to the efforts you put into it, well we'll see. I think we should try, I agree totally, we should try

MRS ANDERSON                    Thank you Mr Speaker. I congratulate Mr Smith for bringing forth this motion. For a long time we've been talking amongst ourselves that there is a problem out there but we may only have been talking to the Minister for Tourism about the problems of tourism, we've been talking to the Minister for Immigration about the problems with immigration, I think that what Mr Smith is suggesting will focus all our efforts in the one point and maybe arrive at a solution covering all aspects and then we can maybe look in which direction we want to go. Mrs Cuthbertson says that no two experts can agree. Before we start worrying about which experts we are going to use, let's get all our facts and figures together, let's discuss the matter, let's see what the problem is and then we can decide whether we need any experts at all to push us in the right direction but I certainly think that Mr Smith's motion is a starting point. He set the ball rolling and I hope that we can all follow his initiative, thank you

MR CHRISTIAN                    Thank you Mr Speaker. For this motion to have effect George, we need to have a vote on it and pass it so I move that the question be put

MR SPEAKER                    The question before us is that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, the motion is agreed to thank you

No 9 - TREES (PRESERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL 1995

Notice No 9. Mr Adams

MR ADAMS                    Thank you Mr Speaker. I present the Trees (Preservation) Amendment Bill 1995 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle

MR SPEAKER                    The question is that that bill be agreed to in principle

MR ADAMS                    Thank you Mr Speaker. This Bill's purpose is to amend the Trees Preservation Act 1985 to provide for the taking of designated protected trees which have been identified as specific planting for the purpose of a commercial plantation. Mr Speaker the current Act prohibits the taking of protected trees except in accordance with the a permit. This regime restricts the ability of property owners to plant certain protected native trees for future commercial harvesting. Mr Speaker it was not the intention of the original Act to restrict such primary activities and the Bill I'm presenting today is designed to remedy that consequence of the principle Act. This Bill introduces a system of registration of areas of land as a plantation of protected trees. The registration of a plantation would mean the protected trees in that area of land could be taken in accordance with conditions attached to the registration without, Mr Speaker, requiring a further permit to take the particular trees. Mr Speaker the conditions attached to the registration of a plantation may include such things as types of trees to be planted, the age and size of trees that can be taken and the percentage of trees that cannot be taken. In addition a condition may prevent the taking of trees in a plantation on the edge of a road or a coastline, thus preserving the aesthetic nature of a site. Mr Speaker it will be my intention as Forestry Minister, if this bill is passed, to have the relevant officers of the Administration, draw up guidelines for registered plantations and these guidelines will be tabled in the House. The Bill provides that the executive member may vary the conditions of a registration previously granted but that any variation shall be notified to the owner and occupier of the affected plantation and that he or she shall consider any submission by them. At administrative level Mr Speaker I intend that any change in these conditions I've mentioned shall be tabled in the Assembly.

This should prevent against a condition being varied which would economically disadvantage a plantation owner as it will make the executive member accountable to the House to justify all variations. I intend that the bill should be on the table of the House Mr Speaker for two months in order for the public to have the opportunity to read and provide any comments they may have. I especially urge landowners interested in the future plantation to obtain a copy of the bill. Mr Speaker I commend the motion to the House

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend Mr Adams for bringing this forward. It has been around for a long time and back in the days when I had an interest in Forestry the protected trees which were under those conditions were pines, if people had planted them and they wished to thin them out, if they got above I think 15' one had to apply for a permit to even thin your trees out even if you were planting just a windbreak around the House. This once again takes away that small problem. I was just wondering, the protected trees that Mr Adams has designated here, I presume protected trees means trees which are endemic to Norfolk Island. Is this the case, if I may ask through you?

MR ADAMS Mr Speaker the term "protected trees" are the trees that are listed under the Trees Preservation Act 1995 and I don't remember the whole list of the top of my head, but such things as a Norfolk Island pine, Ironwood, Yellowwood, and there's a range of those in that list there

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Adams. As it's going to lie on the table I will certainly be supporting it and probably make a few comments when it comes up for discussion again thank you

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate? No further debate.  
Adjournment Mr Adams

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that this motion be adjourned and made an order of the day for the next sitting

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question is debate be adjourned and made an order of the day for a subsequent day of sitting

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, that matter is adjourned

#### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

We've completed Notices for today Honourable Members and we have two Orders of the Day. We move to No 1

#### **NO 1 - DANGEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995**

We are resuming debate on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and Mrs Cuthbertson, you have resumption of debate

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have circulated to all Members two minor amendments to this Bill and these two amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Amendment Bill 1995 covers circumstances where a person imports a dangerous drug into Norfolk Island and the drug is provided to that person as a prescribed treatment by a medical practitioner. This amendment removes a minor defect in the current ordinance and removes any technical liability on a person who brings into Norfolk Island drugs on a properly issued prescription which are listed as dangerous drugs in the schedule. Mr Speaker I commend the amendments to the House

and to the Members

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate? If I remember correctly and correct me if I'm wrong, we have moved at the last stage through agreeing the bill in principle and we are now at the detail stage. No. I think I may have misread that. I think we firstly need to determine whether we agree the bill in principle. Any discussion? The question is that this bill be agreed to in principle

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

The ayes have it, the bill is agreed to in principle

MR SMITH I'll have to abstain because I'm not aware of the debate

MR SPEAKER Okay. Mr Smith records his abstention in respect of the question that the bill be agreed to in principle. We are now at the detail stage. Mrs Cuthbertson has just addressed some detail of the bill and we are now going to determine how we handle that. Are there any other participants in the debate respecting the amendments of the details that Mrs Cuthbertson has just explained to us? No further discussion. I'm going to ask you whether you want to take those amendments in their totality and determine them or whether you want to split them up in some way. I'm assuming that you want to look at them all together. Fine. Anything further to be said in respect of them, Mrs Cuthbertson

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the amendments as a whole be agreed to

MR SPEAKER Thank you. I'll put that question. The question is that the amendments as a whole be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

The amendments are agreed. The next phase Honourable Members is to ask if you agree the clauses as amended

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

They are agreed. Thank you. The remainder of the bill

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

The remainder of the bill is agreed thank you. We come to the final stage, Mrs Cuthbertson

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the bill as amended be agreed to

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any final debate Honourable Members? I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

The ayes have it, that bill as amended is agreed thank you

**NO 2 - POISONOUS AND DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AMENDMENT BILL 1995**

We are resuming debate on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and Mrs Cuthbertson you have the call

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I do not wish to reiterate any of the points I made in regard to this minor amendment to this bill which are consequential on the amendments that were listed in the Dangerous Drugs Amendment Bill 1995. I just commend them to the House

MR SPEAKER The question is that this bill be agreed to in principle

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

The ayes have it, the bill is agreed to in principle

MR SPEAKER: Do you wish to dispense with the Detail Stage Honourable Members? Thank you. I then seek a final motion

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that the bill be agreed to

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that the Bill be agreed to and if there is no final debate I will put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

ABSTAIN MR SMITH

The ayes have it thank you. That Bill is agreed to. That concludes Orders of the Day Honourable Members

**FIXING OF THE NEXT DAY OF SITTING**

Honourable Members we come now to the fixing of the next sitting. Mrs Sampson

MRS SAMPSON Mr Speaker, I move that this House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 13th September 1995 at 10.00am.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate, queries, questions? I put that question Honourable Members that this House and its rising adjourn until Wednesday 13th September 1995 at 10.00am

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you.

**ADJOURNMENT**

We now have the adjournment, Mrs Cuthbertson

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I do move that the House do now adjourn

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that the House do now adjourn, any adjournment debate

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I would just like to say how pleased I am to be here with the current Assembly. I would like to comment that during the election campaign which went on over the last few weeks a comment that came back to me about my ability on the Assembly could be marred by the fact that I'm not strong enough, I can't push myself in the appropriate places but I would like to reassure people that after three years on the Fifth Assembly I think I can manage to do just about anything. I think there's a nice bunch of people here in this Assembly, I think if we all work together well as a group of nine people I like to think we can achieve as much in our eighteen months than most other Assembly's have achieved over three years and I'm pleased to be a part of it

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Smith

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON I would like to welcome again Mr Smith here. I think it is wonderful to have him as an addition to this House

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any further contribution in the adjournment debate Honourable Members?

MRS ANDERSON I think Mrs Cuthbertson has said it for all of us, welcome George

MR SPEAKER Thank you. There being no further debate in this adjournment debate Honourable Members I put the question that we do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned, Honourable Members, until Wednesday 13th September 1995 at 10.00am thank you.

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