

Good morning Honourable Members. We commence with the Prayer of the Legislative Assembly

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

Condolences

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Honourable Members I call on Condolences

MR BUFFETT Thank you Madam Deputy Speaker. It is with regret that this House records the death of Helen Montieth McCoy who passed away at the Norfolk Hospital on Sunday, 5th November. Helen McCoy was born in New Plymouth New Zealand as Helen Montieth Bannister and she was the eldest of three sisters, Christian who pre-deceased Helen some ten years ago, and Barbara. When the family moved to Wellington, Helen attended Chilton St James College as a boarder and later the Victoria University, graduating with a Degree of Bachelor of Science. She was a pioneer as a female early holder of a degree in science. Helen's working career commenced in 1928 with the Royal Insurance Company as a ledger-keeper. She held that job for ten years until the outbreak of war when Helen joined the New Zealand Womens Army Auxiliary Corps. She gained officer rank, a position she fulfilled with much pride and dedication. She had a wide circle of friends, particularly at University and she belonged to a Tramping Club which covered many miles over much of her beloved country. In 1950 Helen came to Norfolk Island on holiday and met William Tilly McCoy and in January of the next year they were married. She worked at the Cascade Whaling Station until shortly before it closed and then joined Hopkins Store, which was later to become Foodlands. Helen worked in the Accounts Branch of the Norfolk Island Administration until 1972 when she suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and broken hip. After many months of hospitalisation and rehabilitation in New Zealand Helen returned home and with her steely determination and independence set about rebuilding her daily life at her the home at Steel's Point with her husband Willie. Three years later Willie McCoy died. Helen was a member of the Flora and Fauna Society, the Red Cross and the Country Womens Association; she was also a sitter on Government House Open days. In 1982 Helen was awarded the "Quota Woman of the Year", an honour bestowed on quiet achievers in this community of Norfolk Island. In 1986 she was finding it difficult to manage in her home and moved to the Mawson Units, and she was visited regularly by her friends there, especially her friend Marie Freshwater who took her shopping each weekend. Unfortunately some five years later she suffered a broken ankle which put her in hospital permanently and she remained there until her death. To Helen's niece Ann Snell, and Anne's husband Plute and family, to her sister Barbara and to her many friends this House extends its sincere sympathy.

It is also with deep regret that this House records the death of Mrs Gordina Beveridge MBE who passed away on Friday, 10th November at the grand age of 103 years. Gordina Nobbs was a daughter of Charles Chase Ray and Agnes Nobbs. She had 15 brothers and sisters. Only her sister Mary remains of her other siblings. Much of Auntie Gordie's early life was lived in the family home, Moira in New Farm Road. Growing up in a large family and being one of the eldest, she knew what it meant to help bring up younger brothers and sisters. She was an organiser early in her life and throughout her life. She encouraged, provided gifts, enjoyed friendships and when required she scolded. Auntie Gordie was educated by governesses at home, then at the Norfolk Island School and finally at Queens College Summer Hill in Sydney. Deciding to take up the profession of nursing she started training at Sydney Hospital. Owing to illness she had to withdraw but later completed her training at Parramatta hospital. Auntie Gordie became a triple certificated nurse.

She took over as matron at the Norfolk Island Hospital in Kingston shortly after it commenced when the first matron returned to Australia. Since that beginning in 1928 she has been closely associated with the Norfolk Island Hospital and was present to supervise every move the hospital has made to its various locations over the years. She served her nursing profession well and was appointed a member of the most excellent order of the British Empire for her services. Gordina Nobbs married George Beveridge in 1937 and at first they lived in Victoria. They returned to Norfolk in 1942. George died in 1949. In her community activities, Auntie Gordie won many prizes in the show for cooking and several silver trays for top points. From the early days Auntie Gordie has been associated with the Red Cross and was patron for many years still being patron with Judy Kerr at the time of her death. She was the first quota woman of the year in 1980. The celebration of her 100th birthday was really a great occasion in Norfolk Island with a special church service, planting of 100 white oaks adjacent to New Farm Road and a Norfolk Island picnic on the day. During the preceding week in the building up to her 100th birthday there was lunch at Government House, afternoon tea, and the arrival of many relatives and friends from throughout the world to come and share the occasion with her. At the age of almost 100 years she went to her nephew Charles' wedding in England and had afternoon tea with the Queen Mother and those who knew Auntie Gordie would know that that would have been a great thrill for her. Auntie Gordie Beveridge was a grand Norfolk Island lady and with her passing a page will have been turned in our book of history. To her numerous relations, to her sister Mary especially her niece Josie, to her many friends and to all who knew and who loved her, this House extends its sincere sympathies.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you Mr Buffett. Honourable Members as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I would ask that all Members stand in silence. Thank you Honourable Members

Petitions

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members we move to Petitions. Are there any Petitions to present this morning?

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to table a petition that I received, unfortunately after the last Assembly meeting, but I could table that now, is it appropriate Mr Speaker that I read the heading of the Petition?

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Smith. It is appropriate for you to read it and you have the opportunity to make a brief statement in respect of it

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. Petition. To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. The petition of certain students of the Norfolk Island Central School and of certain residents of Norfolk Island draws to the attention of the House the fact that we are all very disturbed that the Headmaster of the Norfolk Island Central School has been harshly treated by the Minister for Health and Education by cancelling the agreement that the Headmaster would continue as Headmaster of the Norfolk Island Central School until the end of the 1996 academic year. Your Petitioners therefore request the House to take all necessary steps to ensure that the Headmaster is able to continue as Headmaster of the Norfolk Island Central School until the end of the 1996 academic year. The petition Mr Speaker contains seven pages of signatures from residents of Norfolk Island in the proper form for a petition but unfortunately, they ran out of those pages and there are three pages of signatures that cannot be used within the bounds of that petition so we table that petition Mr Speaker, thank you

Notices

Thank you, Notices, are there any Notices?

Questions without Notice

MR SPEAKER Questions without Notice Honourable Members. Are there any Questions without Notice? Mr Bates

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. My first question is to Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson in her responsibilities for education, the School Council has convened a public meeting tonight and on the agenda is the issue of an independent school. Could the Minister inform this House if there is any formal proposal to be discussed and if not is the School Council referring to discussions the Minister has had in her efforts to find out if teachers salaries can be negotiated so that they are more in keeping with other salaries paid on the island

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. As I have repeatedly explained, there is no finalised formal proposal to make the Norfolk Island School independent. What I have negotiated is an undertaking from the New South Wales Education Authorities to provide Norfolk Island with all the curriculum, teaching and examination materials they currently provide on a user pay basis, if, and I repeat if, it is the clear wish for the majority of people living on Norfolk Island to proceed in that direction. As I publicly advised on the 28th October it is my intention to establish an independent committee to complete the information gathering process which I have started and in time they will then frame the final proposal and hold the public consultations. If, as a result of those consultations, it is clear that the public wants a referendum on the issue, I have undertaken to seek the support of this House to hold such a referendum and yes, as Mr Bates has indicated in his question, the purpose of putting forward this new way of running the school is to try to bring the teachers salaries paid on Norfolk Island in line with the other salaries paid to public servants in general on Norfolk Island

MR SPEAKER Further Questions Without Notice

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. A supplementary question which I think the Minister has partly answered but I will ask it anyway and the question is, the invitation to attend the public meeting says "The Government is contemplating significant changes to our current system of education". Could the Minister inform us to what extent these significant changes are in as much as she hasn't already in her previous answer

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. As I have outlined, the curriculum, the examination processes, the teaching manner will be the same, the only change that will come about if what I envisage is adopted, is that we will recruit teachers for the Norfolk Island School in a different manner. Teachers will apply of their own accord if they agree that the conditions that we will offer them are fair and acceptable and it is envisaged that a great many of the applicants will come from the Department of Education's own teaching staff. Right. It is all a matter that will have to be finalised after consultations with the community, a possible referendum and then this House will have to move on it

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. Along the same lines but slightly different, has the Minister any formal proposals to bring to this House or to put to the community regarding changes to the Memorandum of Understanding which sets out the current arrangements between the Government, the Commonwealth and the New South Wales Education Department for the provision of education on Norfolk Island?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. At this point there are no formal proposals to bring forward in that regard, simply because we have to go through the

unjust and unfair because I would be surprised Michael if you can say that

MR KING I can say that Mr Speaker. I have no recollection of Mr Smith saying that the decisions were unfair or unjust. I have a recollection that Mr Smith said that the decision was wrong and ought to be reversed but not unfair or unjust

MR SPEAKER Further Questions Without Notice? Mr Smith

MR SMITH I have to ask another question on that. Could Mr King repeat what he just said because I don't think I quite understood what he said.

MR SPEAKER Mr Smith I'm not about to have a repetitive process in the Question process this morning and I will just ask that you formulate your questions so that they can be clearly put to appropriate Ministers so that an answer can be given and ask that we not then develop into a debating situation because it is Question time, thank you

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have some here for all the executives. I'll start with Mr Adams. Mr Adams as the Minister for Forests could you advise what work has been done on the final form of management plans for the Forestry Reserves and when it is expected that they will be adopted and implemented

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm not exactly sure which forestry plan Helen is referring to so I will answer as best as I'm able with what I know. At the moment the forestry section operates on what is known as the Benson Plan. The Benson Plan has been in place for a number of years now. It has already had a review. That was conducted in March of 1992, the general lifespan of those plans is five years so in respect of that one, if that is what Helen is referring to we are looking at probably around March 1997 when the Forestry Working Plan in that respect needs to be reviewed. I'm also at the moment Mr Speaker working on a proposed management scenario for the Forestry Reserves and other Reserves to be known as a PMP system, a Preferred Management Priority system under which for each of those reserves will come a plan of management. I'm not sure when I will be able to bring that to the House, in other words when it will be completed and as for implementation of that Mr Speaker, that really depends on whether at the end of the day after I bring it to the House whether or not the House agrees with it so that's it as best I'm able to explain Mr Speaker

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. One for Mr King as the Minister for Tourism and Finance. Is the Minister in a position to inform the House about any enquiries he might have made about world heritage status for Norfolk Island

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. Some few months ago I wrote to the Commonwealth as a result of some what you might call rumblings that I heard coming from Canberra to basically seek an assurance on the question of world heritage status or whether the Commonwealth was examining the question of world heritage status for Norfolk Island and I have since received that written assurance from Senator John Faulkner who confirms that world heritage listing of the whole of Norfolk Island is not under contemplation however in the same correspondence Senator Faulkner talks about the possibility of a cultural listing or a serial listing of Australia's convict sites which is something which was mooted by the Prime Minister in his election statement in 1993 and as a result of that statement a consultancy has been let for a preliminary desk top study to identify those places associated with convicts or transportation and to report on their cultural values. So yes I confirm that I have an assurance from the Commonwealth that world heritage status for Norfolk Island is not being contemplated. I stress of course that that is an assurance given to us by the existing Minister and the existing Government in Australia and it doesn't necessarily carry over to any future

Governments. So having received that assurance I do mention it to Members and I'm happy to copy this correspondence around to Members that there is a study being presently undertaken which examines the cultural values of the convict sites and the like. And I mention also that I received further assurance that the Commonwealth will consult closely with the Norfolk Island Government at each step of the deliberations in respect to any cultural listing under world heritage

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have another one for Mr King and then I'll let another Member have a turn. As the Minister for Finance has the Minister been fully advised on the implications of the overseas telephone call back facilities and is he satisfied that all that can be done is being done

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. I am awaiting some further advise from the Public Service on this particular matter. I do confirm that there are some in the community who have taken up the opportunity to participate in call back facility with reduced charges. I do suggest that they are people who are associated with business and are large users of the telephone network. It is not clear and I'm not sure that it will ever be clear what the cost implications or revenue implications will be for the telecom and it is not clear to me at this point in time, whether even if we wanted to we could prevent such a facility being used but I await further advise from the public service on that

MR SPEAKER Further Questions Without Notice?

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a question for the Minister for Finance as well. Has the Minister made enquiries about the impact of EFTPOS on the financial institutions levy and what is the result

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. Well I have made some enquiries and those enquiries confirmed that electronic funds transfer facility which is provided by the banking system is a facility which enables users to avoid the payment of local financial institutions levy. One can only avoid FIL if they conduct a bank account off shore and at this point in time I am not quite sure in my mind whether I can prevent that avoidance no do I know whether I want to at this particular point in time. It's a facility which has been availed by largely the business sector and at this point in time again it's a matter which I've sought further advise from the Public Service and I should be able to report back to Members and I guess Members can help me make up my mind as to whether we want to intrude upon that sort of facility taking place

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a question for Mrs Cuthbertson. Could the Minister please assure the community that the survey that is currently being conducted into income and expenditure on Norfolk Island is in no way connected to the imminent arrival of the tax man

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm surprised to hear that anybody has such fears. No. The survey that is being conducted currently on Norfolk Island is the result of motion put forward by Mr Bates some meetings ago as you may recall, because he very properly was concerned about lack of statistical and accurate information about the situation of people in Norfolk Island. How they were being affected by the economic downturn. How they were coping. Hence this survey was negotiated but I certainly have no knowledge of the tax man being involved in any follow up action as a result of this survey

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. As a supplementary to that, could Mrs Cuthbertson please confirm that all information on these surveys is confidential and can not be traced back to the participant

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes we have gone to considerable

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. A supplementary to that. Has Mr King given any consideration to privatisation of the Liquor Bond

MR KING No, not at all Mr Speaker and it is not on my agenda at all

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have a few here for Mr Christian. I will try and be brief and I hope his answers will be. When does the Minister intend to place before Members for their consideration his project plans and financial plans for the Burnt Pine Beautification Project

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The most recent advise to me, which was yesterday, from officers of the Administration, was that work was still being carried out on the plan. I can't give a definitive date, but it is shortly

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Is the Minister satisfied that the Museums lunch and tea rooms is operating along normal commercial lines and producing proper commercial return

MR CHRISTIAN That's a difficult one to answer of the top of my head Mr Speaker but I can say that I have eaten down there on a number of occasions and I have enjoyed the meal. Part of the commercial success is customer satisfaction, well yes they are achieving that.

MRS SAMPSON Thank you. Can the Minister assure the House that the works program agreed by Members as part of the budget process are being adhered to and will the Minister table in this House at the next sitting copies of the works program noted as to progress to date.

MR CHRISTIAN Yes Mr Speaker, I can table an amended works program at the next meeting or works completed to date. Members will recall that Mr King had a program mapped out for the year and then there was a change of executive responsibilities at about the same time of the as the change in executive responsibilities occurred. I think there was also a change in the policies in regards to road works and I think just briefly restating it Mr Speaker, was that priority should be given to sealing all of the remaining unsealed roads in Norfolk Island and over the next three years to reduce dust inconvenience in extreme dry which we are experiencing now and mud inconvenience in times of wet and the program has been slightly amended to accommodate that small policy change as well.

MRS SAMPSON And the last one to the Minister which more or less carries on from that one. Is the Minister aware that certain sections of Taylors Road between the dam and the Cenotaph are melting during hot days and the liquid bitumen is not only hazardous but it damages the vehicles duco and he could he please see that this is corrected.

MR CHRISTIAN I'll undertake to see what can be done about the problem Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Further Questions without Notice. Then we have concluded Questions without Notice Honourable Members.

Papers

MR SPEAKER Presentation of Papers. Are there any papers to present this

morning. Mr King.

MR KING Mr Speaker I table the monthly financial indicators for the month of October.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further Papers to present. Mr King.

MR KING I table the Inbound Passengers statistics for October '95 and move that they be noted.

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

MR KING Just some brief observations about the statistics for the month Mr Speaker. The statistics will record that we are, in terms of visitor statistics for the year, financial year, we are running about 95% of the position that we are at the same time last year. October '95 compared with compared with October '94 represents an almost 19% increase and I'll have to say that October '94 was a somewhat disastrous month so that 19% from a relative low base. Just some points worth noting that this month of October marks the sixth successive monthly increase out of New Zealand. Not all large increases but worth noting, Mr Speaker, considering that the New Zealand market has been somewhat erratic over the past couple of years and we are looking for some stability out of that market place. It's also interesting to note that the our furthest markets of South Australia and Western Australia continue to perform relatively well, returning us some over 4% of our business for the month which is quite significant. Thank you Mr Speaker, that is my only contribution on that.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate Honourable Members. The question is that that Paper be noted.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That Paper is noted. Are there any further Papers. Papers are concluded.

Statements

MR SPEAKER Are there any Statements this morning Honourable Members. No Statements.

Messages

MR SPEAKER Any Messages this morning. Messages from the Office of the Administrator. Message No. 86. On the 24th October 1995 pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1970 I declared my assent to the Citation of Laws Act 1995, Act No. 14 of 1995, the Tobacco Act 1995, Act No. 15 of 1995 and the Road Traffic Amendment Act 1995, Act No. 16 of 1995 dated the 24th October 1995, Ralph Condon, Deputy Administrator.

Reports

MR SPEAKER Are there any reports from Standing and Select Committees. No such reports this morning.

proud of. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate. Mr Smith.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I am still a little bit surprised at this motion here. A couple of weeks ago we had a meeting with the MLAs and at that meeting I think we had almost decided that Mr Christian and may be myself and Monica would be on a Committee that would look at the floor plan and make a quick decision which probably would have taken three or four days. I mean I'm surprised that I'm not on the Committee now. That doesn't worry me at all but I hope that this actually does fast track this. If any of the Members have been to the Airport on a Saturday night when there is a Boeing 737 and a 146 arrive at the same time you have got almost 200 passengers who cannot physically fit into the Airport Terminal, let alone their bags. When you are talking bags, we are talking of some 200 bags. This can't go on too much longer. I don't think we can play around with it too long and I really, I do trust that Monica, being in this Committee will certainly, and Helen of course, will fast track it. I don't think it's a decision that needs to sit around waiting to be made over a month or two months. I think you could possibly make it within a week which we could have done two weeks ago but good luck. I certainly hope you can.

MRS SAMPSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Well I can assure the other Members, including Mr Smith, that I don't think that I have been known for sitting on my hands doing nothing, so I am quite happy to fast track this as much as is possible and as much as is sensible. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further contributions. Mr King.

MR KING Well of course the project will be fast track. There has not been any considered desire to slow this project down at all. I thought I made that relatively clear on previous occasions. As to making certain decisions within a week, I'm not quite sure what Mr Smith is eluding to there but what I can do is confirm to this House that all the appropriate decisions will be properly made and on the basis of being fully informed. Now we have to understand that because we abandoned the previous architectural concept that we are going back three or four stages, that we require a new concept to be agreed. One which is going to suit may be suit our price, or price range, suit our Island style, suit all our thinking. We have got to be comfortable with it. After we are comfortable with that and only then, do you then draw up plans and specifications. Now I can't see all this being done in a week but I can assure Mr Smith we will make whatever decisions we can as quickly as possible but on a fully informed basis.

MR SMITH What I was referring to Mike, was when we were discussing it at that meeting it really came down to the floor plan of the Airport Terminal and the basic design of that we already have. The floor plan of the Terminal is not unreasonable and it was a matter of deciding whether or not, correct me if I'm wrong Neville, whether or not that we should just work with that, that floor plan and do away with all the top stuff, like all the big flash windows and things that were in it before and it was just a matter of making a decision on that floor plan. I see your shaking your head Minister, you don't agree with what I'm saying there but that.

MR KING I'm a little surprised George, given that you have had a copy of the minutes and what knot.

MR SPEAKER Mr Smith you have the floor.

MR SMITH So when I was talking about fast tracking it to within even a week was just a matter of deciding on the floor plan, whether we run with that or not and if we did than it was a matter of just taking it to the next stage which was getting somebody to design the top part of it. That's what I was referring to Minister. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Further debate, Mr King.

MR KING Just a pile of points. Just for the sake of completeness and sought of no misunderstanding about it. The decision taken by the Assembly Members in Canberra, our weekly reading included acceptance of the floor plan. We have already accepted that the floor plan is the appropriate floor plan and that has been properly recorded and duly recorded in the minutes. We did say that we were going to look at mirror reversing it but we have already agreed that the floor plan is the appropriate floor plan. Thank you, that's all. I commend the motion.

MR SPEAKER Further debate Honourable Members. The question before us is that this motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That motion is agreed thank you.

NO. 1 - TOURISM PLAN ADOPTION IN LIEU OF EXISTING TOURISM POLICIES

MR SPEAKER We are resuming, Honourable Members, on the question that this motion be agreed to. Mrs Anderson you have the call, you also have an amendment to propose at a suitable time. Mrs Anderson.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have foreshadowed my intention to move an amendment to my original motion in light of the comments that I and my colleagues have received following the tabling of the proposed new tourism policies at last month's sitting of the House. This amendment does not change these policies in any way but is intended to lay to rest any concerns felt within the community that the Assembly's aim is to turn Norfolk Island into a glitzy tourist resort. The amendment I am proposing, Mr Speaker, is that the words "recognising that Norfolk Island is first and foremost the home of its residents" be added at the end of the second paragraph of the preamble after the word "lifestyle". This paragraph would therefore read "In the development of the tourist industry, due consideration must be given to the protection and conservation of the Island's unique ecology, environment and lifestyle recognising that Norfolk Island is first and foremost the home of its residents". I would like to see this motion as amended dealt with to finality today so that we can get on with the second stage of our objectives and that is the implementation of a clear and concise marketing strategy for the future development of tourism and the economic viability of Norfolk Island. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, firstly I would like to thank Monica for the inclusion of proposed inclusion of the amendment. I think it was indicated by Mrs Anderson, she implied that it was in the wording of this tourism plan but I think the fact that just even missing it out, even if its intended begins a process of watering it down and I commend Monica for bringing this back into words. Something we can use as a touch stone. I think generally, Mr Speaker, in this plan

there is many worthy statements but I am still looking for Part B as I mentioned at the last sitting of the House. I am also aware, Mr Speaker, that although these are, or supposedly replacement policy initiatives, when one looks through it one see words like improved, conserve, generating, increase, develop, introduce and encourage, increase, I mean to me Mr Speaker all those words imply that there is a forthcoming plan and Monica has just indicated that there will be a marketing plan brought forward but that only improves that in one area, I mean there is many other things here that have been flagged as desirable things. I wonder if Monica can perhaps be involved in this and can give us a clear indication what they were thinking about when they said some of these things. I mean such as to increase the benefits of tourism to local community by developing sources of on Norfolk Island. I wonder if Mike and Monica could give us a clear indication of what was in their mind when they actually, when they arrived at such a economical goal of that in the plan. I also wonder, Mr Speaker, if any work has been done on the marketing plan that Monica has just mentioned or if not who is actually going to be doing it, is the Minister himself, is it a working group, is it the Tourism Board. Frankly, Mr Speaker, I am looking for more information because to me in a lot of ways this marketing plan perhaps raises more questions than it does provide me with answers. Mr Speaker one of the things that mooted in this plan is job training, encouragement and job training for locals to perhaps to better fit them or to better to be able to employ in the actual tourist industry. Mr Speaker I would like more information as regarding to what level is this training going to be. I mean is it intended or implied or is it possible that the training will only be provided to menial roles or does it include up to managerial for instance, you know I mean, probably you are tired of hearing me talk about it but I mean for my money there should be a local managing the Tourist Bureau. Is it implicit that the training that has been flagged here will it be of such a nature to raise someone to that standard or do we have a danger, Mr Speaker, that incumbents in many that tourism positions may well be granted in time a GEP and thereby continuing, Mr Speaker, to plug holes of opportunity for residents and so expanding, Mr Speaker, the game of dead man shoes for a decent for any chance of a decent job into the tourism area. Mr Speaker, on the face of it this plan makes a lot of the right noises and moves and begins to move in the right area but whether the intent behind it is to follow through and deliver the goods is totally serious for my part, Mr Speaker, the jury is out and deliberating. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER

Further debate. Mr King.

MR KING

Thank you Mr Speaker. I guess this could be a lot of hot wind as Mr Adams suggested it could be or it could be a very clear platform from which we work and which establishes the bases of a lot of things that we need to do. Not only the development and implementation of the marketing strategy for the tourism but it also places a requirement on all of us legislators to bring other matters to this House for consideration. It calls on us to conserve the inequalities of the Norfolk Island lifestyle and environment at the same time as establishing some target growth factor in tourism visitation. Obviously that means we have got to get on with the development of our water strategies, our waste minimisation strategies, our land use plans and all those matters will be given additional force by us adopting this platform from which to work. Mr Adams spoke about the economic objective established to increase the benefits of tourism to the local community by developing sources of supply on Norfolk Island. I mean there are some specific things in my mind but by the adoption of this motion is not going to necessary mean that those things are going to come to fruition but it means that it calls on us if we adopt this, it calls on the legislature to develop plans for example to improve the productivity of the rural sector in place of the importation of can goods and frozen goods and to do whatever we can to stimulate activity, economic activity in that sector and we can do that in any

number of ways by dropping the customs duties and tariffs and what knot on herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers. We can provide subsidies for people to go back onto their land which has laid fallow for many, many years. We can encourage people to develop cottage industries in the Island and provide touristy type goods to put on the shelves rather than filling up those shelves with imported goods and we can do all those things if we have the initiative to get on with the job and this is telling us that we ought to be doing those things. So any of those proposals that come forward to this House will be given the additional force of this resolution if it's passed today. So it's a platform from which we will work. Mr Adams spoke about the necessity to get residents into tourism jobs, get residents into any jobs at all of cost. It doesn't specifically target any particular jobs. It says that we must be mindful that there are benefits that arise from tourism. We know that it's a hundred million dollar industry out there and what we ought to be doing is ensuring that the benefits of that industry are properly and equitably shared throughout the community and that includes the creation of jobs and the creation of opportunities and we have got to do everything that we can to ensure that those opportunities go to the people who live here first and not some fly by nighter who is going to come, fill up his bag and toddle off in a couple of years time and that has happened and authority has allowed that to happen. So we want to ensure that we don't let those things happen but it doesn't increase those, include those things specifically. It includes a philosophical statement telling us that when we do these things that we ought to be keeping in mind that this is the basis from which we work. Now I know that from my part and I hope from Members, other Members parts that if this resolution is adopted today then you will have every right and additional force to go to Minister for the Environment and bang him around the ears and say well where is your land use plans, go to Robert and bang him around the ears where is your waste minimisation plan, where is your water plan etc, etc. You can bang me around the ears and say to me where is your marketing strategy for tourism and I have been banged around the ears plenty of times on that point. Regarding the marketing strategy and the point, final point made by Robert, has any work been done on the marketing strategy. Well of course there has been a marketing plan, a marketing strategy in place for some couple of years and it has been worked to. It won't change a great deal as a result of this although it can now be put out in a published form ready for discussion and what knot because we have agreed in certain objectives in relation to tourism in this resolution if it's passed today. So yes a great deal of work has been done on it. As to who is going to do it, well it's the job of the Tourist Bureau to put it together whether they engage a consultant to do that, it's entirely up to them. There has been some discussion on that but I would imagine that within a month or two we will be able to put a plan on the Table down here for discussion. That's all I have to say at the moment, thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER

Further debate. Mrs Cuthbertson.

MRS LOZZI-CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I think a lot of the confusion, certainly the confusion I felt about this document is the title of it. Plan is just too misleading. In the plan you expect practical measures to be taken. I really hope that eventually this will be called a policy statement because that is what I see it as. Instead of guidelines, policy guidelines that will set directions and also a yard stick for us to see that certain things are done as tourism is encouraged and developed on Norfolk Island. It is important to have a set of guidelines, you know we should be training people. We really need to do something about it that we have to look after the environment, that we have to conserve the unique qualities of the Island etc. So many of the statements have been made before and they were in the previous policy statement. It is important to restate them and to back them up with action plans and that is the next phase which the Minister for Tourism and Mrs

MR SPEAKER Further debate. Mr Smith.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I have no problem with the tourism plan to replace the existing policies as stated here. I have no problem with the amendment to it either and I don't think any of us can. I mean lets be straight up about this. This has taken directly out of a marketing report done by Mr Chamberlin from the States, and it's great. I mean that's exactly what we need. So I don't think we should play around too much with the words in it. I think you have mentioned, Monica, it's a too pronged attack and this is the first prong or the second prongs the part that we are really talking about and I'd be interested to see what the Minister has in mind for the second prong. Things that we have discussed over the last two months that I have been down here. Like the construction of a new hotel for example. There has been the homestay accommodation thing which has been passed but I don't know where that is at at the moment. What the strategies are from policy point of view from the Minister in relation to type of people we want to attract. There is all sorts of things. There is the Aids Group, the shopping side of tourism that has been brushed over in the last few years. All those sorts of things I am really keen to hear what the Minister may have to say on that second prong. That is what we need to be talking about. I would suggest that we can pass this straight away without any problem because as has been stated it covers the old tourism policy. All we really are looking for is what happens next. You know the meaty stuff that tourism is about and I would almost go to move that the question be put.

MR SPEAKER Is that what you are saying.

MR SMITH Can I do that when there is an amendment on the Table.

MR SPEAKER If you do that and we agree that it would be the amendment that would be put of course. If we are at that stage we will do that Honourable Members. Are we at that stage. I think we are really, yes. What is before us is the amendment that has been proposed by Mrs Anderson. That is the words commencing "recognising that Norfolk Island is first and foremost the home of its residents". I put that question that the amendment be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That amendment is agreed. We now have the original motion as amended. Any further debate on that before I put that question. Mrs Anderson.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I would just like to state for Mr Smith's benefit that with the Minister's concurrence I will move with him towards prong two as fast as we possible can because I agree that that is the meaty part of the debate but it is not yet available so we cannot debate it but we will move to that stage as quickly as we can.

MR SMITH I'd be pleased to help if I may.

MR KING I make one point just for a point of clarification so there is no confusion about the origins of this document. Mr Smith seems to suggest that it was a lift out of a yankee doodle report. The report which Mr Smith refers is a report which was done for the Bureau by Mr Ken Chamberlin who is an executive director of the Pacific Asia Travel Association and a director of the part of foundation. A very, very knowledgable man who was not commissioned because he cost nothing except a dinner and a couple of beers, but an excellent document and that is the document which

forms the basis or the origins of this statement. It is not a lift out of a report that was made for some other destination. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that the motion as amended be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That motion as amended is agreed.

NO.2 - TREES PRESERVATION AMENDMENT BILL 1995

We are resuming debate on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and Mr Adams you have the call to resume.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Concerning the fact the Bill or the principle Bill I don't think there's a lot more to say on that Mr Speaker. I move at this time unless at this stage someone has debate on the principle Bill I move that the question be put at the appropriate time and after that time we will then discuss the detail stage amendments which Members have before them.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Did you want to bring forward those amendments at today's sitting.

MR ADAMS I do.

MR SPEAKER Yes okay then.

MR ADAMS However, Mr Speaker, I would move that once I have brought them forward I would like those to sit on the Table until next month, till the next sitting and then finalise ...

MR SPEAKER The question before us is that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Is there any further debate upon that before I put that question. I put that question.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. We have agreed the Bill in principle and now the detail stage. Did you want to present your amendments now Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS I do Mr Speaker. Members I am bringing forward the detail stage amendments that will affect some significant changes to the original package of amendments that Members have had for some time. In the detail stage amendments, amendments 1 and 4 correct minor drafting errors in the Bill before the House. The main adjustment, Mr Speaker, is to the original amendments are to clause 7 which is on page 3 for Members and that is to omit proposed subsection 10(e)(3) and substitute, Mr Speaker, the following subsection 3 - a condition shall not be varied under subsection 2 unless the owner of the registered plantation approve of the variation. Mr Speaker, this change removes the possibility or perhaps fear of the possibility that an executive member may affect a post agreement change that could affect the viability of the plantation. Mr Speaker, keeping in mind that the strong commercial aspect of this amendment. This change perhaps makes it more of arrangement, a co-

operative arrangement between the land holder and the government. In other words if there is to be any change of conditions down the track it can only come about when there is agreement by both parties to do so. Mr Speaker the second significant change to the amendment Bill is to clause 7 and that is to omit proposed paragraphs 10(e)(4b) and (c) and substitute the following paragraph - the species of trees that can be planted and taken. Mr Speaker, the movement that this, to the amendment package here is the removal of part (c) which removes the words the percentage of the plantation that can be taken. Mr Speaker, removal of section (c) should lessen the fear that the word percentage would perhaps be too rigorously applied to plantations and that it would have the affect of the owner maintaining an aesthetic asset for the public at his own personal cost and expense which I think, Mr Speaker, is an unreasonable requirement. The aesthetic values of plantations will be a natural spin off of having large numbers of trees and growing in an area but I am a firm believer, Mr Speaker, that to attempt to enshrine this in legislation may well prove to be quite a burden for the owner who is, after all, the person who is foregoing income from other sources from his land while the plantation is in place not to mention, Mr Speaker, the on-going cost and expense of maintaining the plantation as it moves toward maturity. Mr Speaker, overall I believe this amending legislation will have a positive affect for at least part of the rural sector and arising from this is a point for Members to consider when deliberating on yes or no on this proposed legislation or this detail stage amendment is the fact that an improving rural sector may, will impact beneficially on virtually all of our community whether directly or indirectly. Firstly, Mr Speaker, it's pleasing to have before us proposed legislation that is doing legislation rather than stopping legislation. This legislation, Mr Speaker, if agreed to by the House will allow things to happen rather than shutting doors which sometimes I think, Mr Speaker, is a trap for legislators. Mr Speaker, the detail stage amendments are virtually hot off the press. I have preference that a decision on this Trees Preservation Amendment Bill or the detail stages of it be held over till the December sitting and at that time I'll seek a decision on it from the House. Just in closing, Mr Speaker, in that time I encourage questions from the community on this proposed legislation and the bid to further explain it to interested persons such things as how I see the Bill working or the intent behind the framing of various parts of the Amendment Bill and its accompanying detail stage amendments and other points and I encourage the community to contact me and seek me out on those questions. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Adams I am interpreting that the amendments that you have proposed to us here will be read and are proposed to be agreed as a whole and we are considering them in that way.

MR ADAMS Yes that is correct.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any debate Honourable Members. No further debate on that matter. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Mr Speaker, I move that the debate on the amendments be adjourned and made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

MR SPEAKER The question is debate be adjourned and that matter be made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That matter is so adjourned, thank you.

NO. 3 - PLANT AND FRUIT DISEASES AMENDMENT BILL 1995

We are resuming debate on the question that this Bill be agreed to in principle and Mr Christian you wanted to address this matter.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker I seek leave of the House to withdraw this Bill

MR SPEAKER The question before us Honourable Members is that this Bill be discharged from the Notice Paper. I put that question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it, that matter is so discharged Honourable Members

FIXING OF THE NEXT DAY OF SITTING

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that this House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 20th December 1995 at 10.00am

MR SPEAKER Thank you. That will be our normal third Wednesday in the month and will be our final sitting in 1995. Honourable Members I put the question that the motion be agreed

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you, that is our next Sitting day. Adjournment Mr Bates

ADJOURNMENT

MR BATES Mr Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

MR SPEAKER The question is that the House do now adjourn. Adjournment debate?
Mr Bates

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Christian can go first if he likes because I was just going to question some issues about the Plant and Fruit Disease Amendment Bill and he may be going to say those now

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Christian

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Just to explain to the listening public why I took the action of withdrawing the Plant and Fruit Disease Amendment Bill. Mr Speaker, this Bill has led to much public debate in the community. Some of it sensible and some of it quite ill informed, on both sides of the argument. I do remain convinced that a strictly regulated import regime governed by protocols overseen by our quarantine service, MIF in New Zealand and AQUIS in Australia, would not be detrimental to Norfolk Island's environment however, I am also conscious of the local orchard and fruit growing industry and have no wish to jeopardise the years of work some people have put in to propagating fruit trees. Last week in company with the Minister responsible for Commerce, Mr Adams, I visited one of these orchards. I was satisfied during this inspection that provided we enjoy the satisfactory weather

15.11.95

pattern over the next few years, there is excellent prospect of a greater quantity and diversity and fruit being domestically available. The situation will need to be monitored over the forthcoming future which led to my withdrawing the Bill today so that the status quo can be remain. In my remarks in October I mentioned to the House the problems with smuggling of fruit into Norfolk Island. It is my belief that the smuggling provisions of the current customs ordinance are being significantly strengthened and the new Customs Bill is currently being finalised and I will liaise with Mr King on this specific matter. I will also be investigating improved detection surveillance measures to better police the illegal import of fruit and plants into Norfolk Island and I will report to the House at a later date on that matter Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. Any other contributions to the adjournment debate? The question therefore Honourable Members is that the House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it Honourable Members, therefore this House stands adjourned until Wednesday the 20th December 1995 at 10 o'clock am.

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