

editor of the Norfolk Island News Alice was a regular contributor of feature articles including many interviews with Island personalities. She was an avid gardener and won a number of prizes in the Show for herbs and vegetables. She was also a talented musician and for some years on Norfolk taught piano to many children and adults. To Ed and the family this House conveys it's deepest sympathy.

It is also with deep regret that this House records the death of George William McCleave Buffett (affectionately known as Hackett) who passed away at his home in Cascades on Friday 31 May 1996. Hackett was born on 27th January 1911, the eldest of 5 children of the late Peter Moore Buffett and his wife Gertrude (nee Evans). He grew up on Norfolk and at the outbreak of World War 11 enlisted in the local Militia. He married Maude (nee Buffett) in June 1941 and not long after, left Norfolk to enlist in the Australian Army. He first served in North Queensland and then overseas in Borneo. After the war, the family returned to the Island where he worked the land and then became a chainman with the then Government Surveyor. Hackett later became a Groundsman at the Airport where he worked until his retirement, but Hackett never really did retire and set up a lawn mowing business at which he worked until his knee started giving trouble. He gave up mowing, but he never gave up his vegetable gardening. He loved the land and its productivity.

He also loved horses - he bred and trained them and used to ride to and from work on horseback. A quiet, friendly man whose company was enjoyed. He had an open, honest smiling face with a sparkle in his eye. He was generous in giving. To Maude, Allen, John and Elaine and to Hackett's brother Arthur and his wife Mary and families this House extends it's sympathy.

It is with deep regret that this House records the death of Elsie Mabel Hickey who passed away in the Norfolk Island Hospital on 24th May 1996. Born 11th March 1910 the youngest of four children of a quite wealthy farmer and his wife - Sidney and Jane Blackler - who had moved to Werribee, Victoria, from Timaru, New Zealand. Primary school years were spent in Werribee, followed by boarding school in Melbourne. Elsie had hoped to be a Journalist but her father wasn't having any of that, so instead became a trained nurse. In 1935, on a belated honeymoon with her husband Don, Elsie came to Norfolk They did not have any intention of staying on the Island for any length of time but the opportunity arose shortly after their arrival for Don to take over the bakery business of Mr Jack Hall, which was situated behind the premises now owned by Duncan Sanderson. During the war years, Don and Elsie had the task of supplying bread to many of the various troops stationed on the Island, delivering it by horse and cart. Such was the demand, that they used to bake bread twice a day. It was not until 1952 that their own bakehouse was built in Burglar's Lane near the family home. Elsie and Don had five children - Margaret, Michael, Elaine Peter and Dianne (all married now). Not only did she rear her own family, but also took into her family, her young nephew Richard, 4 years of age when his mother Estelle died, who was the wife of the late Sid Newberry. For her children, Elsie was a perfect mum continually cooking, sewing knitting. Elsie devoted a lot of her time to the community. She was a member of the Norfolk Island Hospital Board and continued her interest in the Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, remaining as President of that organisation for 40 years before retiring only last year. During her term as President, the booklet "Dars Et", with its collection of pictures of the flora and fauna of Norfolk Island, was printed. This publication still brings in a steady income for the Hospital Auxiliary. Over the years, the Hickeys have been responsible for many untold acts of kindness and help to families on the Island. Elsie was a life member of the Golf Club. She was forever knitting woollen rugs, which were sent off to the Royal Institute for the Deaf and Blind children. Add to these the countless number of pairs of woollen socks that have come off her knitting needles and you can get a picture of a grand lady. In recognition of her many years of community service, Elsie was awarded the British Empire Medal in the late 1970's.

Elsie loved to swim in Emily Bay, doing so every day, rain, hail, or shine, and

as son Peter was reported to say in "The Norfolk Islander" he would like to think of Mum in heaven's version of Emily or Slaughter Bay, lying on her back, kicking and splashing and calling out to any other souls within earshot, "it's very pleasant here and I'm pleased to be here, though I have to tell you, it isn't as beautiful as Norfolk Island". To all the members of the Hickey families, the five children, 19 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, this House conveys its sympathy, on the loss of this gentle, caring lady.

ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you Mr Adams. Honourable Members as a mark of respect in the memory of the deceased I would ask that all Members stand in silence.

ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you Honourable Members.

Petitions

Are there any petitions?

Notices

Are there any notices?

Questions without Notice

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I'm a little outnumbered here this morning Mr Speaker but I'll see what questions I can come up with here, and I'd like to direct to the Minister for Tourism in relation to travel. Minister, Executive members do have to travel as part of the job. It's a most important part of negotiations in other places but I do have a couple of questions relating to your travel recently. Firstly do you remember it did cost you to go to Bangkok which is the second part of the question I asked you at the last meeting and secondly you just recently travelled to Canberra. Can you advise who you spoke to there, what the subject was and the cost of that?

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. Thank you very much for those questions. I think it should be understood that my travels aren't necessarily related always to tourism. In those areas. The interest I think contained in Mr Smiths question is that I have conveniently forgotten how much public monies I spent when I travelled to Thailand in recent times. Its certainly not the case and I don't have any difficulty in disclosure of that but we've made a point here in this House of placing such questions on Notice if you want a list of that sort of information. I do not know and I don't have a recollection and if I had a guess now I'd be probably misleading the House, but I'm quite happy to make that information available if the questions are put clearly on Notice. In respect of my recent travel to Canberra yes I did travel to Canberra it was more, although a bit of both duties tourism and Head of Government duties. The majority as the Head of the Norfolk Island Government two or three weeks ago the expenditure there as I recall is about \$1200. I had discussions with the Territories section of the Department of Environment, Sports and Territories. I had discussions with the Environment section of that same department. I had discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister. I had discussion with the Minister for the Environment, Senator Robert Hill. I had discussions with the Minister for Territories Mr Warwick Smith both of the latter two were here just yesterday for Bounty, and I spoke with Ansett personnel in Sydney in relation to tourism on my return through Sydney to Norfolk Island, and discussions I had on a political level were of the informal nature. They were, the major objective of those discussions was to establish a working relationship with the new coalition Government and I think I have been quite successful in achieving that on that occasion both the portfolio Minister Senator Hill and the Territories Minister

Warwick Smith accepted invitations to attend our Anniversary Day celebrations here just two days ago and meet members of the community, so I think that in itself is a successful outcome. That answers the question I think to the extent that I'm able to at this point.

MR SMITH Question on behalf of yourself Mr Bates to Mrs Lozzi Cuthbertson Minister for Education. Yesterday was a pupil free day at the School. Could the Minister explain the reason and who is responsible for authorising such an event and under what circumstances?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I believe it was a staff development day given over to staff development in which all members of the staff at the school actually took part. It is not an unusual activity or procedure in the schools of NSW especially schools that are a little more isolated such as ours. There is no need for a Headmaster within the NSW education system to ask permission to organise a pupil free day for purposes of staff development. Therefore it is a decision that he takes hopefully advisedly and I'm sure with Mr O'Neils ability he has done so. It is not something that political interference should affect but you wonder perhaps if it could have been better organised during a holiday for the children instead of during a school day, but as I say this is something that falls within the Headmasters province to decide and he has done so.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. A question to the Minister in charge of roads. A few months ago Minister I asked you a question about the upgrading of the road in Burnt Pine. You assured me and the House that it would be one of the first priorities in the new financial year. Can you just reassure the community that that is still to be the case.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. Yes the upgrading of Taylors Road through the shopping centre area is on the works programme for the next financial year and I currently have engaged the services of a professional Urban Planner to assist with the design, the scope of the work and the costings for that project. I don't expect any more undue delays in that area.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. Question also to the Minister for Broadcasting in relation to Radio JJJ. I know that you have some information on that that members of the community may not be aware of. Would you like to enlighten the community or those that are particularly interested in re-broadcast of Radio JJJ.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. The Radio 2 JJJ issue has been around for a while. I previously told the House that it would be considered in a budgetary context. This has been done and no funds were appropriated for the re-broadcasting of 2 JJJ and this was on the basis of technical advice that I received which indicated that the re-broadcasting of the signals may not be as reliable as had at first been thought and therefore I took the decision not to seek the necessary funding for the equipment.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. A question to the Minister for Finance in relation to the Airport Terminal. One or two months ago at a committee meeting I put the theory to other Members that we should actually put our new terminal out beside the runway, which I think is the appropriate place for it to be considering that the type of aircraft we have flying now, may not be still flying here in 8 or 10 years. At that time it was suggested that we were in a bit of a hurry to get the terminal built and it was a bit late for that sort of thing but as time is slipping by we still haven't started on the terminal. I wonder if the Minister or other Members would reconsider the rebuilding of the new terminal out by the runway which is the appropriate place for it?

MR KING Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. It's appropriate in Mr Smith's eyes. It's not appropriate in the eyes of the majority, and the majority prevail. The time for consideration of re-locating the Airport Terminal has long since past. Indeed we are in a hurry to provide some economic stimulus by building the Terminal and by providing better passenger handling facilities on the Island. It was Mr Smith who wanted to turn the first sod on January 1st of this year. Let me re-state that Mr acting Deputy Speaker. The time for consideration of a relocation or another site has long since past.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. Question to Mr Christian the Minister for Lands and for the Land package that we have actually on the agenda, I don't think we'll be discussing it today. This Land package. Is there going to be a cost to us in the implementation of the package, other than just a normal Legislative Drafting etc and is there any hidden costs to the community like Land Rates being planned in this package?

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. Mr Smith can read the Legislation or the proposed Legislation as well as I can. I certainly haven't uncovered any hidden agendas in there to introduce Land Rates. It's certainly not my intention. As far as additional costs go, well there may be some in the short term, however Land Administration is something that Norfolk Island Government has shouldered the costs of since self-Government and will continue to do so. I think the system we're about to introduce is a more efficient one and in the long term will be far more cost effective than the system we have now.

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. A question to the Minister for Health. Could you please tell us what the state is of the Healthcare Insurance Fund and can you assure the community that there will be no increased in rates on the Healthcare Levy?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. The state of the Healthcare Insurance Fund at the moment is remarkably and surprisingly healthy, and at the moment if things continue in this way we certainly do not anticipate increasing the Healthcare Levy. Unfortunately you cannot look vary closely down the road and anticipate whether there will be a spate of expensive bills to be paid later on in this current financial year, but if the trends continue no there will be no increase in the Healthcare Levy.

MR SMITH I'm not sure who this question is to go to. It's about the Cascade pier. It's been brought to my attention and others obviously too, that the Cascade pier is deteriorating. I would like to know as others would, what is being done to repair the Cascade pier, and also does it fall into the Commonwealth responsibilities or Norfolk Island's

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. It may well at the end of the day in the final wash up, fall into somebody else's responsibility from a constitutional point of view, but at the end of the day the onus is on us to effect repairs and to provide the resources to bring it to a reasonable state. Mr Acting Speaker there is work occurring on the Cascade pier at this time and I will be contacting the appropriate section and eliciting further information perhaps in the form of a report to put the status of the pier and what repairs if any, need to be carried out. I understand in recent times a whole section of the pier has been replaced but I'll keep the house posted as more information becomes available, thank you

MR SMITH My final question Mr Acting Deputy Speaker is to the Minister for Finance, and head of the executive. Firstly I should ask, will he be making a statement on the Minister's visit over here during the weekend

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I was intending to but I'm happy to field a question

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, the Ministers from Canberra met with the executive on Sunday. Could the Minister please advise the community what was discussed at that meeting

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker the meeting was, if I were to describe it in one word, an informal type meeting. It was an extension of the getting to know you routine and establishing a working relationship. It was never intended that any decisions be made at that meeting but there were a range of issues discussed informally. Most notably, they were issues which remain in Schedule 3 to the Norfolk Island Act and that is that there is a shared responsibility for them. For example, education and we spoke about the prospect of change to the Memorandum of Understanding or the Agreement between our Government and the Commonwealth regarding education for Norfolk Island. Immigration which is in Schedule 3 and the pending changes to our immigration laws which have generally been agreed at officer level, we spoke about the Kingston Arthurs Value Historical Area which is an area that falls in Mr Christian's portfolio. We spoke about industry diversification briefly and we spoke about the move for uniform gun laws and how Norfolk Island might deal with that particular issue and a range of miscellaneous issues of that kind. We met over a period of about forty-five minutes and as I mentioned earlier on no decisions were made, nor were they expected to be made at that meeting

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mr King. There being no further Questions Without Notice, we move to Questions On Notice.

Questions On Notice

Are there any answers to Questions on Notice

Presentation of Papers

Are there any Papers for presentation?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. In accordance with paragraph 41(2)(a) of the Interpretation Ordinance 1979 I table the Road Traffic General Amendment Regulations 1996 and the Tobacco Regulations 1996

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Cuthbertson. Any further Papers?

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I table the financial indicators for the eleven months of the financial year ending in June 1996 and move that they be noted. Mr Acting Speaker thank you. Some brief debate or observations more than debate. The figures I've just tabled which will be available for the Press for publication revealed that at the eleven month mark of the financial year that the state of the Norfolk Island budget or the performance of the public account is no less than excellent. We are heading for a successful outcome for the year and unless some drastic event takes place over the next two weeks or someone runs away with the public purse, we can expect a very very favourable position at the end of the year. As I have foreshadowed to members in camera, I will be talking over the next couple of weeks with a view to providing some moneys out of this years projected surplus towards capital replacements for the Norfolk Island Hospital and that's a matter that we will be discussing. The appropriated budget amount for the year will not be exceeded so expenditure will remain within the total established by the Appropriation Bill for this year. Thank you. That's all I have to say Mr Acting Deputy Speaker

12.6.1996

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. It is a matter of great relief and pleasure that the budget is performing as it is. However, we have not see a financial statement for the last couple of months and I believe that the Finance Minister had some difficulty in actually procuring this statement. I'm concerned that we weren't given notice that the budget was running so much in surplus because we could have all come forward with proposals for expenditure in our area of responsibility which we had put on the back burner and we certainly would have been able to get something done in a number of fields which is not going to happen in this financial year now. I'm delighted that the hospital will get an additional subsidy and I certainly have developed a very impressive list of items that need attention at the hospital, to put up a good argument for that subsidy but it would have been better if we could have planned or taken advantage of this surplus. It would have benefited the community and I really don't think it is good practise to withhold funds this way from circulation. It would have created an additional economic stimulus and it is a shame that this has not happened earlier

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I think there was a touch of executive embarrassment in what Mrs Cuthbertson just said. There certainly wasn't any suggestion I'm sure that money were being deliberately withheld or hidden away from the view of the Assembly or the executive government.

I want to say that most of the surplus that we will accumulate this year is surplus which has come about as a result of a resurgence in economic and industrial tourism activity over the past six or seven months in particular, and that has contributed greatly to a rebuild of public funds. It has taken some time in my view, for a level of confidence to be restored to the business sector and for the economy to have the trickle down effect and improved economy for those things are really starting to manifest themselves now in terms of increased investment and stock replenishment etc. Indeed it is an embarrassment that we are likely to head to a large surplus for this year. I'm not sure that I agree that there is some difficulty in putting these figures together or bringing them forward. Most of our attention over the past couple of months has been directed towards putting together the budget for this coming year and I guess there is some regret on my part that we didn't have a look at this earlier on but let me stress again that there is absolutely no difficulty in bringing forward further Appropriation Bills during the course of the year. We are not restricted to one Appropriation Bill per year. If there are properly planned capital projects which members of the Public Service can put on the table for our consideration then we should be comfortable in recognising that we are in a position where we can seriously consider those proposals

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. Minister, with the other charges income, can you just remind me of what those are in the indicators and why it is up by 82%. That's column four and five this year and last year. This year it is \$1.2m and last year it was \$680,000

MR KING I'll wait and see if there are any other questions arising from the debate. If that is the only question I'm happy to question and answer things

ACTING SPEAKER Is there any further debate? Mr King

MR KING That figure includes the repaid Telecom and Electricity Service loans to the Revenue Fund, the figure of \$482,000 is included in that figure. Transferred back or repaid to the Revenue Fund at the end of the first half year

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mr King, the question before us is that the Paper be noted, any debate?

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it, that Paper is noted thank you. Any further Papers for presentation?

Statements

We move to Statements of an official nature. No Statements. We move to Messages

Message from the Office of the Administrator

Honourable Members I have received the following message from the Office of the Administrator, Message No 94. On 29th May 1996, pursuant to sub-section 22(1) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 His Excellency the Governor-General declared his Assent to the Territorial Waters Amendment Act 1996. Act No 6 of 1996. Dated the 6th June 1996, Alan Kerr, Administrator

Reports of Standing and Select Committees

Are there any Reports of Standing and Select Committees? Honourable Members we move ON

Message from the Office of the Administrator

Honourable Members I have to report that I've received the following message from the Office of the Administrator, Message No 95 dated the 11th June 1996, recommending to the Legislative Assembly the enactment of a proposed law entitled An Act to authorise expenditure from the Public Account for the year ending 30th June 1997

NOTICES

NO 1 - APPROPRIATION BILL 1996

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I present the Appropriation Bill 1996 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, this Bill deals only with proposed expenditure from the General Revenue Fund. It does not deal with the Government Business Undertakings, which, although standing separately in a budget sense also constitute an important part of public sector and economic activity in the Island.

(I will refer briefly to activity in those areas a little later).

My approach to this budget Mr Acting Speaker, has been cowardly - I embraced all the unwritten rules of old without any regard to the appropriateness or sense of those rules in this day and age. I deliver here an austere budget, one without deficit, without borrowings and without new taxes. Whilst I have abided by the unwritten rules I do not accept their legitimacy. I emphasise once again my belief that deficit budgeting and borrowings (on reasonable terms) for capital works are important and acceptable elements of public sector financial management. Some several weeks ago Mr Acting Speaker, I expressed a desire to make the budget process a little more exciting and give it more focus. Unfortunately, within the guidelines I am set to operate in, I have failed. If someone calls it a dull, dreary, bill paying budget, then I accept that description.

In rough terms Mr Acting Speaker revenue and expenditure totals are much the same as those of previous years. This Bill appropriates \$8.7m. A broad range of cuts across the area of Administration recurrent expenses has been necessary to fund increases in areas where little or no alternative existed. For example, in making an adequate provision for health services, prospective increase in education

salaries, further expenses under our agreement the Australian Federal Policy, increased staffing resulting from the lands review.

The largest component of proposed revenue fund expenditure is salaries and wages which will total some \$4.1/4m and equal almost 50% of total expenditure, but before there is a hue and cry I should observe to members that the wages component of the revenue fund expenditure in the early 80's was regularly well in excess of 50%.

Health, welfare and education between them will account for some 32% of expenditure during the year. Expected rises in education and health costs will be offset to a small degree by a fall in welfare demands this coming year. A request for a 65% increase in hospital subsidy has not been met in this budget. This demand will be met to a large degree by a provision for capital expenditure to be made from this current years appropriation. In addition, the proposed budget reflects a surplus of \$175,000 as ample provision for additional justified health related expenditure during the year.

Tourism promotion has been increased slightly by 4% to \$517,300 to offset the impact of inflation on advertising costs.

Mr Acting Speaker, these expenditures will be funded from existing sources. Although there is reasonable prospects for improving income through new sources - these new income streams cannot yet be relied upon. I do however put Members on notice that once new income streams do start running the government will likely bring forward a further Appropriation Bill for expenditure on capital projects.

Revenue from taxes will amount to approximately \$5m. This figure includes an increase in tax collections which is expected to result from a 3% increase in tourism during the year. This forecast industry increase is expected to follow the average 5% per annum growth recorded in the past two years.

The increased tax receipts caused through improved economic activity will unfortunately be offset to a certain extent by a continued decline in Financial Institutions Levy receipts.

Revenue from the business enterprises will fall in real terms to approximately \$3.1m, the fall caused largely by a reduction of \$.1/4m in the dividend from Telecom. (The fall not reflecting reduced performance, reflecting the fact that the dividend for this current year is excessive).

Increased dividends from both Postal operations and the Liquor supply Service reflect improved trading performances. Postal, largely as a result of improved business relations with Australia Post; Liquor Service largely as a result of improved sales. (The Liquor Supply Service or at least, various elements of its operation are presently under close examination, consistent with my demand that the service operate on a proper commercial basis).

The Electricity Supply Service will not make a dividend to General Revenue in this coming year but will be allowed to replenish its cash position following the repayment of its loan to the revenue fund earlier this year. An accumulation of funds will enable the Electricity Service to look seriously at the purchase of further generation plant later in the financial year. (I expect to receive a proposal on this within the next 2/3 months, a proposal which will set out a range of options involving expenditure of some \$500,000 to \$1.2m. I would expect funding to be achieved from within the public sector).

Mr Acting Speaker, the Airport Undertaking as well, will pay no dividend to General Revenue but will continue to accumulate its funds towards major capital and maintenance works. The Undertaking will provide total funding of the Airport Terminal project, which will result in new passenger handling facilities by the end of the new financial year. This project will provide significant economic stimulus to the local economy.

Mr Acting Speaker, despite contributing fewer dollars to the Revenue Fund this coming year, the business Undertakings will continue to make a very significant contribution by providing almost 35% of the necessary funding for general expenditure.

Mr Acting Speaker, the last thing I have to say at the moment, is to thank the Chief Administrative Officer and his Public Service for an exceptional level of

co-operation and professionalism during the budget process, particularly in taking two cuts at what was initially an unacceptably high deficit.

In addition Mr Acting Speaker the Public Service has had to contend with my demands for an end to line - item budgeting, demands which required an entirely new approach by managers and department heads.

This new approach is the first step towards program budgeting and accrual accounting. It offers a wider degree of flexibility and responsibility to public service managers in managing their own finances but in return demands more accountability. I thank the public service for responding to these changes and I offer an iron-clad guarantee that the changes will, in time, be of immense benefit to all who are involved in public sector financial management. And that is my contribution at this time thank you

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I would like to congratulate Mr King for the way that he has managed the preparation of this budget and the discussions leading up to its finalisation. He has managed to remove the nitpicking from the process so that Assembly Members have had an opportunity to consider and make an input in the overall budget direction rather than getting caught up in the details. Unlike him I do not think this budget is cowardly. I think it is a responsible starting point. It is sufficiently conservative to allay anyone's fears and if expectations of new income streams materialise as anticipated there will be considerable room for the funding of other initiatives at a later stage to the benefit of the whole community. There is absolutely no reason why this budget should set the seal of what can be done in the next financial year. I certainly do not regard it that way, and if the anticipated new income streams materialise I have already indicated to Mr King and my colleagues that I will be making a bid for a portion of those additional funds for initiatives particularly in the education area and for further replacement of equipment and improvements at the Hospital. More of that later. At this point I would like to say I approve of the way the relevant Managers of the Public Service were involved in deciding what should be included in their sections budgets for the coming year and in cutting down what it can at times be best described as wishless into realistic and affordable priorities. In this regard I also wish to record my appreciation for Mr John Rankin our CAO for taking the Public Service Managers through this decision making process as part of his drive to dedicate appropriate levels of responsibility to Heads of Branches. In the preliminary to introducing programme budgeting and accrual accounting the development of this budget will have given Public Service Managers a taste for the advantages of having a greater level of flexibility and decision making. Essential items if they are going to manage their own areas effectively. As Norfolk Island continues along the path of internal self government it is essential that its Public Service becomes more professional in every sense. I know it is almost fashionable to criticise and denigrate Public Servants but without a professional competent and honest Public Service, countries quickly become unstable. If Norfolk Islanders are serious about internal self-government they should clamber yes I mean clamber for up-skilling and fair treatment of its Public Service. Since the start of self-government or the self-government process in 1979 it has been an accepted fact that the natural consequences of progressively achieving full self-government for Norfolk Island would be a necessary but managed increase in the size and complexity of the Norfolk Island Administration. Without this the myriads of services required of modern government such as ours would not be delivered. The need for this growth has not always been recognised by successive governments since 1979 and some areas of the Public Service are still under resourced, notably the policy middle management section. The 1996 budget to 1997 recognises this need and accordingly makes provision for supplementary resources for the increased workload and added complexity of work associated with the implementation of the Land Review Legislation recently introduced into the Assembly and for the strengthening of human resources and financial management generally across the Administration. Other areas of this budget that come within the areas of my

responsibility are Education, Health, Healthcare, Police and Welfare and I will comment on each if I may. In respect of Education this budget allows for an extra full-time Teacher to be recruited next year. Because a greater proportion of Norfolk Islands children are attending High School as compared to Primary School the overall numbers of children have not varied much in the last few years. There is a need to provide for greater choice in the Curriculum, hence the extra position. The Headmaster Mr O'Neil had asked for 3 additional Teachers but in view of the expected increase in the Teachers Salaries which may soon flow from a decision of the NSW Industrial Commission it is just not possible to create as many new positions. Although this could put forward no budget allocation to cover this inevitable increase in Teachers salaries we will have to cover it in this Financial Year. A contingency allows of approximately 10% has been taken into consideration. Unfortunately it may well not be enough because as most people know the NSW Teachers Federation is asking for an increase of 24%, an increase over which Norfolk Island has no control and has no opportunity to comment. We simply will have to find the money and pay. Money which will have to be taken from other resources and other purposes. It is appropriate to stress that point though Norfolk Island pays the salaries, superannuation and all the entitlements of Teachers the NSW Department of School Education supplies to our school it has no say whatsoever in the level of salaries it has to pay nor the other entitlements for which it foots the bill. Anyway having to make provision for what is a certain increase in Teachers salaries has placed a limit to the additional number of Teachers who we can consider recruiting to enrich the curricula in our High School. However, as mentioned earlier should expected additional income stream be forthcoming and all is provided the anticipated increase in Teachers salary is closer to 10% than 24% I have already placed a bid for extra funds for Educational purposes. In this regard, following talks with Mrs Kaye Sharp of the Hunter Valley Training Company who visited the Island recently I have asked the Headmaster Mr O'Neil and his Deputy, Mr Ryder to develop proposals in conjunction with Mrs Sharp for the introduction of vocational courses into Years 11 and 12 as from the beginning of 1997. This will ensure that young people who complete their education here but do not intend to go on with academic training will leave our School with a range of skills which will enhance their chances of getting Apprenticeships further vocational training or immediate employment. This initiative would go a long way to making Years 11 and 12 more relevant and useful to the 60 to 70% of students who do not proceed into academic courses after they gain their HSC. Some of the courses we plan to introduce will entail students being placed with Tradesmen, Businesses or section of the Administration for a number of hours per week so that they may put into practice the theory being covered in these vocational courses. In time together with their HSC's those students will receive Certificates of Competence detailing the skills they will have acquired. These certificates are recognised throughout Australia and make entrance into further training considerably easier. It is also much easier to get a job when one has such a certificate. This budget also includes a provision for a subsidy of \$5,000 to the Banyan Park Pre-School in recognition of the importance of such training for young children. This is an increase from the last years allocation. Turning to the allocation for Health for the year ending 30 June 1996 that is the current Financial Year the one that has not yet finished \$355,00 has already been made available in subsidies to the Hospital and a further subsidy of at least I hope \$100,00 if not more will be paid to the Hospital out of savings from the other areas before June 30th. The extra funds are to be spent for capital items such as replacing the roof which is leaking, buying a new operating table, which is faulty and could be quite dangerous, replacing the professional paging system which has become seriously unreliable and may one day add to all sorts of problems and installing a call system for patients to summons nurses from anywhere in the Hospital. It will also go towards buying a range of other Hospital equipment that is badly needed and needs to be replaced or augmented. At this point may I say that I am seriously concerned that the current financial expenditure this year is so seriously under spent, as I said earlier it would have been welcome to have

been able to bring about these improvements earlier had we known that we would have had such a surplus. Mike I am delighted that the Hospital will have the opportunity to replace long required capital items and I will certainly add to that list in my possession if I can. I am mindful of Mr King's intention to review the budget being introduced today more frequently than has been the case in the past and to move funds not being utilised to make them available for other improvements of services to the people whose funds who can supply those funds, the community and I will encourage areas under my responsibility to come forward should they have worthwhile plans that should be funded later in the year. Going back to the Hospital it is worth mentioning that over the last two years apart from continuing a programme of refurbishing, the Hospital, of the Hospital, the nursing staff salaries have increased 3 times making up for some of the years during which they were underpaid quite seriously. In October later this year they will receive the final in an agreed series of increases which will give them relative parity with jobs in the Administration. That relativity was evaluated by an external independent assessor who examined the duties of nurses and those of the Administration staff. Hand in hand with this has gone a requirement for greater professionalism and accountability on the part of the Hospital staff, and the handing back of the Management of the Hospital to a team of community members, the Hospital Board. It is a mark of trust the community has in this Board that for the first time the relatives of the elderly inpatients have taken their complaints to the Board. Mostly until then, complainants were unwilling to be identified. This brave step has brought prompt and appropriate remedial action and ongoing meetings with the group of relatives and the Board to ensure that no backward sliding occurs. This budget allocates \$355,000 as last year as a subsidy for the Hospital and should further funds become available later in the year I shall be calling on my colleagues for a further allocation to allow the Hospital Board of Management to continue the upgrading of the Hospital. For the moment funds are not available to consider building a new Hospital but if the upgrading of the present Hospital continues it will give service for many years yet. With regard to the Healthcare scheme based on current projection and commitments it is possible there will be no need to provide it with a subsidy. However, that position will be kept under review and I am satisfied that should the provision change funds can be made available. The allocation for Welfare is conservative but based on available information in this area it is difficult to know what may happen. We know that should funds escalate with the serious illness of any of the people on a pension we may have to provide additional funds and that position will be monitored and adjusted as required. With regard to the increases in funds set aside for policing costs this reflects the Commonwealth ongoing policy of charging us a share of all the costs related to making available three members of the AFP for service here. For the first time this year we are being charged a share of the Employers contribution to the Superannuation fund. May I mention at this juncture that I have given some thought to the possibility of only having two full-time Police Officers on the Island but the costs involved in bringing in relief for holidays and such contingencies and extra overtime that would have to be paid to the remaining Officers resulted in very limited savings, but if costs continue to escalate the matter will have to be reviewed. Maybe I have gone into more detail than was necessary in discussing the areas of expenditure for which I am concerned, but as they represent the big ticket items in this budget I felt the public had a right to understand the thinking that has gone into at arriving at the present figures and how they will be kept under review in the coming year. Thank you Mr Acting Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Cuthbertson. Further debate. Mr Adams.

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I feel like the overall thrust of this years budget is in keeping with the general confines of our normal budget parameters. In particular Mr Acting Speaker living within the Islands means and not borrowing. I believe that this budget is a progressive one. It contains initiatives that will provide assistance and stimulation to a broader range of areas. This budget does this with no increased impost and a greater amount of flexibility in obtaining objectives, while still retaining a comfortable surplus. Mr Acting Speaker in accord with Mrs Cuthbertson I don't share Mikes view that a conscious decision not to raise taxes is necessarily a cowardly one. I don't believe that the question of whether or not to increase the taxation level is necessarily appropriate. I believe that the question Mr Acting Speaker primarily answered by the amount of good reasons surrounding such decisions. In the past as many members can recall good reason was present and necessary decisions were made in keeping with the environment of obligation that existed in the relevant areas at the relevant time. This time Mr Acting Speaker the current objectives have been met, new initiatives flagged and funded. No new taxes to infringe on the cost of living and yet again still retaining a surplus. As well there are other revenue streams Mr Acting Speaker which are expected to commence making a positive contribution to our fiscal situation later in the Financial Year. Mr Acting Speaker in my areas of Executive responsibility there are some new moves and also some with the exception of minor adjustments remained at approximately the same fiscal level. Mr Acting Speaker, in my area sport is at a significant increase in funding. In earlier days I felt a measure of embarrassment in attempting to assist sporting organisation on Norfolk. Given the level of resources that have been allocated to me for this purpose and Mr Acting Speaker my embarrassment was not caused by me wanting to be some sort of Judge Roy Bean throwing money out the window at any passerby suitably attired in a tee-shirt wearing joggers but rather by my feelings that the governments obligation to the sporting community was unsatisfactorily addressed by the inadequate level of allocated resources. Mr Acting Speaker I feel that this Financial Years allocation goes along way toward matching up obligation with allocation. Mr Acting Speaker globally the sport figure is \$54,500. The breakdown of this is firstly in the area of the Amateur Sports Association of Norfolk. A small increase for them in there annual allocation for their conducting of their yearly programmes. The significant shift in ASA funding Mr Acting Speaker is the allocation of \$30,000 on an annual basis to go toward the 2001 South Pacific Mini Games. This yearly monetary allocation is to assist the ASA coping with the financial impost necessary with the staging of such a large event. Mr Acting Speaker, I believe the staging of this event will have significant beneficial affects on Norfolk in such broad areas of the area of Economics, PR visibility for the Island given that inside that process there will be quite a few headaches for the organising committees. Further Mr Acting Speaker the sports promotion area has had an increase to \$12,000 based on the indicators received prior to budget as to the level of assistance we might be required to contend with in the coming financial Year. The Youth Trust Fund has been allocated \$5,000 to be used in the assistance of younger members of the sporting community and allocated and this money Mr Acting Speaker is allocated by the Youth Trust Fund itself. Mr Acting speaker the Forestry Section is another in my area that sees some movement in the budgetary context. The Forestry section works under the

umbrella of the laid down Forestry policy and the aims of management contained within that policy. This Forestry policy's manifested in the day to day operational manner by the Forest working plans are prepared by Martin Benson the Consulting Forester and covers many areas in detail that are relevant to that section. Mr Acting speaker new legislation is to be drawn up in regard of the Management of protected lands in anticipation of the completion of the Land Transfer Process occurring at the moment between the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island. This has direct implications Mr Acting Speaker for the Forestry Section and steps have been taken in a budgetary context to take on board and to commence addressing these implications. There is an allocation in the Courts and Lands area of \$15,000 which is again to assist in the increase Managerial role in this protected land, this cross charging if you like involved in that area. There's also an allocation of \$10,000 Mr Acting Speaker which directly for increased activity and improvement in the area of the Reserves. Alongside this is the Houses intention to restructure the Forestry Section into an organisation which has an increased focus. Particularly in matters of conservation which will occur earlier in the coming Financial Year. To undertake this restructure and to be a central figure in the compilation and implementation of the necessary plans and management floor reserves budgetary allocation from appropriate qualified Conservator is sought in this Bill and this will add significantly to the skilled pool that we have available to tend to Norfolk's environmental needs. Mr Acting Speaker moving now to a new initiative that does not necessarily comfortably fit into any particular present area is my rural sector development strategy. Mr Acting Speaker this strategy is put forward as a means of providing stimulus and growth to the Rural sector of Norfolk Island. Mr Acting Speaker I believe increased emphasis on the rural sector is long overdue and it will be beneficial to the whole Island if increased economic activity can be promoted in this sector. Mr Acting Speaker I've developed a strategy and a round identification of important factors of Norfolk's rural area and have put forward means of enhancement of these particular factors. Mr Acting Speaker, quick broadbrush of these factors are as follows. One of the most important factors I believe in the moving the rural sector to a position of greater viability the one of water, and in that area Mr Acting Speaker I've out forward a two part proposal of which one is to increase the amount of water available to public use and part 2 has a core objective Mr Acting Speaker of reclaiming all the water discharged by the Water Assurance Scheme separating the sludge and processing the water to a qualitative level which would then allow it to be used for rural pursuit. This part also contains the intention Mr Acting Speaker of identifying areas of significant rural activity studying the feasibility of piping reclaimed water to these areas for rural use. Alongside the need for the water factor to be addressed Mr Acting Speaker, the strategy also contains a initiative to address the market situation and available markets I believe will need to be wider and in this context export markets need to be developed. To achieve this Mr Acting Speaker trade protocols will need to be developed with neighbouring countries and the strategy put forward a process to address that factor. In addition Mr Acting Speaker produce of the rural sector will need to be assessed along the lines of a proper and reasonable set of criteria along the lines of such things as premium price ability to withstand the rigors of freight, movements etc. Also provision of the improved plant materials contained within the strategy. The feasibility of and the pros and cons of importation of new and improved plant material. Also an assessment of the risks associated with such a initiative on those lines. I've also flagged the need in that strategy Mr

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Acting Speaker to have a look at what we can do along the lines of duty assistance and the strategy there would perhaps be to affect a downward Customs Duty in particular in the areas of particular rural items with a bid to providing stimulus through that move. Also Mr Acting Speaker Human Resource development is an area that I've addressed in the strategy. I believe it's an important area. It's repeatedly been flagged in the past in various studies done on Norfolk's rural sector and I certainly think it's important to have the means available to allow rural sector participants to either upskill themselves or have access to knowledge of people who may be able to assist them increasing their output of whatever produce they may or whatever area they may wish to be involved in. This strategy Mr Acting Speaker puts forward a means of addressing this. Mr Acting Speaker the doings of this will I envisage will be undertaken by a rural working group and to progress and develop this strategy I propose to bring together a working group with a relevant qualifications or experience in matters rural to do this. Mr Acting Speaker for this group to be able to properly progress this strategy the group will require resourcing and for that I've sought \$25,000 in the budget. Mr Acting Speaker I'm not going to pretend that this strategy will immediately turn fallow land into El Dorado but rather I see it as a commencement of the structure of an ongoing approach to increasing real incomes in the rural sector and I think that's something that's been lacking for a long time. Mr Acting Speaker in closing on this particular matter assuming that Members are see there way clear to giving this initiative the nod. If people in the community feel they can add to the concept in this particular strategy or indeed benefit from the strategy please don't hesitate to contact any Assembly Member or and give your point of view. Mr Acting Speaker that's my lot at this stage I've certain comments on particular GBE's in my area but I'll leave that to an appropriate time so that's my contribution at this stage. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER

Thank you Mr Adams. Further debate. Mr Christian.

MR CHRISTIAN

Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. The budget that Mr King has introduced into the House today is a balanced and responsible one. Not only does it project a surplus at the end of the '96 '97 Financial Year it achieved that surplus without any increase in taxes. Mr Acting Speaker I wish to speak briefly about some areas that I have Executive responsibility for. Mr Acting Speaker the Museums Cafe has been an area of concern for some time. The operation of the Cafe is now under examination and I expect to achieve significant cost savings within that area over the next few weeks. Mr Acting Speaker a programme is being developed to rationalise the use of Administration vehicles. The underlying thrust of this programme is to reduce the capital and operational costs of all vehicles within the Administration. Mr Acting Speaker I am also exploring methods to extend the maintenance of public grounds without requiring any additional human or financial resources. Mr Acting Speaker the cost of maintaining the houses within the DCA Circle in return for meagre rentals also causes me a degree of concern. A cost benefit analysis is now under way and I expect a report shortly. This report will cover all options and eventual disposal of the properties, and eventual disposal of the properties should not be ruled out. Mr Acting Speaker the Roads area benefits greatly from this budget. Capital expenditure for road reconstruction has been increased by \$69,000 to \$344,000. I had sought in excess of \$500,000 and I may achieve the difference at budget review time. Taylors Road through Burnt Pine is the major beneficiary of this project, or of this budget, as is the ongoing programme of

sealing all unsealed roads in Norfolk Island. Mr Acting Speaker I support this budget. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER

Thank you Mr Christian. Any further debate?

MR SMITH

Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I would like to give Mike a little bit of credit or a lot of credit I should say which might surprise him. I think he and the Public Service has put together a budget that is balanced maybe even with a slight surplus. I don't intend to say very much about it at this meeting. I might add a little bit more at the next meeting. There's a couple of things that I think we want to be a little bit careful with because it look like there's going to be quite a surplus from the previous year of some quite substantial amount but we shouldn't start to think that we've got lots of money that we can go and throw around, particularly when one part of the revenue from last year was a matter of \$500,000 that we took out of some of the Business enterprises, not saying that there's anything wrong with that but that was included in our surplus that we might end up with at the end of this year so let's not get carried away that we've got lots and lots of money to throw around. There has been a lot of cutting to this budget. Some things that can't be done in the next 12 months unless revenue comes in at a greater rate than what is shown in the budget. One thing that does concern me which I intend to talk more about at the next meeting is that even though we can balance our budget here it still doesn't reflect that there's an upturn in the Business sector. When you look through Customs Duty Financial Institutions Levy, those sort of taxes, there has been some slight increases in them but it's not showing that there's a massive turnaround in the general economy. Some of those things we need to think about and I'd like to talk more about it in the next meeting on the 26th I think it is. Thank you Mr Acting Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER

Thank you Mr Smith. Further debate? Mr King.

MR KING

Thank you Mr Speaker. I want to make just a couple of brief comments in response to some words that were spoken. I didn't want to give the impression that I was in my mind suggesting that there ought to be no new taxes. My taxing philosophy as I've often stated it is that the taxes ought to be fairer and more equitable and established on a progressive basis and I put Members on notice that if I were to promote new taxes then they would not be directed to the average working class person in Norfolk Island. Now I'm not suggesting there that I would target the business community but I would suggest that there are areas in which certain business people operate in the Island which are fully funded by all the taxpayers of the Island for e.g the Kingston area is an area that all the taxpayers of Norfolk Island contribute to and we allow without any taxes at all commercial operators to run through that area. that just simply doesn't happen anywhere else and we've got to be a little bit more progressive in our thinking towards taxation, but nevertheless there are no proposals at this point in time and I repeat that I don't envisage any new taxes during this current year but there may be some work towards looking at more fairer and more equitable taxation. Indeed we ought not to throw money around just because we're going to run a surplus this year. I had always hoped that the moneys that were returned to the General Revenue Fund from the loans which were held by Electricity and Telecom were not going to be spent on recurrent expenditure and I'm gratified that that has proved to be the case. I was never any intention on my part to use that. It was a exercise in

consolidating the cash position of the Administration or the Public Account in a picture which could be more clearly read and understood by the community and that has been achieved, but yes indeed we have to be mindful that part of the surplus which we might result in this current year will be some \$500,000. There is a lot more work to be done in expenditure in the operational recurrent areas and the new approach to budgetary that we have put in place will allow us to progressively on a year to year basis get back to a zero based budgetary type arrangement where the monies that are provided are not fat moneys but lean and sufficient monies and there is a lot more room, so that will be our focus in future years I hope will be the focus of the Assembly in future years in respect of the recurrent expenses but our main political focus must be on Capital Works and in particular Capital Project type works rather than simply Capital replacement works, course in those areas where we can generate the most economic activity. I have encouraged over the past few years Members to speak a little bit more positively about the economy and the performance of the economy. I regret that people are still seeing dismal signs because all the signs available to me all the real signs based on the factual data are positive signs. They are all positive signs. Customs Duty for example, despite what Mr Smith says has experienced an increase directly relative to increase in industrial tourism activity, directly relative to it. FIL is not because there are more and more people avoiding their obligations to contribute to the coppers and take their Business accounts offshore, no doubt still passing on the effects of it to their consumers in any event, but that's the only reason FIL is continuing to fall. It's lack of participation, lack of contribution. Proper appreciation examination of our tax will show that our taxes over 60% of them are paid by our visitors. That's a notorious situation. There are good and worthwhile and positive signs in the economy. Regretfully as I've suggested we don't have a concise document which brings together all the data and all the statistics which might give a clearer appreciation of these things but we'll get there in due course and I intend to have that publication maybe in 6 months so the community can examine and independent assessment of the economic indicators in the Island and form their own conclusions so that they won't have to accept that the word of Mike King down town that things are looking reasonably well. If there's no further debate I'll make the appropriate Motion to adjourn it.

MR KING I so move that debate be adjourned and the resumption of the debate be made Order of the Day for the next sitting.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. The debate is adjourned and made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

NO 2 - THE BILLBOARDS BILL 1996

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I present the Billboard Bill 1996 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle and I table the explanatory memorandum to that Bill.

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. Debate?

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Acting Speaker, the object of this Bill is to provide for the regulation and licensing of Billboards and hoardings in simple terms, signage the Bill is part of the Land Review package and should be read in the context of the planning and control measures in the Planning Act 1996 and Public Health Act 1996 and I commend the Bill to the House. Thank you Mr Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. Is there any debate?

MRS CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. Although I recognise the need to ensure cohesive and properly structured and comprehensive environmental plan, it pains me to see the need for such a Bill. Ways around achievement that Norfolk Island has not been littered with great hoardings and posters and the kind of thing that one sees along the roads in other places. I suppose we have to have this Bill. Let us hope that we never have to enforce it. thank you Mr Acting Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Cuthbertson. Further debate?

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. It's an interesting Bill this one. If anyone wants to put a Billboard out in front of their premises or whatever they may be doing they have to have a license to do it. Maybe the Minister can enlighten us whether there will be a charge for that, how it will be watched and further more, who decides whether a Billboard is appropriate or not. It doesn't show up in the Bill. Maybe you can explain it to us Minister.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. The application and approval process for signs and I'll call them signs to simplify the thing will not be substantially different from that which exists today except the application will be to the Planning Board and ultimately approved by the Executive Member and that is exactly what happens now but of course the parties, or one party in particular has a different title and this just tidys up the signage policy area and in fact gives the policy a bit of legislative teeth, and I don't see in a operational or day to day sense significant difference to what occurs now.

ACTING SPEAKER Further debate. Being no further debate Mr Christian would you like to move an adjournment.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the debate be adjourned and the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. Debate is adjourned and made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

NO 3 - INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT BILL 1996

MRS CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Acting Speaker. I present the Interpretation Amendment Bill 1996 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Mr Speaker I table the explanatory memorandum for the Bill. Thank you. Mr Acting Speaker the purpose of this Bill is to amend the Interpretation Act of 1979. It is a purely technical Bill. The object of the Interpretation Act 1979 is to aid in the interpretation of other enactments by among other things, providing a uniform approach to the Interpretation of references and definitions contained in all enactments without reference or definition would otherwise be open to ambiguity or doubt. Mr Acting Speaker the Interpretation Act is a very important piece of legislation and the amendments before the House are designed to enhance the Act by clarifying the law in respect of areas such as delegations and acting appointments providing for a simplified and uniformed drafting of Bills in respect of such areas as the jurisdiction of courts and the service of documents allowing for the interpretation of provisions of an enactment to take into account the purpose or object of that Act where there are a number of possible interpretations but making all kind of legislation much clearer and much easier to interpret by the cause and by legislator. Mr Acting Speaker I commend this Bill to the House and table the explanatory memorandums and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle.

ACTING SPEAKER The question is that the Bill be agreed to in principle and the debate made an Order of the Day for the subsequent day of sitting

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you. Debate is adjourned and made an Order of the Day for the subsequent day of sitting.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

NO 1 - TOURIST ACCOMMODATION AMENDMENT NO 2 BILL 1996

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Speaker There is no reason in my view that this Bill can't proceed through it's final stages today. It is a Bill that

MR KING I so move Mr Acting Speaker

ACTING SPEAKER Is there any further debate? There being no further debate I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it.

NO 2 - TOURIST ACCOMMODATION (OWNERSHIP) AMENDMENT BILL 1996

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

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. This is the second part of the Tourist Accommodation package as it were and it is a Bill which deals with legislative changes to enable us to objectively establish what we would regard as being a share of the industry which would dominate the market. It provides for us to establish by regulations what we see as a section of the industry which was dominated. I would ask however that this Bill not be agreed to today, and that I would move a further motion to adjourn it until the 26th, the following meeting for reasons that upon closer examination of the past couple of days I would like to include a provision which will allow us to deal with those accommodation holders who might exceed what we see as being the dominant market share and we need to make provision and we need to understand how our establishing a dominant market share might affect those people and we have proposals for that which I can bring forward as second stage amendments on the 26th

ACTING SPEAKER Is there any further debate? Mr King, do you wish to move an adjournment

MR KING Thank you Mr Acting Deputy Speaker. I would move then that the debate be adjourned and resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for the next Sitting

ACTING SPEAKER Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the debate be adjourned and the resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of Sitting

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. Debate is adjourned and resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of Sitting. That completes the Orders of the Day and we move on

FIXING OF THE NEXT DAY OF SITTING

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Acting Speaker, I move that this House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 26th June 1996 at 10.00am

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members any debate on this matter? Then I put the question?

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it, thank you, that is our next Sitting day. Adjournment Mrs Cuthbertson

ADJOURNMENT

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

MR ACTING SPEAKER The question is that the House do now adjourn. Is there any debate? Then I put the question that this House do now adjourn Honourable Members

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it Honourable Members, therefore we stand adjourned until Wednesday the 26th June 1996 at 10 o'clock in the morning.

--ooOoo--