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the Assembly was that total eradication was probably not achievable in the short term nor would it be economic to attempt to eradicate them. I think initial estimates were somewhere in the vicinity of \$800,000 with no guarantee of success.

I accepted that advice at the time and I qualify that by saying that the advice also included the assumption that the wasps were in fact dormant during Winter and that tended to cull their numbers. Mr Speaker with the benefit of hindsight it appears that Winters on Norfolk probably will not be cold enough to in fact bring about a decrease in the wasp population and it appears that they are proliferating at an alarming rate. Mr Speaker, it is an area of concern. I honestly don't know where we can go to for advice at this stage on what we can do as it appears that it's not a problem that's developed anywhere else to the extent that it's developed here. The advice that I've been given in recent days is that the wasp has no known predators, that we're aware of, neither has a bait been developed yet that attracts it into a trap, but work is continuing in that area to try and gather as much information as possible and certainly it's something that needs more attention in the future. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Smith?

MR SMITH Mr Speaker another question for Mr Christian in relation to the airport. Where are you up to with the construction of the airport building and second to that question are tenders being called on-Island as well as off-Island and is the completion date still expected to be December this year.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The airport terminal project George is fairly well on track. I would expect tendered documents to be available for the local building industry around mid to late May. Certainly it is an intention that all of the contracts will be advertised locally and yes the time frame is still completion for December '97. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Smith?

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. Question to the Minister for Tourism I think in this case. In relation to airlines, so far 3 airlines have indicated they will take up the route between Australia and Norfolk Island to replace the Ansett service which finishes in about 2 months time and in recent times as I understand it Norfolk Island and Ansett both contributed some \$80,000 each to an advertising fund, or a promotion fund. Is there to be an equal sharing of contributions by these new contenders?

MR KING Mr Speaker I'm sure Mr Smith will appreciate that it's far too early for me to be confident of any contribution by the new airlines towards any co-operative advertising. I'm 100% sure that the Bureau in pursuing it's responsible duties will seek that outcome but it's far too early at this stage. It's desirable of course but whether it will be achieved remains to be seen. There's been contact by the Tourist Bureau with those airlines who have entered the system, formally entered the system in other words have a reservation system, scheduling and price structures, but those discussions, as far as I'm aware have not yet touched on contributory funds towards co-operative advertising.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further Questions Without Notice?

MRS ANDERSON Thank you. I have a question for Mr Christian. Mr Christian can you please advise us what state the beautification of Burnt Pine Project is at at the present time?

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MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I was intending to make a statement on that later on in the meeting this morning and that will probably answer the question.

MRS ANDERSON Thank you. I'm happy with that.

MR SPEAKER Further Questions Without Notice?

MRS ANDERSON I have a question this time for Mr King. Mr King can you please advise us what arrangements are being made for the carriage of mail to and from the Island in view of the changeover from Ansett to the new carriers?

MR KING Mr Speaker, I don't have any detailed information with me but I recently had some information which was circulated among the Administration on that question and I am confident that the Postal Manager is abreast of the issues and the need for new arrangements to be made beyond 30th June with the new airlines. I'm confident that those arrangements will be made satisfactorily if only for one reason that there will be, at this point in time anyway quite a great deal more frequency of flights to the Island, so I imagine that mail will be uplifted to and from the Island with greater frequency than previously, or currently but that's all I can say at his point in time. I'm confident that the arrangements will be completed satisfactorily.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further Question Without Notice?

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I've been asked to ask a series of questions on waste disposal from Mr Adams and in the event that some of the answers might cross over onto subsequent questions I hope you will bear with me and allow me to ask the questions as I have them here. The first one to Mr Adams is, two meetings ago you stated that used car batteries were ready to be shipped to Australia for recycling. Have these batteries been shipped?

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Firstly, a little clarification there. The questions weren't from me. By way of answer. In recent times the Works Depot co-ordinated a shipment of batteries from Norfolk Island to Australia. The figures pertaining to that shipment was that there were ten crates of batteries. Point nine of a tonne each was sent. In accompaniment with the ten crates was one pallet containing two drums of used acid which was drained out of the batteries which was subsequently sent as well. The consignment was scheduled to leave Norfolk Island during the week of 20th February 1997, it went to Latoka on the ship the "Captain Cook", from Latoka to Sydney by the "Captain Kermadec", and according to information available to me it arrived on the 20th March 1997. The total cost Mr Speaker of that shipment was \$2,740.44.

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. Is it intended that a person from within the Public Service be given the sole responsibility for bringing together suggestions and proposals for waste management and putting into practice in an efficient and cost effective system?

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I have had in recent times various areas in the Administration working on a co-ordinated and progressive development of the waste management issues and to that end I will be making a statement later in this meeting on the progress to date

MR BATES Another question on the same issue. What steps have been taken to locate a disposal site for ash from the top tip so that it can function

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Minister for Finance. Has the Minister received a paper by access "An Economic Study of Norfolk Island" and if so, does he intend to discuss it with fellow MLA's or make it available to the public?

MR KING Mr Speaker I haven't received the final document yet. I have received two drafts at this point in time but not the final document. If it is available in time, that is prior to the election by all means we can have a discussion about it

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. At last months meeting I asked Mr King a question in relation to travel insurance into Australia. Mike you said you were going to check it out and see what the changes were to the legislation in Australia that effects our travel insurance, were you successful in any of that?

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. I did write the letter that I undertook to write in this Assembly. I have not yet received a response from that given that it was only three weeks ago that doesn't surprise me. I will happily share it with Mr Smith if and when I receive a response

MR BATES A final question for Mr Adams, Minister responsible for Parks and Reserves. Recently funds were sought to initiate rat control programmes in test areas. Can the Minister inform the House how this is progressing?

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes. In the last budget review Mr Speaker we allocated \$15,000 to be spent on the commencement of a trial rat programme in selected reserves. The work has commenced on that programme Mr Speaker. The relevant officers in the Administration are commencing its development. It is intended to commence in selected reserve sites and presently site selection is being undertaken and identified. Thank you

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. A question to the Minister for Immigration. Minister if a person is contracted to come to the Island to do a specific type of work and is given temporary entry status to carry out that work if that person changes that type of work without varying their work permit is their TEP deemed to have lapsed?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. The answer to that would depend very much on the details of just what changes occurred in the work, whether the person has changed their employer, whether the salary would have changed and so on but normally, yes you are required to have a change in your TEP in order to change your employment and to change not the work, employer. That seems to be the key thing.

MR SMITH Supplementary question Mr Speaker. If a TEP is granted on the basis of a contract to do a particular type of work and that person no longer does that type of work how does that effect their temporary entry status?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. All the TEP's that I have seen, the actual forms, specified that the person is to work for x employer to do x,y,z. Usually. People have changed their jobs within the same employment I am aware of, have had minor improvements or changes like that, I don't think they have sought changes in their TEP. I'm not certain, I would have to check it but the Act and I am quoting from memory now, I think specifically said that if you change your employment you had to seek changes in the permit that you are issued, but I will be happy to actually check the Act and discuss it with you further, but without the Act here I cannot be specific.

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MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker. A question to the Minister with responsibility for the Public Service. Will the restructure of senior positions in the Public Service be reviewed now that our CAO has departed?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. As you are well aware, as politicians we can only make suggestions, recommendations and that kind of thing as to how the Public Service is organised and conducted. And that is as it should be in so far as there should be a separation of powers between politics and the public service. Of course it would be a strange CAO who would not consult the Assembly, his political masters in replanning or looking at the structure of the Public Service. At the moment we have an Acting CAO in the position and I know that he is looking very much at how things are working, the difficulties that are being caused by the number of vacancies that exist, and the number of people who are acting in positions rather than being permanent in positions and I have actually asked him to make a report about that to the next MLA meeting, which is on Monday. I am certain that suggestions and ideas from MLA's will be taken up by the Acting CAO but at the moment that's where things stand

MR SPEAKER Further Questions Without Notice. Then we have concluded Questions Without Notice. There are no Questions on Notice this morning. We move on

Papers

Presentation of Papers. Any Papers to present this morning Honourable Members?

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. In accordance with Section 41 of the Interpretation Ordinance 1979 I table the Customs Amendment Regulations 1997

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further Papers?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. In accordance with paragraph 41(2)(a) of the Interpretation Ordinance 1979 I table the Periodic Detention Regulations 1997 and the Road Traffic (General) Amendment Regulations 1997

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I have pleasure in tabling the exposure draft of the Public Service Bill 1997 and I move that this Paper be noted

MR SPEAKER The question is that the Paper be noted.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I realise that it will be up to the Eighth Assembly whether this exposure draft is taken any further but whatever attitude a future Assembly takes to this exposure draft, they will have something very definite to work with and they will be starting from a much better position than the one in which this Assembly found itself three years ago. The reform of the Public Service Act in 1979 has been talked about and agonised over for more years than I care to remember. Successive CAO's have complained about the shortcomings of the present Act and I am fairly certain that my predecessors in office have also been concerned about the need to review the legislation. The problem of course is what is to be put in place of the 1979 Act. Those interested in getting a copy of this Bill will see I have opted for a total revision of the 1979 Act. I have tried to bring together a number of principles and combined those with a framework which I believe will allow for a better and more streamlined management and which will in turn be subject to appropriate checks and balances. Mr Speaker I particularly want to stress those cornerstones of this

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Bill. A set of principles, a framework for effective management and a series of checks and balances. The principles this Bill spells out include what the objects of the Norfolk Island Public Service should be, what managers in the Public Service should be trying to achieve as they manage, the obligations and responsibilities of public servants and the entitlements of public servants and what demerit principles entail and how it should apply. If I may explain a little Mr Speaker the organisational framework the Bill proposes is that the Service should be managed by a Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with a senior management group. It does not include provisions for a Public Service Board as we have now but in its place this Board establishes a Public Service Review Board and gives every public servant the right to appeal to that Board against decisions of the Chief Executive Officer. The Public Service Reveiw Board will then have the authority to substitute its decisions for that of the Chief Executive Officer. That is a most important check and balance and one, that I think should reassure public servants and the Assembly as well. Another check and balance which is built into this Bill and which accord with the policies associated with the Immigration Act is that it will not be possible for a person who is not a resident or a GEP holder to be employed in the Public Service without the approval of the executive member. Mr Speaker I believe that for any large organisation such as the Norfolk Island Public Service to be effective, its principals and objectives have to be clear and understood by all. That management has to have the opportunity to manage effectively and there have to be checks and balances in place to prevent the workers from being steam rolled by management and to reassure the community that the Public Service is managed in a fair and open way. I believe that all the essentials are included in this Bill and I shall follow its progress in the hands of the next Assembly with great interest. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER

Debate Honourable Members

MR KING

Mr Speaker this is the fourth revision of the Public Service Ordinance or the Public Service Act that I'm aware of. Each of its predecessors died at the expiry of the term during which the revision took place after gathering dust in the corner. I'm sure that this Act contains some perfectly worthwhile provisions. I don't agree that this is the way to go about it. It seeks to impose the political will of one Minister on a subsequent Minister. Now Mrs Lozzi-Cuthbertson may be aspiring to hold onto her executive portfolio and good luck to her if she does that and she is able to take carriage of it but I certainly hope it doesn't run the course of its three, to me, known predecessors. It is simply a waste of resources otherwise

MR BATES

Thank you Mr Speaker. I think the Minister hit the nail on the head early in her debate when she said that this change has been driven by successive CAO's and I think that tells us quite a bit. It certainly hasn't been driven by members of the Public Service. It's been driven by management and I think there is going to be alot of work to get it satisfactory. I find there's things about it that are quite difficult to come to grips with. I believe it gives too much power to one man, that is the CAO. We have had recent instances where that has caused problems with Members and this I think will just make those problems more likely to crop up if there's too much power in the hands of the CAO.

It sets out an organisational framework that is enshrined in legislation and we know that organisations need to be able to be changed fairly quickly with changing policies and things of the House. Then it turns around and sets in regulation staff entitlements, and we all know that regulations are much easier to change. They can even be changed by stealth. We've had regulations tabled here today which we haven't had a chance to fully consider and if we don't like them we've

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got to move a motion at a future sitting that they be disallowed within so many sittings. It is much easier to get your way with regulations than it is when you have to bring a Bill into the House so I think there has got to be a lot of work done on this Bill. I would be surprised if it is widely accepted by the Public Service and as I say, it is driven by successive CAO's. They have been frustrated with issues because they have had to go to the Public Service Board to get their way and I think the checks and balances of having to go to another body to just look at it and say, wait a minute I need to look at this a little bit more closely, I think there's some wisdom in that and I don't think we should very quickly abandon the set up we have and bring in some completely new thing. I think there has to be a lot of work done between now and when it actually is tabled and becomes a real issue for debate thank you Mr Speaker

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm amazed that Mr King thinks that I can impose my will through this exposure draft on the next Assembly. How on earth am I going to do that. This is something that I started on and I also am amazed to hear him say that there has been other Bills because when I was handed the material that was available for looking at what else has been done in reviewing this Bill, it was pretty thin on the ground I assure you and anybody is welcome to have a look at it. What I had worked on is not what somebody else suggested to me here locally but I actually worked on reports and recommendations put together by Commissions that reviewed public services elsewhere in Australia.

I tried to select what was appropriate to the Norfolk Island scene and balanced it as much as I could against the need to keep checks and balances in the situation and at the same time to make management possible. I have not seen another draft Bill. What I have seen are various bits and pieces of work that have been done towards other draft Bills. I certainly do not know of other draft bills that have been put together before this one. Without something to focus on, nothing very much will move forward. It has taken me really something like eighteen months to get much out of the Public Service and finally the work I had to do myself. Otherwise it would just not have got this far. So I suggest to the new Assembly that if they are keen to do something about the Public Service Act at least will have something to work on, on which to focus their thoughts and to improve on if they don't like what is in it. I really don't agree with Mr Bates suggestion that you need to change structures quickly. I think you have to get your structures right in the first place, and then those structures should act and respond flexibly to new situations. I don't think we can go on changing structures. I think that's been such a destructive aspect of the last two or three years, not just the last CAO as some people suggest. Unfortunately, we have also had the discontinuity of CAO's who have had ideas but who have not stayed long enough to see them carried through and bedded down and working properly. They may not have worked properly but we will never know because they did not stay long enough to make them work properly or to give them a go. Regulations should not be changed by stealth. Yes the cornerstones of the Regulations should be in the Public Service Act or whatever Act we are referring to. If the essence of them, the cornerstones, the principles of them are not built into the legislation, then the Regulations can be all over the place of course. So that is why I went to some considerable trouble to built in principles, including the principles of what are the rights of Public Servants and what their duties entail. What their responsibilities entail in the Bill. You can't go making regulations which will go against those principles. I don't anticipate that this Bill will go through if the next Assembly is interested in it, in its present form but at least they will have something to start with. I really don't agree that this Bill has been driven by the CAO's. A great many people who have managed our Public Service, apart from the CAO have commented at least to me, that there are problems with the present Administrative structure. Sure, the CAO's have had the greatest problem because

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they have the charge of discharging the responsibility of managing the Public Service and it is very difficult to manage something, especially as amorphous and as complex as a Public Service that covers so many different areas of responsibility without the authority in the Act to do so. At the moment our CAO does not have any authority under the Act to manage and that is a serious problem with our Public Service Act and I hope somebody soon will do something about it. Thank you Mr Speaker

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I commend Mrs Lozzi-Cuthbertson for bringing forward this exposure draft. I think the Public Service Act has required looking at. I know that several CAO's have intended to do something about it but as Mrs Cuthbertson said, until she did the work herself it's never actually seen the light of day. I agree with alot of the things she has put into the exposure draft. Some of the things I don't agree with but I think it is a very necessary discussion paper and I hope it will be taken forward by the Eighth Assembly thank you

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I've heard the stories of CAO's saying that they haven't got the authority to do certain things and they don't have sufficient authority in the areas of financial management and things like that, but those authorities are there, mostly in the Public Monies Act as far as the financial management goes and CAO's have power to make directions and things as far as that goes, but none of them take the time to do it and then they say that they don't have any powers or controls and its very simple really. I think a section, round about section 33 or something of the Public Monies Ordinance, where they can make directions for keeping of accounts and they payment of funds or whatever they want to do as long as they don't conflict with the Public Monies Ordinance itself, so for them to say they don't have the power to do these things is really their own fault, but the message doesn't seem to ever get through that those sections of the Act are there to be used and to be used in some of the areas of which they complain they can't obtain the power so I don't know that bringing in a new Public Service Ordinance is going to solve those difficulties, thank you

MR KING Just a quick word Mr Speaker. I certainly hadn't intended to be critical of Mrs Nadia Cuthbertson, nor upset her but the fact of the matter is that the Minister of Government doesn't inject into a Bill her own philosophies, her own ideals and her own desires and she simply hasn't put her stamp on it. I have no doubt that this Bill contains numerous Nadiaisms and I have absolutely no objection to that, and any subsequent Minister who might pick that up without wanting to put their own stamp on things is not doing their job. I didn't say that there had been three or four earlier Bills, I said that there had been at least three earlier revisions that have been known to me at least one Bill tabled in this House as an exposure draft in the Fifth or the Fourth Assembly, two subsequent comprehensive revisions, one of which was left to me and which contained a whole heap of Brownieisms which I subsequently through out and injected some Kingisms which you have subsequently thrown out and injected some Nadiaisms and I understand those processes that happen. I complement you on doing the work that you have done and I hope that a revision of some sort is successful in the forthcoming Assembly.

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

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

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The Paper is noted thank you. Are there any further Papers to present this morning?

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. I table the monthly financial indicators for the nine months of the financial year and move that the Paper be noted

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that the Paper be noted

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. Very briefly, we remain in a comfortable position as far as the public account is concerned and in the revenue area we are running currently at 99% of the revised budget amount with expenditure running at 88%. I make the observation that in the expenditure area both Health and Education are running respectively at 21% and 12% over the amounts that have been expended for the same nine months of the previous financial year. That is not to suggest that there has been any unforeseen difficulties in that area. Most of those represented by the injection of funds recently into the Healthcare Fund in respect of health and in Education of course was taken up by a wage rise, I think somewhere in the order of 9 or 10% or something or other earlier on in the year, so there weren't unforeseen increases. In neither of those areas is the expenditure running over budget. We are currently running at a surplus of around \$1m, that is, income over expenditure. I expect that to reduce somewhat before the end of the year. Expenditure seems to crank up a little bit towards the end of the year but I will be issuing the normal instructions in the next few days that there is not to be any Christmas spending in the last three months of the year so we expect to achieve a healthy surplus by the end of the year and I hope that Members join with me in feeling somewhat pleased with the results of their efforts in maintaining a satisfactory public account and being able to hand over a healthy situation to the Eighth Assembly. Thank you

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. If I may clarify a point made about the Education expenditure running 12% higher than last year. It is partly made up of higher wages but also we have to recognise that this Assembly has actually made available to the school two extra teachers this year to take up very important functions of providing greater curriculum variety to the older years, to the upper years of the school and also to provide vocational opportunities in training and co-ordinating vocational experience for the years 10, 11 and 12 at our school and I think that is an important initiative and of course is adding to the expenditure of the school. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question before us is that the Paper be noted, any debate?

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The Paper is noted thank you. Are there any further Papers to present this morning?

Statements

Statements, are there any Statements Honourable Members?

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. In response to a question without notice some time ago, I indicated to the House that I would not proceed with the Burnt Pine Beautification until a properly developed and costed plan was available

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to put together funding options inclusive of budget submissions for the process to commence. The incoming Government should then have before it a researched, comprehensive and a funding option waste management platform to progress with, thank you.

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker Could I move that the Statement be noted please

MR SPEAKER The question is that the Statement be noted

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I would be very interested to see the progress in this matter come forward. I am just wondering whether Mr Adams is in a position to, I know it's not question time, but to give any indication as to whether... well, I was interested when I heard him talk about the temperatures gained by the incinerator. We all know that heat is energy and it seems to me that if we are just going to let that energy go off, it may be that we can get that energy harnessed in some way and also if he has any comment on recycling because I think in the world today, whatever can be recycled should be recycled and to those two comments, I wonder if Mr Adams could comment further on that

MR ADAMS Certainly Mr Speaker. Part of the intention as well as in accordance with depositing various or processing end products, one of those end products would be for instance, articles or items that would have economic value in one form or another and the intention is very much to recycle those into whatever useable form it may be. It may be that whatever item may be retained in its current form, there may be others for instance, say glass Mr Speaker, we are researching the feasibility at this stage of purchasing a glass crusher with the intention of putting that into the road base for use on the roads as opposed to simply what is occurring now where most of them simply get deposited into the sea. There is no doubt a tremendous amount of heat generated by such an incinerator. The best or indeed any application of the surplus heat is something we really need to look into. I can't give a chapter and verse at this stage of any impending or most obvious use that the waste heat could be put to from the point of view of a secondary use but it is something that we intend to develop as the, or that is, the incoming Government has the tools in front of them to fully canvass such options, thank you

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate? The question is that the Statement be noted

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it, that Statement is so noted. Further Statements? I think we've concluded Statements this morning.

MESSAGES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members I have received the following Messages from the Office of the Administrator. Message No 110. On the 27 March 1997 pursuant to Section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 I declared my assent to the Supplementary Appropriation Act 1997 which is Act No 3 of 1997, the Juries Amendment Act 1997 which is Act No 4 of 1997 and the Public Service Amendment Act 1997 which is Act No 5 of 1997, dated the 27th March 1997, Ralph Condon, Deputy Administrator.

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Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau. A routine matter with precedent Mr Speaker would I think, require little debate. I commend the Motion

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate? The question is that this Motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The Motion is so agreed. Honourable Members there are following 4 Motions which really, for which leave is required. They are matters that you know about and they are most of them so listed but I will seek your leave that they come forward. That is the Museum Trustees, the Hospital Act and two Motions on the Land Package. Is leave granted?

AYE

Leave is granted. Thank you. The Museum Trust Act appointment of Trustees.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House for the purpose of Subsection 5 (1) of the Museums Trust Act 1987 resolves that Leslie Quick Brown, Rhonda Evelyn Griffiths, Peter Guile, Margaret Rosemary Jowett, Warren Sidney Langman, Thomas Leslie Lloyd and Patricia Christian Magri be appointed as Trustees under the Act for the period from 10th April 1997 to 9th April 1999. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. This is a routine appointment of Trustees to the Museums area. I think the people who are prepared to serve as Trust members comprise a good cross section of the community. There's an area where we have sound historic knowledge and an area where we have good commercial experience and I hope they will blend together well to bring a degree of prosperity to the Museums area. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate?

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker. I will say something here. Mr Speaker I applaud these members of our community who are willing to act as trustees for the Norfolk Island Museums and for other historic artifacts that come under their influence from time to time. Many people here on Norfolk Island act in voluntary positions on boards, committees, trusts and the like and I take my hat off to them for they are prepared to use their time and their efforts to try and make Norfolk a better place to live. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate? The question Honourable Members is that this Motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The ayes have it. That Motion is agreed to. Thank you.

NORFOLK ISLAND HOSPITAL ACT 1985 - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

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MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House for the purposes of Subsection 12 (1) of the Norfolk Island Hospital Act 1985 resolves that Carol Hamilton Irvine be appointed to be a member of the Board of Management for the period from 12th April 1997 to 11th April of the year 2000.

MR SPEAKER Thank you.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. The vacancy, this vacancy on the Hospital Board is caused by the recent resignation of Mrs Maggie Moore who has gone away for an extended holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Moore for her 3 years work, first on the Advisory Counsel, and then on the Hospital Board, and I am particularly grateful to Mrs Carol Irvine for agreeing to take on this responsibility. She is already involved as a member of the Tourism Board and we all know she's also a busy businesswoman but you can always count on a busy person to do a good job. The work of the Hospital Board is not easy but it is extremely important. It is essential to the wellbeing of everyone on Norfolk Island and I commend Mrs Hamilton Irvine for taking it on. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Hospital Board for a job well done over the years and for continuing to carry the work forward. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate? The question is that this Motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That Motion is agreed. Thank you.

THE PLANNING ACT 1996 - APPROVAL OF DRAFT NORFOLK ISLAND PLAN

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that this House for the purpose of Subsection 10 (4) of the Planning Act 1996 resolves that the Draft Norfolk Island Plan is approved subject to alterations as contained in the amended annexure A to the Report about a public consultation and Mr Speaker I table the amended annexure A.

MR SPEAKER Thank you.

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. This is part of the ongoing process of the Land Package and Members will recall that at the last sitting of this House in accordance with Subsection 10 of the Planning Act 1996 a range of documents were tabled. Those documents were a copy of the Draft Plan, secondly a report about the public consultation undertaken in relation to the Draft Plan and thirdly copies of submissions, received in the course of such consultation and fourthly, a response from the Administrator in respect of the Planning Subdivision Codes under Section 18 of the Subdivision Act of 1996. Mr Speaker all of those documents were tabled at the previous meeting and what we are about today is to actually formerly agree to the draft or the amended draft Norfolk Island Plan. Thank you.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Debate Honourable Members? No further debate? Did you wish to conclude Mr Christian?

MR CHRISTIAN I have thank you.

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be passing this Bill today. I think it's an important enough one to be leaving for the next Assembly to come to grips with which I'm sure than any normal thinking person would approve such a thing but I do have a problem with us passing it today. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate? Did you want to conclude Mrs Cuthbertson. If that be the case I'll give Mr Bates the call.

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. It was only a small comment to do with the proposed detail amendment. It says there that, it finishes off that as soon as practical I'll notify the Legislative Assembly of the action. Now I'm just wondering how that would in fact take place. Whether it would be by tabling something in the House. I should imagine that some of these issues might be sensitive and you wouldn't be wanting to notify the Assembly that Joe Blow and so and so received this thing, so names would be but it seems to be fairly loose just saying notifying the Legislative Assembly of the action. I'm just wondering what that really means in practical terms.

MR SPEAKER Thank you.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. The way of making this clause accountable took some working out and I do agree with everyone's thoughts that it is possible for a Minister to become too generous and well if your dealing with people who are in pain and experiencing sickness it's certainly a very strong pressure on you to think generously about helping people and to at least not burden them with the added responsibility of extra or very large bills but at the same time we cannot run the risk of having the Healthcare fund go broke. The risk consultant suggested doing a cost analysis to be checked and approved by the Internal Auditor. When I consulted the Legislative Counsel they saw that as a real problem because it would then entail a public servant giving an approval as to what a Executive Member may or may not do. So we came up with this alternative proposal of the Executive Member being accountable to the Legislative Assembly which is this House. Yes I agree with Mr bates. It is essential that the confidentiality of each individual case be maintained but certainly the generalities of the report can be included in the accountability to this House. If necessary the right of Members to question the Executive Member here or elsewhere about what each individual reported case entails, but I think it is essential we do introduce this level of flexibility into the Act and that we manage the Healthcare Act funds as constructively as possible and not place the Act in the situation of having to meet bills that it doesn't have to meet. It is much cheaper to pay for somebody to spend their time in a apartment than in hospital where just to be accommodated is hundreds and hundreds of dollars a day.

For a half of that cost usually you can spend a week in a furnished apartment. So I really commend this amendment to the House and I am concerned that it comes forward at this late day but because of a certain case that was put to me for a decision and my querying whether I had the right to make a decision under the Act it became clear that I did not have that discretion and I'm certainly aware of other cases that have been presented like this before and that is why this amendment to the Act comes forward at this stage. I regret it is so late in the life of this Assembly but I think it is an essential amendment and I'm certain future Assemblies will monitor it just as carefully as we have done during the life of this Assembly and I commend it to the House.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate?

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. A thought just occurred to me in

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listening to Mrs Cuthbertson that, first of all I should say that I support the principles behind this Bill. I think it makes sense and certainly can help a lot of people but the matter of advising the house is one I think may be a little bit tricky but I just want to remind the Minister that in really you know circumstances which are really, that we do have provision in the Public Monies Act to make payments of an ex-gratia nature and I'm sure if the circumstances were such that the Minister could discuss that with the House and have approval to make payments of a ex-gratia nature for matters to do with health because it doesn't specify what ex-grassier payments mean and for years we paid our welfare payments which we now pay under an Act. For years we paid those under the very provisions of the ex-gratia parts of the Public Monies Ordinance. Thank you Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER Thank you.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I thank Mr Bates for that possible suggestion about payments under the ex-gratia provisions of the Public Monies Act but I particularly asked the Legal Section you know what had to be done to make this possible and the Healthcare Act is very tight and very controlled and that loophole certainly was not suggested or that access was certainly not suggested by the Legal Section. I guess we could go back to the Legal Section and see if we could make such ex-gratia payments under the Healthcare Fund but I really doubt it because the Healthcare Fund was controlled very tightly under the Act so that in fact there would be no unforeseen and uncontrolled expenses on it.

MR SPEAKER Further debate? No further debate?

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I accept what the Minister is saying but we still have the amendment here that says approves, that the Member approves the reasonable costs of medical treatment and she's given us an example of what could happen as you say with somebody being away from here, staying in a hospital bed which costs \$500 a day and they could be staying in some other accommodation which is cheaper but what other discretion does it give a Minister?

I mean your referring to that as an example but there is no, nothing here to say that the Minister can't approve it for anything. They can, well I guess your going to do something in the regulations to.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON No No No. If I may explain. Medical treatment and medical services are defined in the Healthcare Act at what those are and it can only be for those things, medical treatment and medical services which are defined in the Healthcare Act.

MR SMITH That does help explain to me where that's coming from. A question of the Minister. I understand that some of the major hospitals, particularly in Sydney and Brisbane have remote hospital accommodation which is available from as little as I understand \$10 a day. Are you aware of that Minister and does that get used by Norfolk Island people?

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes that remote accommodation is utilised very frequently in those hospitals which have it but unfortunately not all hospitals have it and I am certainly not aware of any hospital in Brisbane having it, certainly not the hospitals at which I've been made aware of of people being sent to but we utilise whatever is available for the least possible cost that we can.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members the question before us is that the Bill be agreed to in principle and I will put that question to you.

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fairly simple and its readily recognisable. For the most part industrial relations situations is one of general calm and a business as usual atmosphere. Both employees and employers for most part are reasonably happy. However, as we know, there is a small, a very small group who repeatedly push the issues and have to be regarded as poor corporate citizens. For the purpose of debate I shall refer to them as the one percenters. Therefore it follows Mr Speaker that the Employment Rules and Objectives need to be tuned in my opinion to better addressing that small number but at the same time, not diminishing the equilibrium present in the non one percent areas. In front of us is the Employment Act No 2 Amendment Bill. It's in its totality. It's component parts can be roughly categorised into facets that can be seen generally as positive movements in the employment area. There are areas where a number of things need a rethink. There are a number of parts that need removal and as Mr King has agreed to himself, there are significant areas where the Bill is inadequate. In total I believe this package is wide of the mark and if we ram it through in its present form it effectively risks setting back the industrial relations area on Norfolk backwards at a rate of knots. In the time this package has been around there has been some significant movements both on Norfolk and off shore. For instance, Members might recall that in recent times in Australia the difficulties created by putting into place ill thought through, unfair dismissal laws with compensation clauses attached and a number of extremely expensive court cases that originated out of that process. These laws if I remember rightly were hurriedly repealed and the message in there is "get it right". In Norfolk Island I moved the minimum wage on an assessment of the retail price index movement over the relevant period from \$5.40 to \$7.00. That simple movement had the effect of moving overtime for permanent from \$8.10 to \$10.50 per hour. What this effectively did is to prevent the one percenters from putting blogs on the payroll at an overtime rate of a low \$8.10 then working them in excess of forty hours with no extra increment for the time worked in excess. The rate of \$10.50 per hour can't be seen I believe as a rate where the employee is being under valued. These two points on their own indicate that the changes in industrial relations area in the time since this package was put together. There is also a reasonable assumption Mr Speaker that had this package been hurriedly rammed through we would have expected to now be seeing some serious ramifications to putting in place hastily put together and inadequate pieces of legislation. Mr Speaker the process of developing this amendment package and ironing out its flaws are incomplete and as in the case of many other packages, as per the Notice Paper from No 5 to No 9 have been there for some time and they will move on. They are under Mrs Nadia Lozzi Cuthbertson's name. The aim of this package and the end result should be focused very much on getting it right and I will be seeking the House's indulgence to adjourn this package rather than slam it through today simply because it is the last (formal) Sitting of this House. Frankly Mr Speaker I'm amazed at the sudden interest by Mr King in attempting to ram this package through and frankly, some of the correspondence we have received in recent days suggested that the approaching April 30 date is certainly an aspect in this and I think Mr King's new found concern and beautiful pontificating when the soap boxes have appeared and the microphones switched on, notwithstanding that to my knowledge Mr Speaker, Mr King has not made one improvement to the Employment Act in five years that he has sat around this table. I think it is a pity that Mr King hasn't been able to pontificate beautifully about homestay, or to pontificate about offshore finance or to pontificate about the Cascade Cliff which in that instance, rather than at the end of a two year period of inactivity produced yet another circular motion whose apparent purpose in life is suggested is a thinly veiled attempt to prevent Mr Christian from getting any progress done in that area. Now let's not forget that in recent times a particular manager of one of the hotel chains here who had an unsavoury reputation in employment matters, I've probably regarded that person

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as being a President in the one percenters club, Mr King in his time as Immigration Minister found that person to be a fit and proper person to be a resident of Norfolk Island and therefore issued him with a GEP. I think on balance Mr Speaker Mr King's credibility is extremely transparent and I am extremely amazed at this sudden interest in this Bill when over that five years as I said, Mr King has not been able to make one positive amendment to the Employment Act thank you

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Some of the comments made by Mr King earlier are very true and very pertinent. There are a lot of amendments in this Bill that will be very worthwhile. However, when the Bill was first tabled a number of members of the community and organisations within the community made comments to the Minister about shortcomings of the proposed amendments and asked that they be reconsidered. Unfortunately over the last eighteen months, nothing has progressed further than that. I think it would be very bad for us to push this Bill through today. I think a lot more discussion and consultation has to take place before it goes through, however, if the Bill is not withdrawn as I believe it is Mr Adams intention to do, I have put members on notice that I intend to move some detail stage amendments which I feel will address some of the shortcomings of the Bill as it stands at the present time, however, given the short period of time in which we have reconstructed on this Bill I'm not convinced that I covered all the areas in it that do need addressing and I would be much happier if the Bill were withdrawn in its totality to be looked at, at some future date after extensive continued consultation with the community. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR BATES Thank you Mr Speaker. I have no doubt of the sincerity of both Mr King and Mr Adams. They've both been consistent in their concerns for the welfare and working conditions of employees and I've had a lot of confidence that Mr Adams was handling this issue properly as the Minister and I allowed him to do so, as I believe Ministers need a fair reign to get on with their job. I still have confidence in Mr Adams to deal with these issues, which are real issues Mr King raised. We know it's going to another Assembly, it's a little bit like Mrs Cuthbertson with the Public Service Act, some of the groundwork is there. I can't come to grips with Mr King's desire to settle it today. He seems to think that if it is not settled today it will be lost and I point out that even if we pass it today the next Assembly could overthrow it quite easily. Anything we do today is by no means permanent so I can't see that there is anything to be gained by putting through a Bill that does have defective parts to it and I think it is an important issue. We need to get it right and I certainly support Mr Adams in what he is trying to do in getting it right before it goes through. Thank you Mr Speaker

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Like Mr King I sit here and I'm amazed. This Bill to be described as hastily put together really takes the corker. It was put together by a Committee of public servants and Members of this House. We worked on it for well over, or close to a year. When Mr Adams became responsible for employment the outlines of that Bill, the essentials of the contents have been defined and it was handed to Mr Adams to see it through, so a years preparation and then a few months later the Bill came forward and eventually came to this House and it sort of died. Members of the community made submissions but they were all one type of members of the community, they were all employers. No employees came forward because there is no organisation for employees out there in the community apart from the Public Service Association who are very nicely taken care of already and whose conditions are considerably better than any employee outside of the Public Service on Norfolk Island. So we really did not

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stated that this represents an unjustifiable interference with the employers right to control the operation of their business. Historically an employer has always had the right to terminate an employees employment provided that proper notice of termination is given or wages paid in lieu of such notice. This provision certainly restricts an employers right to terminate an employees employment. The advise is from a legal viewpoint I see no problem. However, it may be difficult to justify the provision on policy grounds. Section 25(i). This provision seeks to prevent employers from engaging indiscriminating practices by preventing them from dismissing employees because of certain factors such as temporary illness, union membership, gender or marital status etc etc. Again it says that this represents an unreasonable interference in the employers right to determine who he or she employs. Section 106 of the Act Mr Speaker already prevents victimisation of the employee on certain grounds. Section 25(k). Even if NIG decided to enact 25(h) I do not believe that this provision is necessary having regard to the already existing provisions of the Act. 76(1) and 80(2) which already enable an employee to make application to the Conciliation Board and the Employment Tribunal where a dispute has arisen with the employer. I cannot see why special provisions are necessary for disputes concerning termination. This applies to sections 25(l) and 25(m) as well. Section 25(n). Section 85(2) of the Act already gives the Tribunal wide powers where a party to an employment contract breaches the contract or a provision of the Act. Section 25(n) largely duplicates 85(2) and in my view is therefore unnecessary. In addition, I query whether reinstatement in the Norfolk Island context is a realistic remedy for wrongful termination of employment. Most businesses on Norfolk Island are small in size and it is difficult to see how the employer/employee relationship can be restored following a successful claim for wrongful termination. Extension of workers compensation cover.

MR KING

MR ADAMS I'm trying to illustrate

MR KING

MR SPEAKER Order. Mr Adams has the floor

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I am attempting to illustrate Mr Speaker that although I am certainly in agreement that there is a significant number of improvements in the Bill as it stands the work is incomplete. Mr King is interested to know who the author was for the assessment of some of the particular points that I've just read out. The author of that works in the legal section of the Administration.

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I am again very disappointed with Mr Adams. To suggest that I ditched the Bill, gave it to him because I didn't want to proceed with it. Nothing could be further from the truth Mr Adams. When we were actually reshuffling portfolios and you became an executive member, we sat down and asked each other, discussed, what areas people were interested in, what areas - you were there Mr Adams and I particularly asked you what area you were interested in, in my areas of responsibilities and one of the ones that you named was Employment and I agreed to hand it over. Now, have I in any way demonstrated that I am afraid to go forward with legislation because it makes me in any way unpalatable or unacceptable or unpopular? I think you really owe me an apology to suggest that I handed this over to you because I was afraid. You have no such evidence. In fact I have demonstrated I am prepared to stand out as well as anyone else. In fact. Better than most people. What I'm complaining about, yes,

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already you had all this wonderful advise from other people. Why didn't you do something with it?

MR SMITH Thank you Mr Speaker. I'm not going to say much about this because as I said earlier I don't believe that this Assembly should be passing any Bills at this late stage of our term. It's a problem that I had with the things that were brought on in the last Meeting in relation to the Employment Act and the Employment Bill. It's a fine time for everybody to want to get on the band wagon and want to do something about it now. I'm not going to get involved in the debate that's been going on. I'm one of those people who are probably affected by the Employment Act, probably more than the majority around this table.

Two or three of us around here would be affected by it. I believe that workers need to be looked after if they are being abused in their jobs. It's an important issue, it's been around for a long time and I believe it doesn't matter who makes up the Eighth Assembly they will pick it up and make the amendments that the Minister who is responsible for it, wants to have made. There are holes in the thing. If the Minister doesn't want to pass it with those holes in it, why bother? So Mr Speaker, I don't intend to support this Bill at this stage

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. The Bill before the House seeks to improve the lot of employees in Norfolk Island and by and large I have no difficulty with that. However Mr Speaker, during the time that the Bill has been around a number of deficiencies have been identified and they will need attention, there's no doubt about that Mr Speaker. At the eleventh hour it is not the time to try to be ironing out those deficiencies. That is my strong view. To pinch a phrase from one of Norfolk's prominent political correspondents I quote "I tips my hat to the Minister who has put commonsense before ego". Mr Adams has indicated to us here today that he intends to adjourn the debate on the subject. Mrs Anderson has suggested that the Bill should be withdrawn if her foreshadowed amendments aren't agreed to. Mr Speaker, no matter what way you look at it, the result of either course of action will be the same. The Bill will lapse at the conclusion of this meeting and will be taken on board by the incoming Assembly if they are of a mind to do so, and I think that is an appropriate course of action so I will not be supporting any endeavours to day to deal with this Employment Amendment No 2 Bill to conclusion. Thank you Mr Speaker

MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. I would like to correct Mr Christian on a misunderstanding. I did not suggest that the Bill should be withdrawn if my detail stage amendments didn't get through. What I said was, if Mr Adams moves for the Bill to be withdrawn and his motion doesn't get through, at that point I would move my detail stage amendments. It's not quite the same thing, thank you

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Seeing everybody seems to have got it off their chest, I seek to adjourn this matter

MR SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that this Bill be adjourned

QUESTION PUT

Could the Clerk please call the House

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| MR BUFFETT | AYE |
| MRS ANDERSON | AYE |
| MR BATES | AYE |
| MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON | NO |

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| | |
|--------------|-----|
| MR SMITH | AYE |
| MR EVANS | AYE |
| MR ADAMS | AYE |
| MR KING | NO |
| MR CHRISTIAN | AYE |

The result of voting Honourable Members, the ayes seven the noes two, the ayes have it. This matter is so adjourned

NO 4 - FIREARMS BILL 1996

MR SPEAKER 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. Mr Speaker, today I am seeking conclusion by this House on this Bill which provides for a comprehensive Firearm Management arrangement for Norfolk Island. Briefly Mr Speaker to refresh Members recollections on the contents of the Bill I shall reiterate some of the points made in the previous Sittings. The underlying principles of this proposed legislation Mr Speaker are to confirm firearms possession and use as being a privilege that is conditional on the over-riding need to ensure public safety, to improve public safety by imposing strict controls on the possession and use of firearms and also to facilitate a common ground approach to the control of firearms. Mr Speaker the proposed Bill will require each person who possesses or uses a firearm under the authority of a licence to prove a genuine reason for possessing or using that firearm. Subject to this Bill an applicant for a licence needs to have a genuine reason for possessing or using a firearm that the applicant has applied for. He needs to be a current member of the Norfolk Island Shooting Club and states that the firearm is to be used in competition or activities requiring the use of the firearm for which the licence is sought. Further the owner or occupier of land on Norfolk Island used for primary production and states that he or she intends to use a firearm solely in connection with farming or grazing activities and further as genuine reasons needs to demonstrate that it is necessary in the conduct of the applicants business or employment to possess or use a firearm for which the licence is sought and further collects firearms for the kind to which the licence is sought. Mr Speaker it is proposed in the Bill that there be individual licence categories with a range of particular firearms pertaining to each category. As well there is to be a Firearm Dealers licence which will effectively regulate activity in that particular area.

Under the terms of this Firearms Bill the interpretation of inoperative firearm or indeed what isn't a firearm, will be prescribed in the Regulations. Mr Speaker the proposed Bill before us will also impose firm requirements that must be satisfied in relation to the licensing of firearms and the acquisition and sale of the firearms. This Bill will replace the Gun Licence Act 1958 or rather the Gun Licence Ordinance 1958. That Act which focused mainly on the licensing of firearms, does not provide for adequate controls over possession and use of firearms, therefore that Act was seen as being deficient in the context of the 90's and also it did not reflect any of the resolutions of the Australasian Police Ministers Council of last year. The Bill is based closely on the New South Wales Firearms Bill of 1996 which was recommended to the Norfolk Island Government as an appropriate model. The Bill has been drafted however as a piece of Norfolk Island legislation and applies to the circumstances that exist on Norfolk. Mr Speaker the Bill was not proceeded with at the last Sitting because further consultation and input was sought by various members of the community. Since that time a level of consultation has occurred and points of concern have been raised. There is certainly one point at this stage Mr Speaker I would like to emphasise on the

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also save a life under certain circumstances and I don't think that we've given enough consideration to the fact that a plane can come in here or a yacht can come in here and people can come ashore with weapons have probably run amuck if that's what we are frightened of. Somebody here on the Island who we know, who is watched regularly, who has to be licensed, we know if he has a mental problem and we have all these things in the Act and we can deal with it and if anybody uses the gun for any reason that they shouldn't well then the Police have powers for that. But we have no control over a yacht that might come in here at night or a plane that might come in here and somebody can run amuck with a gun without this piece of legislation. Somebody that we don't know. Again I would like to see some provision where the Police can confiscate these weapons in an emergency. In Australia if there is some sort of emergency the army have got guns, the police have got guns. If we have no guns then we could be more vulnerable than what we are with them. I think this Bill does fit our situation. Any of our guns that embarrass Mr Howard are not physically in mainland Australia and there is no way that they can physically be legally got onto mainland Australia. I certainly support what Mr Adams is trying to do here and I think it's put forward with a lot of commonsense to our particular situation and that deserves our support. I'm not too sure what Mr King is trying to say about putting it off, or a legacy we are going to leave for the next Assembly. I think to withdraw it now is going to leave a greater legacy for the next Assembly because they are going to have nothing. At least if this goes through and it is in conflict with the Commonwealth at least they have something rather than nothing. Thank you Mr Speaker

MRS LOZZI CUTHBERTSON Thank you Mr Speaker. As I indicated when this Bill was tabled, I generally support it. I think it is a great improvement on the existing legislation. At that time I expressed the concern about the making of collectibles, particularly machine guns really safe and at that time Mr Adams undertook to check out how that could be done. I think that's an important requirement in this Bill. I really have not seen any detail stage amendments that reassure me that guns will be properly made unusable if such guns happen to be machine guns which are collectible. I think at that stage Mr Adams said he would get the knowledge of the Police Sergeant and advise would be sought about such collectibles. Quite frankly, maybe one Police Sergeant may have such expertise the next one may not. I think we have to have something a little tighter than that to ensure that any machine gun which happens to be a collectible and is imported into this place is rendered absolutely unuseable and that an expert certifies that that is the case. I am concerned about some of the points that Mr King has made with regard to our situation re the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth has recently demonstrated they are only too willing to interfere in the laws of Territories by amending the Norfolk Island Act and amending the Northern Territory Act and amending the Acts that control the situation in the other external Territories of Australia. I think the way Mr Howard has carried on about firearms without wishing to comment on the appropriateness or not, is demonstrated that he is willing to go to any length to have his way about them. I have little doubt that the Commonwealth, whether they say so or not, will probably react to this legislation, but you are damned if you do and you are damned if you don't. This is important legislation. It is an important step forward. What really makes me not want to support it today is that it does leave a legacy for the next Assembly to deal with which it has not had much say and like Mr Smith telling us over and over, perhaps we should not be moving legislation of great import such as this forward at this stage. So on the balance of my consideration at this moment I cannot support it although I generally applaud it and consider it very good but I do not wish to leave a legacy to the next Assembly over which they have had little control

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MRS ANDERSON Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker my name isn't on the list either. I took a long time deciding whether I would stand again. My three years on the Assembly have been time consuming, frustrating, educational, stimulating and at times, a great deal of fun. We've debated alot of questions that have been of great importance to Norfolk Island and I hope that I have helped steer our legislation in the direction that will be for the betterment of Norfolk Island and its people. I have very much enjoyed my time on the Assembly. I've really enjoyed working with the other Members, although we have had our moments at times haven't we Mr King. To everybody who is standing I wish them the very best of luck and I hope that the incoming Assembly will be the best that Norfolk Island can hope for, thank you

MR ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. I reiterate some of the points made by Mr Evans and indeed Mrs Anderson. For myself it has been an interesting three years. It's been a heck of a learning curve and I hope in that process that I've added a little positive movement here and there to the progress of Norfolk Island and I wish at this stage to thank my colleagues around the table for being shipmates for the three year trip and also for the deaf ones who I have to repeat it to twice, and again, thank you to the people who have supported me in the community and to all the people who have served on Boards in my areas thank you for your time, it is most appreciated your serving on those Boards as was indicated today it is a time consuming and difficult task for little remuneration. Again, thank you one and all

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker. This is the last formal meeting of the House and I wish to take the time to say thank you to the community. I have enjoyed serving you and I have again offered myself as a candidate at the forthcoming general election. To my colleagues in this House I say thank you for the past three years and to all candidates seeking membership of the Legislative Assembly I say Good Luck

MR KING Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker the loss of the experience of Mrs Anderson and Mr Evans is sad. It in fact makes the Assembly a little poorer to lose experience. It doesn't matter whether you are left or right, whether you are jumping on Mike King or patting him on the back, or it doesn't matter where you stand, as long as you exercise your line as your constituents expect you to and during that course you acquire knowledge, so I am really saddened to see Mr Evans and Mrs Anderson not renominate. One of the essential things for progress in Norfolk Island is continuity and stability and that includes in the political forum. To not have that experience available for the electors to choose from is a sad experience. Unlike a number of other Assemblies Mr Speaker, we have managed to last a whole term and given that we are nine individuals from nine different walks of life with different philosophies to survive a whole term is quite something. Many before us have not lasted a full term. We have argued and sworn at each other and we've insulted each other, mostly behind closed doors but sometimes in this forum as well. I've been involved in dealing out a bit of agro and I've copped a bit. I've copped lots. The reality Mr Speaker, is that none of the hard decisions come without conflicting opinions and without some heavy discussions. The fact that we are nine individuals makes conflict and argument almost inevitable and anyone who thinks different couldn't be further wrong. I mention this Mr Speaker in the hope that there will be no residual animosity among Members of the Seventh Assembly and that the experience that each of us has gained has brought with it an understanding that vigorous hard debate and calling Ministers to account is an essential part of the job. It is part of the political process and without doing those things we simply haven't done our job. Recently someone in the community

