MEDIA RELEASE

A Better Way Forward

Today the Speaker the Hon David Buffett and I have written to Assistant Minister The Hon Jamie Briggs MP seeking a united way forward to resolving the current future Norfolk Island governance process.” The Chief Minister said.

A copy of the text of that letter is.

“Dear Minister

We are writing to you seeking your assistance and support for a united way forward to resolve the current Norfolk Island governance debate.

As you would agree, we need to develop a platform for moving forward that lifts that discussion to a level of trust and cooperation that will enable an outcome for change that is collectively agreed and jointly implemented.

Accordingly, we propose that, the Federal Government and the Norfolk Island Government agree on the following set of principles, process and timeline for moving forward.

Principles

- Agree that the current governance model needs to be modified
- Both parties agree to design a modified governance model(s), and that the model(s) be fully discussed with and costed by the Federal Department of Finance
- That the model(s) need to:
  - Have a democratic elected representation
  - Provide the most efficient and cost efficient delivery of service
  - Identify clearly the division of responsibilities between the Federal Government and the Norfolk Island model
- There will be one final model that is recommended for adoption and implementation.

Process

- Identification of the division of responsibilities between the Federal and Norfolk Island Governments
- Evaluation of the most efficient and cost effective delivery of service of those functions identified as Norfolk Island Government and or Commonwealth Government responsibilities
• Identification and development of governance model(s) that support that delivery of service
• Costing of the model(s) by the Federal department of Finance
• Identification of an agreed governance model, arising from the above process.
• Agreement on the Legislative amendments to facilitate the introduction of the agreed model

**Timeline**

• Consideration of the following timeline for the development of the final agreed model and the implementation of change
  o Now- 31 March 2015 for the identification and costing on the preferred model
  o 1 April 2015 –30 June 2015 implementation planning of the new governance model
  o 1 July 2015 – ongoing implementation of the new governance model

We further propose that during the process to identify and agree on a model there will not be a recommendation to Federal Cabinet on a model outside of the above process and timelines.

An Essential factor in these suggestions is that the discussions on the principles and process are face to face with the relevant decision makers.”

We believe that only through a cooperative approach to reform will we be able to provide stable governance to Norfolk Island that will deliver long term sustainable economic growth.

We look forward to a positive response from the Assistant Minister to our Better Way Forward approach.

Lisle Snell
Chief Minister

**Date 21/11/2014**