



MINUTES

Extraordinary Council Meeting

Menets

f daa Ekstrordeneri Kaunsl Miiten

orn 3 Septemba 2020

3 September 2020

**MINUTES OF NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON THURSDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 2:00PM**

PRESENT: Cr Robin Adams (Mayor), Cr John McCoy (Deputy Mayor), Cr Rod Buffett (Councillor), Cr David Porter (Councillor), Cr Lisle Snell (Councillor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Roach (General Manager), Meliame Plant (Media & Executive Assistant)

1 WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Councillors, Officers and the community to the meeting of the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

2 STATEMENT OF RESPECT

The Norfolk Island Regional Council promotes a climate of respect for all. We will endeavour to inspire in our community shared civic pride by valuing and protecting our unique culture and environment, both natural and built, for the current and future generations. We, the elected members and staff of the Norfolk Island Regional Council undertake to act with honesty and integrity, to conduct ourselves in a way that engenders trust and confidence in the decisions we make, and the actions we take on behalf of the Norfolk Island community. We acknowledge the Norfolk Island people, the traditional custodians of this Island.

3 APOLOGIES

Nil

CONDOLENCES

Cr Adams recorded the passing of:

- Moira Robinson – 30 August 2020

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Councillors stood in silence.

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

NIL

5 MAYORAL MINUTE

6.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - ROYAL COMMISSION: NORFOLK ISLAND AND THE COMMONWEALTH BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

RESOLUTION 2020/143

Moved: Cr Robin Adams

Seconded: Cr Lisle Snell

That Recognising, the need to ensure absolute independence and to maximise community confidence and trust in the outcomes of the process,

COUNCIL CALLS ON -

THE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIES THE HON NOLA MARINO M.P., TO ADVOCATE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT A ROYAL COMMISSION FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO INQUIRE INTO AND TO REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:

Options to provide for the most appropriate form of government for the non-self-governing territory of Norfolk Island that can achieve the majority support of the Norfolk Island People; and build a pathway to peace.

THE INQUIRY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXTEND TO AND CONSIDER:

- a) Commonwealth commitments made to the Norfolk Island Government through the *'Norfolk Island Roadmap 2 March 2011'*.
- b) The view of the Norfolk Island Government expressed in 2015 that the Commonwealth Parliament was misled during the passage of the Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (Clth), having particular regard to the incorrect claim that: *'the overwhelming view of the community is the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly should now be abolished and replaced, after a transitional period to effect changes to the governance structures for service delivery, by a local government type body'*. https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/bd/bd1415a/15bd102#_Toc419279002.
- c) Democratic deficits; the 'State disconnect'; and other shortcomings of the current governance model for Norfolk Island arising from the passage of the Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015 (Clth);
- d) The interests of all Norfolk Island residents. This includes the desire of the descendants of the Pitcairn settlers to protect their language, culture, traditions, and historical rights arising from their settlement of Norfolk Island in 1856;
- e) Options to assist in Norfolk Island's future economic and financial sustainability, with particular regard to the provision of large-scale infrastructure;
- f) The findings of the Independent Governance and Financial Audit of NIRC operations commissioned by NIRC in partnership with the Commonwealth in July 2020;
- g) The findings of the community survey and consultancy commissioned by the Commonwealth to develop the *'Norfolk Island 2030: Sustaining Our Future'* Plan;
- h) Eligibility to vote at Norfolk Island elections to be determined by the Norfolk Island People;

- i) Options to promote co-operation and collaboration through the joint development of mutually beneficial partnerships between the Australian Government and Norfolk Island that properly consider and respect the interests and obligations of both places.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Robin Adams

Seconded: Cr Lisle Snell

That Recognising, the need to ensure absolute independence of process and to maximise community confidence and trust in the outcomes of that process,

COUNCIL CALLS ON –

THE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIES THE HON NOLA MARINO M.P., TO ADVOCATE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT A ROYAL COMMISSION FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO INQUIRE INTO AND TO REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:

Options to provide for the most appropriate form of government for the non-self-governing territory of Norfolk Island that can achieve the majority support of the Norfolk Island People; and build a pathway to peace.

THE INQUIRY AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXTEND TO AND CONSIDER:

- a) Commonwealth commitments made to the Norfolk Island Government through the 'Norfolk Island Roadmap 2 March 2011'.
- b) The view of the Norfolk Island government expressed in 2015 that the Commonwealth Parliament was misled during the passage of the Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 (Clth), having particular regard to the incorrect claim that: *'the overwhelming view of the community is the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly should now be abolished and replaced, after a transitional period to effect changes to the governance structures for service delivery, by a local government type body'*.
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/bd/bd1415a/15bd102#_Toc419279002
- c) Democratic deficits; the 'State disconnect'; and other shortcomings of the current governance model for Norfolk Island arising from the passage of the Norfolk Island legislation Amendment Act 2015 (Clth);
 - cc) The basis for the removal of the Preamble to the Norfolk Island Act 1979.
- d) The interests of all Norfolk Island residents. This includes the desire of the descendants of the Pitcairn settlers to protect their language, culture, traditions, and historical rights arising from their settlement of Norfolk Island in 1856;
- e) Options to assist in Norfolk island's future economic and financial sustainability, with particular regard to the provision of large-scale infrastructure;
- f) The findings of the Independent Governance and Financial Audit of NIRC operations commissioned by NIRC in partnership with Commonwealth in July 202;

- g) The findings of the community survey and consultancy commissioned by the Commonwealth to develop the *'Norfolk Island 2030: Sustaining our Future' Plan*;
- h) Eligibility to vote at Norfolk Island elections to be determined by the Norfolk Island People;
- i) Options to promote co-operation and collaboration through the joint development of mutually beneficial partnership between the Australian Government and Norfolk Island that properly consider and respect the interests and obligations of both places.

CARRIED

**IN FAVOR – CR. ADAMS, CR. MCCOY, CR SNELL
AGAINST – CR. PORTER, CR. BUFFETT**

During the discussions Mayor Adams tabled the attached letter of support from the Norfolk Island Council of Elders and the Norfolk Island People for Democracy.

Attachment I

ATTACHMENT I

**NORFOLK ISLAND
COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

Norfolk Island Council of Elders



**Norfolk Island
People for Democracy**

Norfolk Island People for Democracy

To the Mayor,

We write to offer you our unqualified support for your proposal to request a Royal Commission to inquire into matters relating to the government of Norfolk Island. Your request presents the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island with an historic opportunity to work together in a true spirit of partnership to develop a *'more considerate, well-planned, collaborative and democratic approach to the government of Norfolk Island'*. (Please see our joint press release below).

We commend and thank you for your community leadership in this matter.

Albert Buffett,
President – Norfolk Island Council of Elders

Chris Magri
President – Norfolk Island People for Democracy

ROYAL COMMISSION

The Council of Elders (CoE) and the Norfolk Island People for Democracy (NIPD) would like to applaud the leadership of Mayor, Robin Adams in bringing forward a Motion for Council to call upon:

THE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIES THE HON NOLA MARINO M.P., TO ADVOCATE TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT A ROYAL COMMISSION FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO INQUIRE INTO AND TO REPORT AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON:

Options to provide for the most appropriate form of government for the non-self-governing territory of Norfolk Island that can achieve the majority support of the Norfolk Island People; and build a pathway to peace.

Through this Motion, Mayor Adams has joined an orchestra of other Norfolk Island voices calling on the Commonwealth Government to take a more considerate, well-planned, collaborative and democratic approach to the government of Norfolk Island.

There is no doubt that the Mayor's Royal Commission initiative has the potential to positively re-shape Norfolk's relationship with the Commonwealth and re-unify our community.

We trust that the Mayor's fellow Councillors and the Commonwealth will embrace this opportunity and it will be received and considered with the same genuine intent in which it has been requested. (A full transcript of the Royal Commission Motion can be viewed at nipdpeoplefordemocracy.com/news)

6 CLOSE OF COUNCIL MEETING

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 2:46pm.

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Councillor Robin Adams

Mayor

Dated: 3 September 2020