



30 September 2020

Hon Nola Marino MP | Federal Member for Forrest
Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories
House of Representatives
CANBERRA ACT

Email to: [REDACTED] s47F

Dear Assistant Minister | Nola,

Council at its Extraordinary Meeting held 30 October 2020 at 2pm, resolved:

That Council requests the Assistant Minister, the Hon Nola Marino, delay the elections up to 4 months from 14 November 2020. (Moved Mayor, Seconded Cr Snell).

Assistant Minister, I wanted to let you know that we arrived at this decision driven by a number of factors, and provide them to you now for context in your deliberations.

- Council called unanimously for an External Audit of the governance, financial and sustainability arrangements in place on Norfolk Island.
- The Draft report was only received by Council on 23 October 2020, with comments not closing until today. At best the final report may be available in early November for Council and the community.
- These draft reports indicate significant flaws in the governance model and state the Council's financial position is dire.
- When this External Audit was called for by Council, we requested that the elections be delayed for 2 months, so that existing Council could receive these reports and not burden an incoming Council with this process. In this request, Council also provided the Assistant Minister that the delayed election could be for a longer period, should that be deemed necessary by the Commonwealth Government.
- The existing Council strongly believe it is its responsibility to receive these reports, and any outcome that may flow from this process, not a new Council.

The above context shows that this Council wants to work with you and your Department in making sure that the next steps are made in cooperation, and we continue to work together towards the best outcomes for this Community.

I look forward to your advice with Council's decision today.

Yours sincerely

Robin Adams
MAYOR