

# Norfolk Island Regional Council

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### THE COUNCIL'S CHARTER – KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

The Norfolk Island Regional Council (your Council) was formally constituted on 1 July 2016 and brings to our community a new way of 'doing government business' on Norfolk Island. Your Council in the main operates under the provisions of the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and NSW Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 (the Regulations).

However, the Commonwealth has made a number of modifications to the Act to make the operation of the Act more relevant to Norfolk Island circumstances. This legislation of course brings many changes to Norfolk Island which we will talk about in the coming weeks. This week we will talk about the principles that are to guide your Council under the Act.

#### Your Council has the following charter

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the multicultural principles
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively plan for, account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to engage in long-term strategic planning on behalf of the local community
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights
- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government
- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer.

The first Ordinary Meeting of your Council will be held on Wednesday, 20 July 2016 at 2.00pm in the Council Chambers in the Bi-Centennial Complex. The meeting is open to the public.

**Robin Adams**  
**Mayor**

**15 July 2016**