

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The Council held their first Ordinary Meeting on 20 July 2016 at 2:00pm. The minutes are available at www.norfolkisland.gov.nf. Around twenty-five members of the public attended the meeting. 'It is great to see that the community is interested in the activities of the new Council,' said Lotta Jackson, 'We are off to a good start with the focus on the draft Community Strategic Plan and the budget for 2016/17.'

For specific items before Council, and in accordance with relevant legislation, Council must resolve to place documents on public exhibition and invite public submissions. A number of important matters were discussed at the Council meeting and Council resolved to place five documents on public exhibition. These are detailed below along with the relevant closing dates for public submissions on each document.

For those wanting to make a submission the documents are available to view under the 'Public Exhibition Documents' link on www.norfolkisland.gov.nf or hard copies are available at the Norfolk Island Library or from the Customer Care Team in the Telecom Building. If you would like to make a submission on one or all of the documents, please provide via email to gaye.evans@nirc.gov.nf or post to 'Public Exhibition Submissions, Norfolk Island Regional Council, PO Box 95, Norfolk Island, 2899'.

The Council resolved that the draft Norfolk Island Regional Council Code of Meeting Practice be placed on public exhibition for 28 days with a 42 day period for public submissions. The public submissions must be received by close of business 2 September 2016. If no public submissions are received the draft document becomes the adopted Code of Meeting Practice for the Council.

Council resolved that the draft policy titled Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Councillors be placed on public exhibition for 28 days. If the Council does not receive any public submissions by close of business on 19 August 2016 the draft document is adopted as policy.

Council resolved to adopt the Norfolk Island Community Strategic Plan 2016-2026 and place it on public exhibition for 28 days, until 19 August 2016. This is to allow the Norfolk Island Regional Council to facilitate a public meeting to further explain the objectives of the plan to the community. Details of this public meeting will be provided next week.

The *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* at section 513A requires the Norfolk Island Regional Council to raise revenue by ordinary rates (land rates) of \$500,000 for the year ending 30 June 2017 and \$1,000,000 for year ending 30 June 2018 and any later year. The Council resolved to place the recommended rating model on public exhibition for 28 days, and if no submissions are received, the model becomes the rating structure for the Norfolk Island Regional Council 2016/17. Public submissions must be made by close of business 19 August 2016.

The Council resolved to adopt the Operational Plan Budget for 2016/17 and place it on public exhibition for 28 days. If no submissions are received by close of business on 19 August 2016, the budget becomes the adopted budget for the Norfolk Island Regional Council 2016/17.

OTHER BUSINESS DEALT WITH AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayoral Minute was utilised by Mayor Adams to discuss the Airport Loan from the Commonwealth, further details can be found in the Mayors media release on www.norfolkisland.gov.nf.

The remuneration fees for Councillors and the Mayor were adopted by Council. The fees are in line with the determination made by the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 26 March 2016 and a Norfolk Island Applied Laws Ordinance. The remuneration for each Councillor is \$11,290 and the Mayor receives an additional fee of \$24,630 for the year 2016/17.

In relation to the relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (NI)* the Council delegated powers to the General Manager to allow her to exercise her functions as General Manager and exercise Council's powers, functions, duties and authorities contained in legislation. Council is able, by resolution, to direct the General Manager in the exercise of any function delegated.

Council adopted two policies – 'Councillor Access to Information and Interaction with Staff' and a 'Media Policy'. These two policies will soon be available under the 'Policies and Procedures' link on www.norfolkisland.gov.nf but can be viewed as attachments 5 and 6 on the following link in the meantime [http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/NIRC Council Meetings/Agendas/](http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/NIRC_Council_Meetings/Agendas/)

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

22 July 2016