

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

CONGRATULATIONS AND INVITATION TO THE HON SENATOR FIONA NASH MP

Mayor Adams and the General Manager on behalf of the Regional Council and the Norfolk Island community have sent a letter of congratulations to Norfolk's new Federal Minister the Hon Senator Fiona Nash MP along with an invitation to visit Norfolk as soon as she is able. Senator Nash is Deputy Leader of the Nationals, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Regional Communications and Minister for Local Government and Territories.

Senator Nash's stated vision '*to help build country communities our children and grandchildren either want to stay in or come back to*' certainly aligns with the aspirations of the Norfolk Island community and recognises the tyranny of isolation and distance experienced by tiny remote communities such as Norfolk Island.

WEEKLY CHAT BY THE MAYOR ON LOCAL RADIO

Mayor Adams will be providing updates on Council activities on our local radio each Wednesday after the local news at 8:00am.

This week Mayor Adams reflected on the work of the Council since 1 July 2016 and how well attended the two meetings that were open to the public had been.

'It is important', Mayor Adams said, 'to keep in mind that no matter what a person's views are on what Norfolk's governance model should be going forward into the future, that it is essential that the Regional Council operate as efficiently and strategically as it can within the new governance framework to achieve a viable and economically sustainable future for the Island and its people. Councillors are committed', Mayor Adams said 'to work to achieve that goal notwithstanding the challenges that lie ahead.'

Discussion also ranged over the following:

- The public meeting to be held on Wednesday, 10 August at Rawson Hall at 5:30pm to provide the community with the opportunity to share their thoughts on the content of the draft 10 year Community Strategic Plan which is available for viewing at the Library or Telecom or online at http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/NIRC_Council_Meetings/PublicExhibitDocs. Mayor Adams advised that the current version of the Strategic Plan – Draft No. 3 - has as its Vision that Norfolk Island be recognised as 'The Best Small Island in the World'.

'This is a wonderful aspirational goal', Mayor Adams said, 'an aspiration that can be achieved by the Council and the Norfolk Island community working together collaboratively to achieve that outcome. I urge the community to join Council at the meeting on 10 August so we can hear your views following the power point presentation conducted by the General Manager.'

The community was also encouraged to take the opportunity to make submissions by 19 August 2016 on the draft Operational Plan Budget for 2016/17 which is also available on the above website.

- Mayor Adams reported on the fortnightly meeting she and the General Manager has with the Administrator and the Official Secretary to keep lines of direct communication open between the Council and the Commonwealth. Mayor Adams advised that last week's meeting focussed on the motion passed at the Council meeting on 20 July that discussion be held with the Commonwealth Government on the Airport Loan from the Commonwealth being deemed fully discharged with effect 1 September 2016; a gesture of goodwill to the Norfolk Island community as part of the transition to a sustainable Regional Council.

'It was encouraging,' Mayor Adams said, 'to learn that the Administrator had made representation on earlier occasions on this issue.'

Robin Adams
Mayor

29 July 2016