

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

The Norfolk Island Community Strategic Plan

In opening the community meeting on Wednesday Mayor Adams took the opportunity to introduce to the community the newly appointed members of the senior management team of the Norfolk Island Regional Council - Ms Lotta Jackson General Manager; Ms Lisa Jackson, Group Manager Governance; Mr John van Gaalen Group Manager Commercial Hub; and Mr Bruce Taylor, Group Manager Services.

Mayor Adams made the following opening remarks – ‘I want to reaffirm the important point that I made in my first talk on radio three weeks ago and in the local paper as Mayor, that no matter what your views are on what Norfolk’s governance model should be going forward into the future, it is essential that the Regional Council operate as efficiently and strategically as it can within the current governance framework to achieve a viable and economically sustainable future for the Island and its people.

‘I believe that all Councillors are committed to working to achieve that goal notwithstanding the challenges that lie ahead. No-one said that it was going to be easy but our success depends on all of us pulling together to get the best outcome that we can at this time.’

The General Manager presented the Strategic Plan through a power point presentation and offered the community the opportunity to ask questions and put forward their views.

“It was evident from the meeting,” Mayor Adams said, “That the community’s expectations from the meeting may not have been fully met at this time but I hope that I made it clear that Council continues to welcome written submissions or one on one discussion with councillors for those who prefer dialogue rather than putting pen to paper”. Mayor Adams stressed the closing date for a submission is Friday 19 August.

Tourism remains the principal driver of the economy on Norfolk Island

Speaking on radio last Wednesday Mayor Adams reaffirmed that Tourism remains the principal driver of the economy on Norfolk Island and of the need to actively drive forward the Tourism Strategic Plan adopted by the 14th Legislative Assembly.

‘The internet is a wonderful research tool,’ Mayor Adams said, ‘and it was encouraging to find on the NSW Local Government website the following, from which I quote:

“Local Government plays a major role in tourism and is engaged in tourism in many ways. Councils are actively involved in promoting tourism, providing infrastructure and services to support tourism, but also in managing the impacts of tourism.

Tourism is an important driver of economic development and employment growth but it also has impacts on communities and the environment that need to be managed.”

Local Government NSW has for 10 years now staged successful annual Local Government tourism conferences and last year the conference was hosted by Byron and Ballina Councils. I will be discussing with the General Manager the possibility of Norfolk Island offering to host the Conference in 2018.'

Council next meets on Wednesday 17 August 2016 at 2 pm

Public Access at Council meetings

The Council's Meeting Code of Practice provides the opportunity for people to apply to address Council on any matter which is listed for consideration on Council's business agenda.

'Public access at Council meetings is something new for Norfolk,' Mayor Adams said on radio last Wednesday, 'and of course there are rules that must be observed. For starters, application to address Council must be made in writing to the General Manager by 5 pm on the Monday prior to the meeting so for our meeting on the 17th an application must be made by next Monday 15 August. The application must give details of the matter to be raised and it lies with the General Manager and me to decide whether the applicant is entitled to speak. Normally there is a time limit of five minutes per speaker and no more than six addresses would be permitted for any one meeting.'

Mayoral Minute for the Council meeting

Readers will recall that in an earlier media release Mayor Adams spoke about the "Mayoral Minute" which gives the Mayor the opportunity to bring forward a matter that he or she would otherwise be precluded from bringing up in other business when chairing the meeting.

'It is my intention on Wednesday,' Mayor Adams said, 'to use the Mayoral Minute to seek Council's endorsement that the film crew of 'IVT-By Arrangement "Norfolk Island' have access to the Council Chambers to take footage of the meeting of Council'.

Lotta Jackson

General Manager

12 August 2016