

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

PUBLIC ACCESS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Council's Code of Meeting Practice provides the opportunity for Members of the community to make application to address Council on any issue on the Business Paper for a Council Meeting.

'Council thanks Mr Rael Donde, President of the Accommodation and Tourism Association (the ATA) who, on behalf of the ATA, was the first to take up the opportunity to address Council at its meeting on Wednesday on the motions being proposed by Councillor Snell,' Mayor Adams said, 'motions which seek to adopt the Tourism Strategic Plan and to establish a Tourism Advisory Committee; and as Mr Donde said these two motions indicate recognition by Council of its important role in Tourism'.

Mr Donde spoke about the key challenges to implement the Tourism Strategic Plan (the Plan) which he said included –

- Lack of funding by the Commonwealth Government to implement the Plan;
- Insufficient Tourism Budget to implement the Plan and the under resourcing of Norfolk Tourism without the General Manager;
- Ensuring Tourism Budget is not diverted to other Council needs;
- The need for the Commonwealth to be a real Stakeholder in the Plan and Advisory Committee;
- Participation in the implementation by Commonwealth agencies such as KAVHA, National Parks Board, Tourism Australia, and state agencies (possibly Destination NSW);
- The need for clear delineation of responsibilities (Administrator, Council Group Management, Norfolk Island Tourism, Destination NSW, Tourism Advisory Committee);
- Ensuring Accommodation Sector is not disadvantaged with higher council rates, which means less capacity to spend on marketing.

'Council looks forward at future Council meetings to having more participation by the community in this public forum,' Mayor Adams said.

FILMING OF COUNCIL

Having received the endorsement of Council that the meeting be filmed, Mayor Adams welcomed Senior Correspondent Dan Rivers from Independent Television News (ITV) who has travelled from the UK to investigate how Norfolk is dealing with the transition to the new governance arrangements. Mr Rivers was joined by Leslie White who took footage of the proceedings for possible inclusion in a documentary titled 'On Assignment: Norfolk Island.'

THE COUNCIL HAS AGREED A LOGO

Some weeks ago the community was invited to submit designs for a logo for the Norfolk Island Regional Council – a logo that represents the Norfolk Island community.

‘Council thanks those in the community who submitted designs of such a high calibre,’ Mayor Adams said, ‘and it gives me pleasure on behalf of Council to congratulate Ms Natasha Arnold for having submitted the winning design using the red tailed tropic bird flying sideways towards a young Norfolk Island Pine.’



For the benefit of the community members present at the Council meeting Mayor Adams read the following submission from Ms Arnold that accompanied her design.

‘These designs represent a tropic bird in flight. The red tailed tropic bird is very significant to Norfolk Island and can be found at several distinct spots around the cliff tops where they nest. They are a very striking bird and – like many born and bred Norfolk Islanders – are strongly connected to both the land and the sea. By that I mean the bird feels safe and comfortable on our shores, yet adventurous and brave enough to explore new territories and elsewhere as part of life’s journey. Something I am sure many locals can identify with.

‘Also the thought behind having a bird in flight aiming for the sky can be another representation of showing growth and a way forward for the future.

‘Having a vibrantly coloured young pine as part of the image/logo, I thought would set it off and be a good contrast. A young, strong, healthy looking pine could again come to be seen as a way Norfolk can stay young at heart, strong right to the core, and healthy because of its beautiful and unique environment, which of course must be protected and continue to be taken care of for future generations of Islanders to enjoy what we now do. The roots of the pine also spread down deep into the heart, providing stability, understanding of the Norfolk Island heritage, and again strength in an individual sense but also in a community; respectfully sharing the earth and ground with others.’

Robin Adams
Mayor
19 August 2016