

# Norfolk Island Regional Council

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### NORFOLK ISLAND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

#### EARLY FEEDBACK ON SUBMISSIONS

A big thank you is extended to all members of the community who took time to provide a submission to the *Norfolk Island Community Strategic Plan 2016-26 'Our Plan for the Future'*. 'The many varied, and some lengthy submissions as well, will take time to go through in detail to determine where, and if, they fit into the Plan, however I would like to provide some early feedback', Ms Lotta Jackson, General Manager said.

Council received a total of 56 submissions from the community. Two thirds of those submissions asked for Council to include strategies for self-determination within the Community Strategic Plan. The Council Charter outlines the roles of the Council within the legal framework, and states that Council's key functions are to provide and lobby for adequate services for the community, and to maintain and renew public assets for the benefit of its community.

'So I have to reiterate what was said at the Public Meeting on 10 August, that a strategy for self-determination cannot be included within the Community Strategic Plan, as it falls outside of the Local Government Framework and is not in line with Council's Charter', the General Manager said.

'The community knows where I stand on the issue of self-determination', Mayor Adams said, 'however, in my role as the Mayor of the Regional Council I must ensure that the Council works within the framework of the NSW (NI) Local Government Act and Regulations; and I believe that by establishing a strong local governance base now we will ensure that we have the system and strength needed for becoming the *Best Small Island in the World'*.

In summary, many of the submissions provided direct input against the various objectives in the Plan and other submissions enhance the objectives, for example:

#### **Environmental**

- Supply of rock
- Rural land and food primary production
- Solar power
- Waste management including worm farms and composting
- Keep our water around Norfolk Island sustainable
- Be mindful of overfishing and the potential for drilling

### **Economic Development**

- Diversification - develop Niche markets e.g. lavender farm
- Better internet for business development
- Focus on sustainable tourism
- Use resources for innovation such as 'Norfolk Islanders abroad' who may also be involved in education
- Council support of community events and the celebration of all public holidays
- More focus on primary production of food and other items to reduce the need for import

### **Heritage**

- In 2011, 45% of the permanent population was of Pitcairn decent and 38% of the populations ordinary residents including work permit holders was of Pitcairn decent
- Norfolk Island Language and Convict and Pitcairn heritage to be protected
- The immense importance of KAVHA

### **Community**

- Lobby for more medical services – surgery and delivery of babies on the Island
- Lobby for increased support for the aged, people with disabilities, children, youth and families in need of support
- Encourage healthy living and education for preventable health care
- Introduce neighbourhood watch
- Have a space for events, music and concerts
- Include a map of the Island in the Plan
- Immediate focus on Child Care

The full list of submissions and the final Draft of the *Norfolk Island Community Strategic Plan 2016-26 'Our Plan for the Future'* will be publicly available and be presented for adoption at the September Ordinary Council meeting that will be held on Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at 2pm.

**Lotta Jackson**  
**General Manager**

**02 September 2016**