

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

STOP PRESS!

Local screening of Norfolk Island Tourism's new Destination Campaign Video

I am pleased to be able to advise that the Ray Martin video and the short story videos launched last Friday night are currently being shown nightly at 7 pm until mid-next week. I thank the owners of TVNI and radio announcer Ian (Spider) Webb for making the suggestion when we chatted on air this week; and for the Norfolk Tourism team making it happen so promptly.

Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016 No 38

We talked last week about how NSW legislation has been applied or will be applied to Norfolk Island by the Commonwealth and I identified the four laws that have been applied so far. One of those laws is the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* under which the Norfolk Island Regional Council operates. Once a NSW law has been applied to Norfolk Island an amendment made to that law from time to time by the NSW Parliament will automatically apply as a Commonwealth law to Norfolk Island unless the Commonwealth by a section 19A Ordinance provides otherwise.

Yesterday Council was advised of the making by the NSW Parliament of the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016 No. 38 which amends the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*. The Act commenced in part on 23 September 2016.

Norfolk Island does not have representation in the NSW Parliament and it is important that Norfolk Island be made aware in advance of laws being made by that Parliament which may be applied as Commonwealth law to our Island. Accordingly I will be writing to Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash proposing that as a courtesy, the Commonwealth provide the Norfolk Island Regional Council with copies of Bills being considered by the NSW Parliament that will potentially impact on the people of Norfolk Island. This will allow Council to undertake its advocacy role to the Commonwealth on behalf of the Norfolk Island community.

This week I will provide detail of changes made under the above Act to the expanded role of the mayor and the role of a councillor. Other changes will be provided in the coming weeks.

New Section 226 – Role of mayor

The role of the mayor is as follows:

- (a) to be the leader of the council and a leader in the local community,
- (b) to advance community cohesion and promote civic awareness,
- (c) to be the principal member and spokesperson of the governing body, including representing the views of the council as to its local priorities,

- (d) to exercise, in cases of necessity, the policy-making functions of the governing body of the council between meetings of the council,
- (e) to preside at meetings of the council,
- (f) to ensure that meetings of the council are conducted efficiently, effectively and in accordance with this Act,
- (g) to ensure the timely development and adoption of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,
- (h) to promote the effective and consistent implementation of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council,
- (i) to promote partnerships between the council and key stakeholders,
- (j) to advise, consult with and provide strategic direction to the general manager in relation to the implementation of the strategic plans and policies of the council,
- (k) in conjunction with the general manager, to ensure adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement between the council and the local community,
- (l) to carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office,
- (m) to represent the council on regional organisations and at inter-governmental forums at regional, State and Commonwealth level,
- (n) in consultation with the councillors, to lead performance appraisals of the general manager,
- (o) to exercise any other functions of the council that the council determines.

New Section 232 – the Role of a councillor

- (1) The role of a councillor is as follows:
 - (a) to be an active and contributing member of the governing body,
 - (b) to make considered and well informed decisions as a member of the governing body,
 - (c) to participate in the development of the integrated planning and reporting framework,
 - (d) to represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community,
 - (e) to facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body,
 - (f) to uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body,
 - (g) to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor.

- (2) A councillor is accountable to the local community for the performance of the council.

Cr. Robin Adams

Mayor

3 November 2016