

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS LEVY

The Norfolk Island Regional Council Operational Plan 2016/17 was adopted by Council on 28 September 2016, at page 25 it states that a review of the *Absentee Landowners Levy Act 1976 (NI)* (the Act) and the associated charge will be undertaken as part of Budget deliberations in 2017. The community will be advised of the outcomes of the review in June 2017.

Accordingly, in line with the Act and Council's resolution, the Absentee Land Owners Levies were issued by Council in September 2016.

The Act requires that an absentee levy be raised to 'a person who is not a company or an exempt person and has been absent from Norfolk Island for a period of, or periods aggregating, 183 days or more during the year of levy'. Absentee levies are issued on the 15th of September each year for the 12 month period immediately preceding, in this case September 2015 – September 2016.

Amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)(NI)* stipulate that rates notices are to be levied annually by the Regional Council to land owners of Norfolk Island. The rates levies raised this year relate to the period 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017. The purpose of Council rates is to contribute to Council expenses such as the upkeep of roads and buildings, contributions towards Tourism and maintenance of public areas, including picnic areas, sports fields and reserves.

For enquiries about Absentee Landowners Levies or Rates please contact Customer Care on customercare@nirc.gov.nf or free call 0100.

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

17 November 2016