

# Norfolk Island Regional Council

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## KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

### MAYORS' WEEKEND SEMINAR SYDNEY 3-4 DECEMBER 2016

Council has agreed that I attend the Mayor's Weekend Seminar in Sydney 3-4 December. This Seminar offers the opportunity for me to participate in discussions and training for Mayors across NSW; to network with other Mayors and to develop a greater understanding of the role of the Mayor. Council has also agreed that I visit the Ballina and Lismore Waste Management Centres where I can experience firsthand the Waste Management operations of these Councils and talk with the General Managers and Mayors about their operations.

Readers might find the following overview of the Seminar of interest.

*"Mayors are the face of local government. The role is an important and demanding one. People expect mayors to provide the leadership required for councils to work effectively and address community priorities. The 2013 report of the Independent Local Government Review Panel highlighted the need to clarify the responsibilities of mayors and to ensure they have the skills and support required.*

*"Local government in NSW now faces the prospect of sweeping reforms: amalgamations, new arrangements for strategic planning and regional cooperation, plus a far-reaching review of the Local Government Act (1993). At the same time, communities are experiencing the impact of quickening economic and social change, as well as intense development pressures in our major towns and cities.*

*"These challenges require fresh thinking and sound local leadership. The pressures on mayors can only increase.*

*"The Mayors' Weekend Seminar offers practical assistance for NSW mayors, deputy mayors and aspiring mayors to work through the particular demands of the mayoral role. The program will explore some of the key challenges facing councils and communities. All the content is based on real-world experiences. It draws on recent reviews of local government in NSW, South Australia and New Zealand."*

The two-day program will include short presentations, expert panellists and ample time for roundtable discussion. I am particularly interested in the following sessions on Day 2.

Session 1 - The mayor as council leader. How should mayors go about ensuring good governance and the effective performance of the political arm of their council?

Session 2 - The mayor and general manager. What are the essential ingredients in making this important relationship a successful one?

Session 3 - What are the most important elements of the role and what additional knowledge, skills and support are needed to do the mayors' job effectively?

I look forward to reporting on my participation at the Seminar and the visits to Ballina and Lismore Waste Management Centres on my return home on 5 December 2016.

**"Norfolk Island: The Best Small Island in the World"**

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*Cr. Robin Adams  
Mayor Norfolk Island Regional Council  
24 November 2016*