

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

VISIT OF FEDERAL MINISTER SENATOR THE HON FIONA NASH MP

Elsewhere in the local press is a media release from Minister Nash's office about her forthcoming visit so I will just focus on the open invitation extended to the community event to be co-hosted by the Administrator and myself this Sunday afternoon, 11 December from 3.30 to 5:00pm. The venue is 'Munna's by Slaughter Bay' where two marquis have been erected to provide some shade and there will be plenty of chairs. Thank you to the Lions Club who will be assisting with the provision of afternoon tea - free tea, coffee and juice and light snacks. My thanks also to Council's Works Team for their assistance in 'readying' Munna's for the event.

I look forward on behalf of the Norfolk Island community to welcoming Minister Nash back to Norfolk. She promised to return when she came in September and now that Parliament has risen she is able to honour that commitment.

Formalities will be kept to a minimum as the purpose of the event is for Minister Nash to mingle with, and speak to the community in an informal setting. However I anticipate that the Minister will say a few words.

I thank the Council of Elders for the role they are playing in making the event a memorable one for the Minister. Council President Mr Albert Buffett will lead us in The Prayer of John Adams and introduce the Baunti Byuutis and the Norfolk Island Ukulele band, both of whom will provide us with a short bracket of traditional island dancing and music.

I encourage the community to take the opportunity to meet the Minister on Sunday.

The Minister has a very full schedule of meetings on Monday the 12th starting at 8 am with a meeting with the Regional Council. The agenda is below. Meetings will then follow with representatives from the following community groups –

- Norfolk Island People for Democracy (President Chris Magri and Lisle Snell)
- Morning tea with health and social welfare representatives to discuss Norfolk Island health and human well-being matters
- Council of Elders
- Working lunch to discuss the future of tourism as a basis of economic development for Norfolk Island with ATA, N.I. Chamber of Commerce & other stakeholders
- Child care industry representatives to discuss child care industry arrangements on Norfolk Island.

The Minister will discuss economic development opportunities on Norfolk on Radio Norfolk on Monday at 10.55 am.

AGENDA FOR MEETING OF COUNCIL WITH MINISTER NASH

The agenda for Council's meeting with the Minister includes the following matters:

- Building Better Regions Fund (Minister Nash)
 - Overview of the program
- Telecommunications reform (Minister Nash/Mayor)
 - Review of Norfolk Telecom
 - Extension of the Telecommunications Act 1997
 - NBN and the roll out of Sky Muster services
- Financial Assistance Grants
- Waste management
- Sustainable energy

MAYOR VISITS LISMORE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

I am indebted to the General Manager of Lismore Council, Mr Gary Murphy and their Manager Commercial Services Mr Phil Klepzig for the time given to me to explore all facets of their Waste Facility which is 'state of the art'. It was clear to me at the end of the visit that waste is a universal problem that we all share; but it is the economy of scale – small population and remoteness – that are just some of the challenges for us to overcome. Of course with the right community attitude to waste disposal these can also be used to our advantage. I include the following extracts from my letter of thanks sent yesterday to Gary Murphy–

"I found your Waste Management Centre both inspiring and depressing; inspiring because of the professional and effective manner in which you deal with waste and how all the staff appear to have job satisfaction; depressing because it clearly demonstrates the challenges that we, a small and isolated community, through tyranny of distance and economy of scale, face without the infrastructure and equipment to resolve our problems in the short term.

"However, with the release last month of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Norfolk Island will be very proactive in putting up a case for assistance to address our difficulties. We have our Federal Minister Senator the Hon Fiona Nash visiting next Sunday/Monday and the BBRF is on the agenda for discussion with Council."

I look forward to sharing the Lismore experience with Council's Waste Management Advisory Committee and I encourage readers to visit the Lismore/Northern Rivers Waste Management facility website

http://www.northernriverswaste.com.au/cp_themes/default/home.asp#



The photo is yours truly, the General Manager Gary Murphy (left) and Manager Commercial Services Phil Klepzig in the foreground. We are standing beside a bin of clean plastic bags/wrapping that will be bailed up and sent for recycling. In the back ground is the machinery which melts down polystyrene into blocks the size of a large car battery for shipment to Korea!

“Norfolk Island: The Best Small Island in the World”

Cr. Robin Adams
Mayor
9 December 2016