



MEDIA RELEASE

Pandemic Management Structure on Norfolk Island.

The management of the COVID-19 pandemic is being undertaken under the *Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2001(Norfolk Island)* and the NORDISPLAN whereby structures to respond to the emergency are established by the permanent Emergency Management Norfolk Island Committee (EMNIC). These structures are the Emergency Management Team (EMT) and the Incident Management Team (IMT). EMT has broad agency representation covering NIHRACS (Dr Peter Manns), NIRC (GM Andrew Roach), Office of the Administrator (Fiona Anderson) and DITRDC (Shane Fletcher). Representatives from sectors of the island covering Welfare (David Fell) and Business (Charisse Clarke) and Community (Sally-Ann Thompson) have been appointed and provide feedback to the group. EMT is chaired by the EMNIC Controller (George Plant). EMT is responsible for declaring a disaster or emergency and for making decisions at a strategic level. It establishes the IMT.

The IMT that was established for the operational management of our current declared emergency, is led by the Incident Controller who is the OIC Police (Sergeant Glenn Elder or his delegate). The IMT is responsible for the operational management of the pandemic emergency. It has representation from NIRC (Bruce Taylor), NIHRACS (Kath Bowman or her delegate) with Hayley Evans as the Welfare Functional Service Co-Ordinator (FSC). The DITRDC is represented by Fleur Keast.

The legislation and NORDISPLAN prepared under the legislation provide a flexible and adaptable structure that can respond to any event regardless of the cause. Whilst EMNIC is a permanent statutory appointed body both EMT and IMT are temporary structures established to handle an emergency. In this case it is the COVID-19 pandemic. It has proven to be a highly effective structure in which local decision-making has been able to work co-operatively with Commonwealth and State agencies in the management of both the initial disaster and the current recovery stage.

We are now considering how to transition out of the pandemic and will provide further updates to the community as this progresses.

For any questions about the COVID-19 response on Norfolk Island, please visit the Norfolk Island Regional Council website: <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/covid-19-advice-norfolk-island> in the first instance or contact Detective Sergeant Glenn Elder, IMT Incident Controller at IO-Norfolk-Island@afp.gov.au or +6723 22222.

22 April 2021
EMT