

MAYORS UPDATE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

NORFOLK ISLAND
REGIONAL COUNCIL



MAYOR MEETS WITH SENATOR 'KATY' GALLAGHER

'I had the pleasure to meet with Senator Katy Gallagher last Saturday morning at her invitation and to have a broad ranging and productive discussion for almost an hour. Senator Gallagher represents the Australian Capital Territory in the Senate', Mayor Adams said, 'Prior to moving to the Federal Parliament in 2015 she was a member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly from 2001 to December 2014 where she held many ministerial portfolios including that of Chief Minister from 2011 to December 2014. The issues we discussed included the following:

1. The current difficulties with the Commonwealth funding model for the Norfolk Island Regional Council, in particular underfunding with the Financial Assistance Grant.
2. Council's inability to access grants funding available from the NSW State Government to councils in NSW.
3. The complexities of future health services on the Island with the Hospital being a Multi-Purpose Service and the ongoing escalation in the number of medivacs; along with the ongoing inability of surgery being performed on the island. I shared my long held vision of Norfolk Island being "*A Centre for Health and Wellbeing in the Pacific*" that included a World Class Medical Facility which blends a licensed medical hospital with a world-class operating suite for a broad range of surgical procedures including obstetrics to enable babies to be born on Norfolk Island.
4. Our discussion on health services morphed into the potential for Norfolk to be a hub for the production of medicinal cannabis which was brought up by Councillors at our meeting with representatives from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet back in July. I brought to the Senator's attention a recent article in the ABC North Coast News about a Canadian company entering into a strategic partnership with the Richmond Valley Council in NSW; to build a facility estimated when operating at full scale that could generate annual revenue of between \$800 million and \$1.1 billion and that had the potential for 300 jobs. I mentioned to the Senator that Norfolk had endeavoured to enter into a potentially multimillion dollar venture to grow medicinal cannabis back in 2014/2015 but that the venture was prevented from proceeding.'

COMMUNITY MEETING ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

Councillors at our August 2017 agreed that the Mayor and Councillors hold an open community meeting to discuss Council's Waste Management Strategy for the future. We have settled on a date – Monday 16 October at Paradise Hotel at 5.30pm for an hour.

'Cr McCoy and I are on the Waste Management Steering Committee', Mayor Adams said, 'and at the community meeting Councillor McCoy and I will update the community on where we are at now and where we are heading. We will show you the new design plans for the Waste Management Centre including the multi-purpose baler which has been ordered; we will talk about the aerated composting system for which tenders are currently being invited – this is the system that will deal with changing our green waste, food scraps, paper, cardboard etc into high grade compost; we will talk about what can be recycled; and we will be asking you for helpful tips that we might not have thought of. We are looking forward to an evening of positive sharing as a community as we work together to deal with our waste in a way that helps us move towards being "The Best Small Island in the World". See you on Monday 16 October at the Paradise Hotel', the Mayor said.

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VISIT OF MS GAI BRODTMANN TO NORFOLK

'Council looks forward to meeting with Ms Brodtmann on Wednesday next week, and I anticipate the agenda will cover the same issues on Council's agenda for our September meeting with Senator Nash – Financial Assistance Grants, Legislation Framework, Regional Development Australia and how it will work for Norfolk; and telecommunications', Mayor Adams said.

Robin Adams

MAYOR

6 October 2017