

MAYOR'S UPDATE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL FOR COUNCIL'S GENERAL MANAGER MR ANDREW ROACH

Council at its meeting on 28 October received and adopted the annual performance appraisal for the General Manager conducted on 23 October 2020, facilitated by Mr Mark Anderson from Local Government Management Solutions.2. The Council's review committee consisted of the Mayor Cr Robin Adams, Deputy Mayor Cr John McCoy, Cr Dave Porter and Cr Rod Buffett. Councillor Lisle Snell was off Island and an apology. Council requested the Mayor provide a media release outlining the performance appraisal result for the community.

"It is hard to believe that it is already 12 months since Council appointed Mr Roach as General Manager of the Norfolk Island Regional Council." Mayor Adams said. "Mr Roach, who took up his post on 6 January 2020, brought with him to this position a wealth of experience in Local Government from across Australia having been a General Manager/CEO at 3 previous Local Government Authorities in Queensland and NSW; and having worked across small rural councils, large regional country councils, small and large coastal councils and large metropolitan councils.

"In formally adopting the annual performance appraisal for the General Manager at our October meeting Council recorded its congratulations for an outstanding result for the first year of Mr Roach's three-year contract" the Mayor said. "Given the difficult financial position NIRC is currently experiencing, on behalf of Council I acknowledge the excellent assistance being provided to Councillors by the General Manager during these difficult times.

"Council has agreed the General Manager is to continue to seek and maximise opportunities for Council and the Island with regular meetings on the mainland with Commonwealth and other important economic stakeholders. The General Manager will provide a meeting schedule to Councillors with formal reports on outcomes being provided to Council" the Mayor said.

TELECONFERENCE WITH THE ASSISTANT MINISTER THE HON NOLA MARINO RE BRIDGING FINANCE

"As I reported in last weekend's local media Councillors continue to workshop the Grassroots and Nexia audit reports which are comprehensive and provide very valuable tools for Council to use to assist in restoring its cash position to adequately meet its commitments, fund day to day operations and meet its obligations as they fall due going forward into the future. However, the value of the tools lies in partnering with the Commonwealth. The audit reports particularly highlight that significant legacy issues were inherited by NIRC when it commenced in July 2016; and that NIRC does not have sufficient funding capacity for the issues identified in the reports to be addressed in a timely manner.

The Grassroots Report contains 81 recommendations and we are currently identifying short, medium and long term actions that can be taken to show the Commonwealth Government our commitment to the process to assist them with our request for bridging finance. As we know visitors are beginning to return to our Island, and the flow of our revenue streams will improve from this and from the middle of December, we will have five full air services, with the possibility of another in the coming month.

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On Monday the Deputy Mayor and I met with the Hon Nola Marino by teleconference to discuss Council's request for bridging finance from the Commonwealth to allow Council to continue to deliver its existing level of service until we can start to turn things around. The Assistant Minister made it very clear that she is looking very carefully at all options available to her and will get more information from the Departmental staff visiting the island this week. Councillors are meeting with the following Departmental staff this Friday 4 December:

- Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories Division;
- Oliver Holm, Assistant Secretary, JBT and Interagency Engagement and Coordination;
- Maria Loyman, Norfolk Island Service Delivery; and
- Jim Baldwin, Director, Norfolk Island Infrastructure of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

Cr Robin Adams JP

Mayor

2 December 2020

We acknowledge the Elders past and present, and we acknowledge the Norfolk Island People, the traditional custodians of this Island