



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 09 | 3 September 2021

Final opportunities for COVID vaccines on Norfolk Island

The Australian Government's roll-out of the Pfizer COVID -19 vaccine is continuing across Norfolk Island with 1422 residents having now had their first dose of Pfizer, with 1240 receiving both doses.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve across mainland Australia, we are calling on all NI residents who have not yet been vaccinated to book in for your first vaccination with the NIHRACS by no later than 9 September, and to those who still need their second dose, to book by 30 September at the latest.

Once all eligible community members have had the opportunity to receive two doses of the vaccine under the current roll-out, it is anticipated the next opportunity for COVID-19 vaccination in Norfolk Island would be in June 2022.

With the COVID-19 situation continuing to evolve across mainland Australia, it is vital that all residents come forward to get both vaccinations to help keep yourself, your families and your communities safe.

Getting your second shot is extremely important as your second dose of the vaccine creates a stronger, longer lasting immune response to fight the virus if you ever catch it in the future.

With local 12-16 year olds now receiving the vaccination, if you are an eligible resident who has not yet been vaccinated I encourage you to go get your shot as soon as possible, as it is our best defence against COVID-19.

I ask businesses and employers on Island to encourage and support your staff to take this opportunity to be vaccinated, to maximise the protection of our community, our economy and our daily way of life.

A big thank you to everyone who has been working hard to ensure a successful roll-out, particularly to NIHRACS staff who have been working tirelessly throughout the pandemic to keep Norfolk Island COVID-Safe.

What's been happening at Kingston

On-ground improvements have progressed at the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston), building on projects undertaken last month. Road maintenance and cleaning has continued east down Quality Row to Bloody Bridge, and safety fencing that also serves as additional seating has been installed along the seawall to the north of the Kingston jetty. These projects improve the safety of the site for the community and visitors but also help make the visitor experience more enjoyable, providing a place to rest and take in the spectacular views of Kingston, or watch our skilled lighterage workers in action.

Three new interpretive barbecue shelters have been built at Point Hunter. Each shelter will be named after significant ships built and launched on Norfolk Island - the 'Resolution' (1925), 'Endeavour' (1808) and 'Norfolk' (sloop, 1798) and include information about their construction and journeys, along with information about the Point Hunter Reserve to increase understanding of maritime history and important features of the reserve.

During July, a team of geophysicists from Flinders University spent two weeks on island conducting a geophysical survey at Kingston. Using ground penetrating radar, the survey is a means of understanding what lies beneath the ground in a non-invasive way. It will assist Kingston sewer scheme planning by helping locate sub-surface pipes and drains, building remnants and possible grave sites.

A suite of works will soon be commencing at Government House including the replacement of roof shingles, work on the valley roof's internal guttering and repairs to the verandah. A drone-based assessment of the chimneys and roofs of majority of buildings in Kingston will also be conducted ahead of planning for a program of repair works to ensure the building's chimneys and roofs are safe and sound.

Planning of refurbishment works at the Old Military Barracks is also under way to make sure local and federal court facilities are in line with Australian Standards.

I welcome these improvements at the site and look forward to seeing their completion.

A message from Eric Hutchinson

I want to acknowledge the excellent work done by many people to establish businesses assistance here on Norfolk Island. The considered representations to my office helped me advocate on behalf of the community to Assistant Minister Nola Marino and the Department to establish the Norfolk Island Business Financial Assistance Package that is tailored for the needs of Norfolk Island. The Council has played a significant role, providing an efficient vehicle to deliver the funds provided by the Commonwealth.



I particularly thank those business owners who contacted me, including the ATA. Their clear and considered representations helped me do my job to ensure the scheme takes into account the on-ground circumstances and needs of the Island.

It was a great outcome and I call out the good work by the Department in Canberra who responded rapidly on this.

Subsidies don't replace customers and we are all working in these challenging circumstances to get those passengers back in the air to Norfolk Island once more -

and most importantly, as we have done since 16 March 2020, doing it safely in conjunction with NIHRACS and EMNI.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Newsletter

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Government and community working together to deliver vital stimulus projects

The Department's on-island team has enjoyed working with local community organisations and groups to deliver on the COVID economic stimulus package projects. Through consultation and engagement, the team were able to identify needs and deliver on projects for the community.

The on-island team worked with representatives from each organisation and club to undertake planning ahead of project implementation to ensure the project delivered to the needs of the community groups and organisations.

The local contractors have also enjoyed being able to work on community based projects, such as the Lion's Park Playground revitalisation, public reserves projects and sports club upgrades.

Some of the projects have further stimulated additional works, such as at the Norfolk Island Pistol Club, with the club initiating further renovations to occur. The amateur sports association were successful in the Stronger Communities Grant to further improve the newly renovated meeting space (at the old Youth Centre) with a new kitchen.

It has been encouraging to see the active use of the facilities following their upgrades for a number of key local sporting events, such as the Norfolk Island Netball Association and Squash club weekly competitions, the Cheryl Tennis Club Championships, and the Norfolk Island Bowling Club winter competition.

Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) collaborated closely with the Department on a number of the Norfolk Island economic stimulus package including the upgrade of facilities at Tempo Toilets, Anson Bay Reserve, Puppy's Point and the Cascade viewing area. The Council has been able to focus on additional works such as woody weed reduction and clearing of noxious weeds in the reserves to complement works.

The Community Arts Society proudly contributed the Polynesian Cultural Poles to the Lions Park entrance. The poles create a grand entrance to the park and we look forward to seeing the interpretation from Community Arts depicting the works.

The stimulus project for the Junior Rugby League enabled the club to complete works from a previous successful Stronger Communities Grant project to fit out a club kitchen and connect to the water assurance scheme, with the department working with the club president to develop the Scope of Works for the project. It's great to see collaboration benefit our community in these tangible ways.



NI air services to June 2022

Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in Australia and suspension of the Trans-Tasman quarantine-free travel zone, Air New Zealand cannot operate passenger services to Norfolk Island from 30 August 2021 as planned.

To ensure continuity of essential air services to Norfolk Island, Qantas will continue to deliver air passenger services for Norfolk Island until 30 June 2022.

Passengers booked to fly to Norfolk Island with Air New Zealand after 29 August 2021 have been receiving full refunds from 18 August 2021 and can rebook onto Qantas services via qantas.com or through their local travel agent. Alternatively passengers can call Qantas directly on +61 2 9067 1501.

Final details of these services to June 2022 are currently being discussed with Qantas, and we will keep the community informed of any updates.

State services update

Discussions are progressing as a priority between the Australian, Queensland and NSW governments on possible transition arrangements for NICS

The Australian Government is seeking a license from the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) to use the NSW curriculum on Norfolk Island for 2022 and 2023. This licensing arrangement will ensure the school community, particularly the senior cohort, are not disadvantaged while transition arrangements are being negotiated and implemented.

The NSW Department of Education will assist the current NICS teachers and staff in making decisions on their future employment options, as it is understood that more detail is needed. The Australian Government is committed to exploring options for teachers who wish to remain at NICS through the transition process.

We have established a teacher consultative committee to advance discussion on employment arrangements.

Membership includes the NICS Principal and Deputy Principal, a staff member and union representation as well as Australian, New South Wales and Queensland government officials.



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