



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 20 | 6 October 2023

Administrator's update



Thank you to the twelve people who have nominated to become the community representatives on the NIGC. I was very impressed with the presentations made by each at the community meeting on Monday night and look forward to working with the three elected members. Well done in running such an informative meeting!

The inaugural meeting is planned for 18th October and the Assembly chamber furniture has been reinstalled in the Old Military Barracks along with workspaces for the members.



Please remember to enrol if you want to vote!

Pre-polling now open for NIGC election

Pre-polling is now open for the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) community representatives election, delivering a real opportunity for local input into the decision-making process for Norfolk Island.

Pre-Poll polling hours are **9:00am – 6:00pm** daily (but excluding Sunday 8 October), and will take place at the Returning Officer's Office, Old Military Barracks (known as Building B), Quality Row, Kingston, Norfolk Island.

You can also vote online up until 6pm Wednesday 11 October, with internet voting registration closing on **12noon Tuesday 10 October**.

All members of the community are encouraged to vote, to have your say on who will represent the interests and values of your community.

If you wish to vote either in pre-polling or on election day on **Wednesday 11 October**, you must be enrolled. Remember, you will need to complete a new enrolment for this election.

Voting enrolment will be open up to, and on, polling day, and you can either vote online

There is an electoral roll and Enrolment Form specifically developed for the NIGC community representative election process.

Enrolment forms for the election can be found at <https://www.austelect.com/elections/nigc/> or you can get them from the Returning Office on island.

The Returning Office is located in the Old Military Barracks, Building B (second building on the left as you enter the compound). You can also call the Office on 55386.

The Returning Officer Neil Manning will be at the Returning Office between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm to accept enrolment forms, or they can be lodged by email or post.

Results from the election are expected to be known on Thursday 12 October, with the inaugural committee meeting to be held in mid-October.

So be involved, get enrolled and have your say!



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Newsletter

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Norfolk Island Energy Bill Relief Fund

The Australian Government's Energy Bill Relief Fund will soon be rolling out to households and businesses across Norfolk Island.

All residential households who pay electricity through Norfolk Island Electricity will be eligible for a single rebate of up to \$500, with businesses eligible for a single rebate of up to \$650.

The Australian Government is fully funding these rebates, with the amounts consistent with the level of energy bill relief funding provided by the Australian Government to mainland residents and businesses.

The scheme will apply to customers with an electricity account as at 11 September 2023.

No applications are necessary, as electricity bills will be automatically adjusted by the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

The electricity bill relief is a one-off reduction to household and business electricity bills in the current 2023-24 financial year.

The Norfolk Island Regional Council will deliver the rebates as soon as possible this financial year.

For further information or queries, please contact NIRC Customer Care on 0100 or by email at customercare@nirc.gov.nf.

Celebrating Sorrel and Norfolk's natural heritage

Committed naturalist and award-winning adventurer, photographer, artist, writer, reporter and documentary maker, Sorrel Wilby, has won a coveted Churchill Fellowship to build an archive of the rich biodiversity of Norfolk Island.

The Churchill Fellowship is a highly regarded program that aims to reward proven achievement of talented and deserving Australians with further opportunity in their pursuit of excellence, new ideas and innovation.

Best known for her work on *Getaway* and the *Best of Australia* series she created for Australian Geographic, Sorrel's latest project will be based around her island home, where she will be drawing more than 100 newly discovered endemic species on Norfolk that are yet to be named and described by scientists, as well as several hundred known endemic and native species that are vulnerable, critically endangered or extinct.

With the drawings, Sorrel aims to create an invaluable archive of Norfolk's natural heritage to be used by Parks Australia, visiting researchers and local citizens into the future.



Bringing Regional Development Australia to Norfolk

Last week, Regional Development Australia (RDA) arrived on Norfolk Island to host two business workshops, as well beginning a long-term stay on island for RDA Mid North Coast CEO Madeleine Lawler and her family.

There has been considerable change for RDA in the scope of its role under this government.

One of the key changes is developing a Regional Plan and a new Regional Investment Framework to be brought to life for Norfolk Island. The Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework sets out a new approach to delivering regional investment, coordinating across governments to make investment work better for regions and placing regions and their people at the centre of decision making.

During her two-month stay on island, Madeleine plans on really getting to understand Norfolk Island, and support a medium-term regional plan and investment framework that is developed alongside the community.



The Voice Referendum polling locations

On Saturday 14 October, voters across Australia will be asked to vote on whether to alter the Australian Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. In order to vote in this referendum, you must be enrolled on the Australian electoral roll.

Remote voting services will be rolled out across Norfolk Island at 70 Taylors Road at the below times:

Wednesday, 11 October	8.30am – 5.30pm
Thursday, 12 October	8.30am – 5.30pm
Friday, 13 October	8.30am – 6.00pm



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