



## Administrator's update



The NIGC has met four times this year and has considered the recommendations of the JSCNCET "Restoring Democracy" report. The NIGC Terms of Reference now include consideration in the preamble of establishing legislation recognition of the culture, traditions, heritage and history of the island; definition of the relationship between Norfolk Island and Australia and setting out the shared aspirations for the direction of the relationship.

In our most recent communique, an outline was provided of the five proposed stages in developing a new governance model. Under stage one, we are in the process of establishing the foundational elements for the new model which encompass law-making and responsibilities of the new governance body.

The timeline is tight – therefore, we are continuing our work into stage two. We are gathering the background information to start consideration of the new administrative frameworks and the requirements to make these sustainable,

Next week, I will be visiting the Indian Ocean Territories to share our experiences and will let you know what I learn on my return.

Kind regards

George Plant

## Marking the second anniversary of Queensland service delivery to Norfolk Island

In January, we marked the second anniversary of the partnership between the Queensland and Australian Government to deliver essential services to Norfolk Island, including operating the Norfolk Island Central School (NICS), providing support and oversight to the Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) and supporting new apprentices and trainees.

NICS participated in its first school review, conducted by Qld Department of Education in the second half of last year. It evaluated the school's performance against the 9 domains of the National School Improvement Tool. School reviews play an important role in the planning and improvement cycle, helping to support continuous improvement and ensuring quality learning outcomes for children and young people. The process involved more than 260 interviews with staff, students, parents and carers and community members and stakeholders. It identified key achievements, successes and improvement strategies to inform the school's strategic planning. The review is currently available to the community on the NICS website. For more information regarding school reviews, go to [www.schoolreviews.education.qld.gov.au](http://www.schoolreviews.education.qld.gov.au)

This year is the first one where the entire school will be operating under the Qld curriculum. It has been a great success transitioning from the NSW to Qld curriculum, culminating in two NICS students being recognised in the 2023 HSC Distinguished Achievers list, with one being awarded after achieving first place in the NSW automotive examination.

The Qld Department of Employment, Small Business and Training recently visited the island to discuss school-based apprenticeships, as part of their registration and support of new apprenticeship and traineeship contracts on island, with the school program offering significant opportunities for our young people. Congratulations to those who have already enrolled in one of these programs and investing in the skills and qualifications to help our island, and our community, grow and thrive into the future.

There's also been good progress on the telecommunications network upgrade project, which is funded by the Australian Government and being delivered by the Norfolk Island Regional Council and Telstra in partnership. The final upgrades to the satellite backhaul are expected to be finished in the first half of 2024, which will complete the works to the hospital and school, as well as provide significant improvements for the broader community, which will be outlined in further detail as the project is completed.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

# Newsletter

Norfolk Island

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## Welcoming our newest citizens

Family and friends gathered at Government House on 15 February to witness their loved ones take the final step to become an Australian citizen.

Every citizenship ceremony is a significant and joyous event. It is a great honour to be able to personally welcome the conferees as full members of the Australian community.

Ten new citizens joined us from various countries, all with a diverse range of skills, experience, aspirations, faith and backgrounds, but a shared determination and love for our home.

Australian citizenship is a privilege offering enormous rewards. On behalf of all Australians, thank you for your commitment to our country and now yours. You have added to the heart and strength of our diversity.

Congratulations to all the conferees on this momentous occasion!

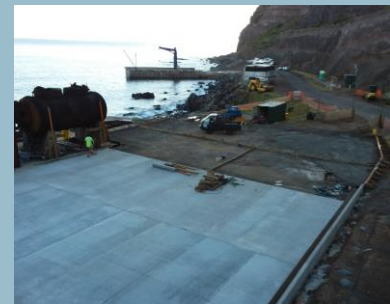


## PTV hardstand progressing

Work is well advanced on the PTV hardstand project, to provide fit-for-purpose storage for the passenger transfer vessels and better support cruise visits. The main concrete pad is now fully installed and curing ahead of joining the site to the existing roadway.

Hardwood kerbing will be installed to separate the area alongside the old boiler this month and all plumbing and electrical work is now complete.

Works are anticipated to continue at the site for the next two months as the new accessible toilet block is constructed and pathways are installed.



## Governance Committee update

The Norfolk Island Governance Committee continues to meet regularly and has agreed to a five-stage development of the new governance model for Norfolk Island.

Community input and stakeholder engagement on the future governance model are actively encouraged, with submissions able to be provided directly to the community representatives or through the Office of the Administrator.

Submissions will be welcome until 1 March 2024. The community representatives have a new website to share information on the NIGC, its community engagement and development of the new model. Visit <https://www.norfolkislandgovernance.com/>

If you would like to meet with the community representatives, please attend the regular Wednesday afternoon session at the Supper Club from 4-6pm or email [NIGCcommunityreps@gmail.com](mailto:NIGCcommunityreps@gmail.com)



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