

Administrator's update



The Norfolk Island Governance Committee is continuing the work of developing a recommended governance model for the island.

Chris, Alma and Chelsea have been canvassing community views, which are helping in our discussions.

The Committee has been briefed on the complex legislative framework under which the island operates, which is a good backdrop to our considerations on future law-making. We have also been provided with a review of governance models operating in other island territories and we are now developing ideas on a suitable governing body as part of the overall model.

Expert advice is being sought on revenue options to ensure that any recommended model is financially sustainable.

The Committee has considered many matters already and, after its April meeting, will be publishing a public register of our decisions to date, to keep the community informed about the NIGC's work.

Finally, it seems that we are the only part of the country that experienced the El Nino this summer? Hopefully it rains soon!

Visit to the Indian Ocean Territories

At the end of February, I had the pleasure of travelling to the Indian Ocean Territories.

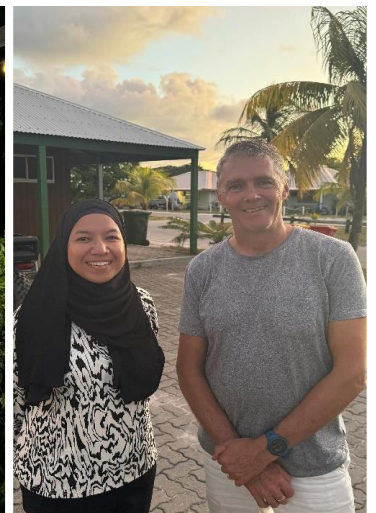
Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, like us, are external territories of Australia and are collectively referred to as the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT). They are both beautiful islands, and a long distance from here and the mainland. It was twelve days away on the trip, with six of those spent travelling.

We were kindly hosted by the Administrator of the Indian Ocean Territories, Ms Farzian Zainal, who is also a local appointed to the role of Administrator.

By visiting and seeing the IOT first hand and talking with locals, I learnt a great deal about how issues common to both our communities are being dealt with there. From this, Farzian and I identified shared problems that together we intend to pursue.

Separate to these, the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) is considering service delivery relating to ports, airport, utilities and waste management as essential services to the community. I was able to visit all of these facilities in the IOT and held meetings with the Shire of Christmas Island, and the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Through these meetings and visiting the facilities, I learnt a lot about the daily operations and governance arrangements for the IOT. In some aspects, we can learn from how they do things while in others, they are keen to see how we do it. It has been great to be able to bring back this first-hand insight to the NIGC. Overall, the visit was successful and I look forward to being able to share Norfolk's hospitality with Ms Zainal when she is able to visit.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Supporting Norfolk's water security

The Government and Council are working to improve Norfolk Island's water security, with the integration of the NIRC desalination plant into Cascade Reserve and works to install a large storage tank about to commence.

The sea-water purification plant is designed to provide another layer of redundancy during dry seasons such as the one we are currently experiencing.

Works have been progressing over the past months, with it now time for the water reservoir to be installed. The reservoir is specifically designed to withstand the salty environment and will hold approximately 400,000 litres of water. Once completed, access to the stored water will be controlled by NIRC.

Installation and commissioning are expected to be completed in about a month, subject to weather and resources. In the interim, as the plant is now operational, temporary tanks will be installed.



Progress on Kingston sewer upgrades

Significant progress has been made on vital upgrades to the sewer system in Kingston. The final stage of trenching in Quality Row is now complete and work is continuing with the installation of the pump stations and an electricity transformer at the Emily Bay change sheds.

Once work at Emily Bay is complete, the remaining pump stations at each of the buildings can be installed and septic decommissioned. Stage 1 of this important project is expected to be completed and operational by the end of the financial year. A Development Application for Stage 2 will be submitted to Council for public exhibition shortly.



Film crews

The past two months have been busy ones for film crews on the island.

Unfortunately, we were in Christmas Island when James Tobin delivered the weather for Channel 7 Weekend Sunrise at Emily Bay.

However, I was pleased to host a reception for the film crew of Channel 7 Weekender, when they were on island from 19-23 March.

Liz Cantor and Teigan Nash, the Weekender lifestyle presenters, will be taking Australia on a journey exploring our beautiful island including enjoying sensational sunsets, sampling fresh produce, snorkeling our coral reefs, enjoying a glass of fine wine or craft beer and making memorable holiday experiences.

How could anyone resist travelling to our beautiful destination! The episode airs May 19 on Channel 7.



Departmental staffing updates

This month, we bid farewell to Maria Loyman, who has worked for the department on Norfolk Island programs and services since late 2020.

Maria played a significant role in supporting the successful transition of state services delivery to Queensland and numerous other projects that have positively contributed to services and the community on island.

Thank you, Maria, for your work over the past several years, and best of luck for your future endeavours.

Kynan Gowland is currently undertaking the role of Branch Head for Norfolk Island, and brings a wealth of experience to the position.

I look forward to working with him over the coming months, as we continue to deliver on our shared priorities for Norfolk.

