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Visit to Norfolk Island
by the Hon Kristy McBain MP,
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories,
19 to 21 July 2022

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EVENT BRIEF 01 – Freight pressures on Norfolk Island**Date and Time: Tuesday 19 July at 3.00 to 3.30 pm****Location: Government House****Meeting with:** Administrator and shipping consultant**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

s47F - personal privacy shipping consultant

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy Executive Officer, Office of the Administrator

Outcomes Sought:

- Understand the freight challenges on Norfolk and work underway on short to medium term solutions.

Key Issues:

- Norfolk Island is experiencing a sea freight supply shortage. The continued availability of sea freight services is a key priority of the Australian Government.
- The Australian Government and Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) are working together on short-term measures to alleviate the immediate shortage which will complement commercial sea freight services.
- In May 2022 the Government funded NIRC to purchase two small boats to deliver freight from ship to shore. These replaced the traditional lighterage craft which presented unacceptably high health and safety risks. The new vessels are safer and far more efficient in unloading freight from sea vessels. While most of the community supports the new vessels, some are concerned about the loss of traditional lighterage practices.
- The Neptune Pacific Direct Line continues to service Norfolk Island with the MV *Southern Tiare* approximately once every two months. The service is insufficient to meet the full freight demand of the community, and a significant cargo backlog has built up.
- NIRC is negotiating with the owners of the vessel MV *Solution* to provide a two-year freight service from Brisbane. This would alleviate the cargo backlog and provide a steady supply of cargo for the community, NIRC and the Commonwealth.
- McKay Maritime is planning to begin servicing Norfolk Island from Brisbane. The MV *Emily Bay* is currently undergoing assessment by Lloyds Register. If the vessel can be brought into survey, this will substantially increase the supply of sea freight.
- The Government is working on a long-term sustainable shipping plan with the aim of securing freight delivery and reduce the prospect of future supply shortages. Mr Robertson is providing key shipping advice to inform this plan.

Background:

- Shipping freight to Norfolk Island has historically been difficult due to unpredictable and volatile weather, lack of infrastructure, and the remote location.
- Several factors have compounded this problem, including the sudden decommissioning of the Norfolk Guardian in 2018, and the transition of the global shipping industry from break bulk freight to containers.
- The *Southern Tiare* is scheduled to be decommissioned in March 2023. We understand that Neptune Pacific Direct Line intend to continue sailing the *Southern Tiare* to Norfolk Island approximately every two months until then.

s47F - personal privacy

Norfolk Island – Travel Notes

- Norfolk Island is one hour ahead of AEST. 9.00am on Norfolk Island is 8.00am in Canberra.
- The weather on Norfolk Island will be cool and humid.
- Formal business attire is not required, with smart casual dress suitable for engagements and meetings. Flat shoes are recommended due to the road and path surfaces and general terrain.
- Australian mobile phones will not work on Norfolk Island as international roaming is not available. Voice calls may be made using Wi-Fi where available (including at your accommodation and government offices). Alternatively, local SIM cards can be used.

COVID management

- While not a formal requirement, it is strongly recommended (unless you are within the 28-day period post-COVID infection) that you take a rapid antigen test (RAT) in the 24 hours prior to travel to Norfolk Island and within 24 hours of arrival.
- If you test positive to COVID on Norfolk Island, you will need to notify NIHRACS and isolate for 7 days on island. Travel off island is not permitted in this period. Accommodation and food would be provided.
- Some retail outlets on island require masks to be worn.
- There are specific COVID entry requirements for NIHRACS which are outlined in the event brief for that visit.

EVENT BRIEF 07 – Tour of Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS)**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July 2022**Location:** NIHRACS, 2 Grassy Road, Norfolk Island**Meeting with:** s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy NIHRACS Manager (10 minutes) followed by a tour of NIHRACS facilities including meeting s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy at the St John Ambulance shed (30 minutes)**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy NIHRACS Manager

s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy St John Ambulance NSW/Norfolk Island

Outcomes Sought:

- Provide direction to s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy
- Understand the health service delivery offering on Norfolk Island by touring the site.
- Thank NIHRACS and St John Ambulance staff for efforts managing COVID-19.

IMPORTANT NOTE

All visitors to NIHRACS are screened for COVID-19 before entering the facility. This includes:

- provision of vaccination certificate for COVID-19 and influenza;
- provision of a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) demonstrating that COVID-19 is not detected;
- answering questions about any symptoms and contact with others; and,
- having your temperature taken.

To save time on the day, as the RAT process can take 10 to 15 minutes, people attending NIHRACS should **undertake a Rapid Antigen Test before departing their hotel** in the morning. The RAT should be stored in a clear bag and labelled with the person's name to provide to NIHRACS when screening occurs.

Talking Points*Meeting with NIHRACS Manager*

- I understand that you have a very important but challenging job.
- I have been told you have provided consistent leadership to the team through some really challenging times.
- I want to thank you for keeping NIHRACS running and the community safe, and for your commitment and passion for quality and safe health care.
- Over the next two years, I would like you to continue to build on the great work delivering quality services to date while working to achieve accreditation of NIHRACS.

- Good governance will be critical to achieving and retaining accreditation. I understand this is an area where NIHRACS can continue to grow and improve.
- I wish you well as you continue this important work.

Key Issues

NIHRACS

- NIHRACS delivers a wide range of health and aged care services for the community of Norfolk Island and its visitors.
- It has been a challenging year for NIHRACS, with transition of health support services from New South Wales to Queensland, and outbreaks of COVID-19 on Norfolk Island.
- NIHRACS has led the delivery of COVID-19 responses on island including vaccination clinics, the drive through testing clinic, contact tracing and treatment of patients.
- NIHRACS is not accredited against the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, but is working towards accreditation. All public and private hospitals, day procedure services and public dental practices are required to be accredited to the NSQHS Standards.
- NIHRACS recently received a \$600,000 grant through the MPS Program Minor Capital Grant opportunity. NIHRACS is leading the delivery of the minor capital works which will include upgrades to the facility to increase the number of residential aged care beds.
- Metro North Hospital and Health Service provides clinical and corporate support to NIHRACS under the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland. NIHRACS is not a part of the Queensland health system, and at this point in time, Queensland Health and Metro North do not deliver any health services on Norfolk Island.

St John Ambulance

- The Department has a contract with St John Ambulance NSW to coordinate the delivery of ambulance and first responder services on island through a network of volunteers.
- St John Ambulance employs s47F - personal privacy who coordinates inventory, training and accreditation of volunteers and maintains Automatic External Defibrillators located on island.
- The Department owns the ambulance and the shed used by St John Ambulance.
- St John Ambulance NSW delivers a number of community services on the island that are not within the contract with the Department. This includes attendance at sporting events and first aid training sessions.

Background

NIHRACS

- NIHRACS is a statutory body that exists under the *Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service Act 1985* (NI).
- The NIHRACS Manager is appointed under the NIHRACS Act. s47F - personal privacy has been in the position since 2017 and was recently appointed for a further 2-year term until 30 June 2024.
- Unlike similar health services elsewhere, there is no board governing NIHRACS. The Manager carries responsibility for the operations of NIHRACS.
- The Department provides the majority of funding to NIHRACS for its operations. NIHRACS receives some funding for aged care services from the Commonwealth Department of Health under the Multi-Purpose Service Program and also receives Primary Health Networks funding.

- NIHRACS generates some revenue from its GP Clinic, Dental Clinic and other services. In general, residents of Norfolk Island receive health services for no cost through Medicare bulk billing arrangements.

COVID-19 on Norfolk Island

- As at midnight 10 July 2022, there had been 802 reported cases of COVID-19 on Norfolk Island. There have been no deaths on island from COVID-19.
- Norfolk Island has operated under a Declaration of State of Emergency (the Declaration) since 16 March 2020. The Declaration has been extended and currently expires on 29 July 2022.
- From 30 July 2022, it is expected that public health directions will be made for Norfolk Island under the *Public Health Act 2005* (Qld)(NI).

New multi-purpose service building

- The Department is developing a detailed business case for the construction of a new MPS with two options being progressed to 30% design stage.
- One option is to develop a new facility at the existing NIHRACS location while the second option is a vacant lot (Lot 44A) adjacent to the Norfolk Island Central School.
- These options were selected following assessment against criteria such as the ability of each site to deliver an appropriate level of safe and quality healthcare, the extent to which each site supports the best and highest use of assets, the costs to build on each site, and community culture considerations.
- The project team has undertaken extensive community engagement on the two options, most recently undertaking site investigations in May 2022.
- The Department remains committed to building the strongest possible case for consideration by the Australian Government to see this important project delivered on Island in the shortest practical timelines.

Aged Care

- There are concerns in the Norfolk Island community about availability of residential aged care beds. Residents currently wait on a list until a bed becomes available, or seek aged care services on mainland Australia. This situation is similar to other remote communities on the mainland.
- NIHRACS currently has between 6 and 8 beds available for residential aged care and respite care. With the \$600,000 grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health, a further three beds will be made available. The long term goal is for a new MPS which will have the capacity for 24 beds.

EVENT BRIEF 02 – Norfolk Island orientation**Date and Time:** Tuesday 19 July 2022 at 3.30 to 4.15 pm**Location:** Office of the Administrator, Officer's Mess**Meeting with:** DITRDCA's Norfolk Island Team**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie [s47F - personal privacy] Media Adviser

Danielle [s47F - personal privacy] A/g Assistant Adviser

Brendon [s47F - personal privacy], Assistant Director KAVHA Assets and Reserves

Andrew [s47F - personal privacy], Assistant Director Non-KAVHA Assets and Facilities Management

[s47F - personal privacy] Project Manager

[s47F - personal privacy] Museum Manager

[s47F - personal privacy] Archaeologist

[s47F - personal privacy], Property Manager and Administration

Hayley [s47F - personal privacy] Administration and Project Officer

Katrina [s47F - personal privacy] Administration and Project Officer

Outcomes Sought:

- Meet the Department's on island team.
- Receive an orientation of Commonwealth assets managed by the on island team.

Key Issues:

- The Department's Norfolk Island Team is responsible for management of Commonwealth assets and facilities on Norfolk Island, including the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area and Commonwealth reserves.
- On 1 July 2022, 24 staff commenced a secondment from the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) to the on island team to deliver maintenance and museum services in the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historical Area. This consolidates Kingston management staff together.
- The team is delivering a number of projects to improve port, waste water, health and education facilities.

s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 03 – Meeting with Norfolk Island Regional Council and tour of facilities**Date and Time:** Tuesday 19 July at 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm**Location:** Council Chambers, Bicentennial Centre**Meeting with:** Norfolk Island Regional Council (Council) Administrator, General Manager and Senior Managers**Attendees:**

Michael (Mike) Colreavy, Council Administrator

Andrew Roach, General Manager

Paul Martin, Manager Corporate & Finance

Phil Reid, Manager Planning & Environment

Greg Roy, Manager Infrastructure Services

Sandy McFeeters, Manager Economic Development

Leanne Webb, Manager Customer Service

Outcomes Sought:

- Discuss the Council's transition to sustainability program and planned asset upgrades.
- Observe Council facilities and infrastructure.

Key Issues:

- The community has raised concerns about the increase in land rates and waste management charges for the 2022-23 financial year. The increase will now be staggered over multiple financial years. The Commonwealth will provide \$1 million of additional funding in 2022-23 to balance the Council budget. On 6 July 2022, Council adopted a 25% increase to rates and a 25% increase to waste management charges.
- The current period of administration will allow the Council to strengthen its operations, performance and sustainability and ensure it is able to serve the best interests of the local community into the future. While under administration, the Council is implementing a 'Transition to Sustainability' program, addressing audit recommendations and Public Inquiry findings in preparation for the return of an elected Council.
- The Council is delivering Commonwealth-funded improvements in electricity, shipping, waste and recycling, and waste water infrastructure. The Council is also leading a program to eradicate Argentine ants from Norfolk Island in collaboration with the CSIRO.
- In recent years, the Council has made a number of improvements to waste management on island, including ceasing dumping of waste into Norfolk Marine Park. The Department has been working closely with Council to identify the waste infrastructure required to process waste streams for export or reuse. Funding of \$3.2 million from the Department and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (under the Recycling Modernisation Fund) has been secured to fund this infrastructure.
- The wastewater treatment plant on Norfolk Island was never fully completed. Several operational deficiencies mean the quality of effluent, which is directly discharged into the Norfolk Marine Park, is only marginally higher than raw waste. The plant is well beyond

its serviceable life. The Government has provided Council with funding to develop detailed designs for a new waste water treatment plant.

- The current sewer network services approximately 10% of properties on island. The remaining properties rely on onsite wastewater management systems. Council estimates up to one quarter are failing, polluting ground and surface water. The Government has provided the Council with funding to expand the sewer system past priority properties in the Kingston area. This will reduce pollution flowing into Emily Bay and improve coral reef health.
- Electricity generation on Norfolk Island is expensive and unreliable. Council engaged EPC Technologies to conduct a review of the electricity generation and distribution network, with the aim of transitioning to a sustainable system and reducing tariffs. The Australian Government has provided \$5.3 million in funding to improve the electricity network. The community will benefit from reduced energy costs, subsidised solar and battery systems, and a reduction in emissions from diesel generators.

Background:

- The Norfolk Island Regional Council (Council) was constituted on 1 July 2016 following governance reforms undertaken by the Australian Government.
- The Council provides a broad range of services to the community of Norfolk Island typical of local government authorities, plus some services typically provided by state governments. This includes operation of the Norfolk Island International Airport, telecommunications services, the electricity generation and distribution service, administration of courts, tribunals and boards, maintenance of registries and licencing, and public health regulation.

Contact Officer: s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 04 – Formal Dinner at Government House**Date and Time:** Tuesday 19 July at 18.30 to 20.30 pm**Location:** Government House**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandenbroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie [REDACTED] Media Adviser

Danielle [REDACTED] a/g Assistant Adviser

Invited Guests from the small business community.**Outcomes Sought:**

- Understand challenges and opportunities for small business owners on Norfolk Island.

Talking points:

- I know first-hand the importance of tourism and local industry to economies like yours – small, family-run businesses are the backbone of communities.
- The past few years have been incredibly difficult for so many people and I understand the impacts COVID-19 has had on individuals and businesses.
- It has been a tough period, even with the range of Government support payments and initiatives made available to help you through the pandemic.
- The economy and broader sustainability of Norfolk Island is a key priority for the Australian Government, as is supporting Norfolk Island on the pathway through COVID to our new normal.
- *Further talking points on a range of topics are in brief TPI.*

Key Issues:

- The evening will commence with pre-dinner drinks and casual conversation.
- Once seated for dinner, the Administrator will introduce you to each guest as the meal progresses, ask them to provide a short overview of their thoughts on issues affecting Norfolk Island, and then guide table conversation on the issues.

Background:

- The Administrator often hosts formal dinners at Government House. These dinners are seen as an opportunity where guests can share their views in a forum of shared respect and good faith.

Contact: Fiona [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

EVENT BRIEF 05 – Coffee with business group executives**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July, 8.45 – 9.15am**Location:** Seriously Chocolate Cafe**Meeting with:** Norfolk Island Small Business Council (NISBC) Executive Committee and Accommodation and Tourism Association (ATA) Executive Committee**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie [REDACTED] Media Adviser

Danielle [REDACTED] A/g Assistant Adviser

Allison [REDACTED], Executive Assistant to the First Assistant Secretary

Sandy McFeeters, Manager Economic Development, Norfolk Island Regional Council

[REDACTED] President, ATA

[REDACTED] Vice President, ATA

[REDACTED] President NISBC, real estate industry

[REDACTED] NISBC representative and accommodation industry

[REDACTED], NISBC representative

[REDACTED] NISBC representative

[REDACTED] NISBC representative and Bounty Museum owner

Outcomes Sought:

- Understand challenges and opportunities for small businesses on Norfolk Island.

Talking points:

- I know first-hand the importance of tourism and local industry to economies like yours – small, family-run businesses are the backbone of communities.
- The past few years have been incredibly difficult for so many people and I understand the impacts COVID-19 has had on individuals and businesses.
- It has been a tough period, even with the range of Government support payments and initiatives made available to help you through the pandemic.
- The economy and broader sustainability of Norfolk Island is a key priority for the Australian Government, as is supporting Norfolk Island on the pathway through COVID to our new normal.
- *Further talking points on a range of topics are in brief TPI.*

Key Issues:

- Representatives of the small business community may raise issues including air passenger services, shipping services and freight pressures, telecommunications, tourism promotion and funding, Council rates and charges.

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- Businesses on the island have been impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions. The Government's tailored economic stimulus program and business support measures have kept businesses operating through the pandemic.
- Freight pressures have suppressed economic growth on the island due to shortages in consumables required for wholesale, trades, and retail consumption.
- The tourism sector are looking for ongoing support to ensure the island remains and develops into a tourist destination of choice attracting a varied demographic.
- The business community are looking for improvements in telecommunications including quality, speed and reliability.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy 0 s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF – Meeting with Council of Elders**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July at 3.00 to 3.30 pm**Location:** Government House**Attendees:**s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy President, Council of Elders

s47F - personal privacy Vice President, Council of Elders

s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy Treasurer, Council of Elders

s47F - personal privacy Secretary, Council of Elders

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Fiona s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy Executive Officer, Office of the Administrator

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

Outcomes Sought:

- Understand the views and concerns of the Council of Elders

Talking Points:

- I am interested to hear more about the Council of Elders, your concerns, and how they have come about.
- I encourage you to continue discussions with the Administrator and my Department, and look forward to hearing the outcomes.

Key Issues:

- The Council of Elders has developed a proposal together with the Norfolk Island People for Democracy that sets out actions to address their concerns about Norfolk Island's governance arrangements and government recognition of the culture of descendants of the Pitcairn Islanders who settled on Norfolk Island.
- The proposal presents an opportunity for the Australian Government to improve civic participation and engagement on Norfolk Island, and to work with Pitcairn descendants on recognition of their unique culture and traditions.
- The Council of Elders have made four broad requests:
 - Greater community involvement in decision-making
 - Joint management of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Heritage Area
 - Greater formal recognition of the Pitcairn-Norfolk Islander cultural identity and its language and traditions
 - A locally agreed and managed population sustainability policy.

Background:

- The Council of Elders was established in 2008 to protect, preserve and promote the identity, values, welfare and wellbeing of the community and its unique traditional knowledge and expressions of culture.
- Council of Elders members span the eight extended families that were resettled on Norfolk Island from Pitcairn Island in 1856. The Council executive comprises a male and a female representative of each of the eight families.
- s47F - personal privacy was Chief Minister of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly from 2010 to 2013, and periodically held the position before this from 1979. From 2013 to 2015, he was Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- s47F - personal privacy was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 2010 to 2013. Mrs Griffiths is a strong advocate for the Norfolk language and its inclusion in the curriculum of the Norfolk Island Central School.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy +s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF – Meeting with Norfolk Island People for Democracy**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July at 3.45 to 4.15 pm**Location:** Government House**Attendees:**

s47F - personal privacy President, Norfolk Island People for Democracy

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy Executive Officer, Office of the Administrator

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

Outcomes Sought:

- Understand the views and concerns of the Norfolk Island People for Democracy (NIPD)

Talking Points:

- I am interested to hear more about the People for Democracy, your concerns, and how they have come about.
- I understand that discussions about your joint proposal with the Council of Elders will continue with the Administrator and my Department. I look forward to hearing the outcomes.

Key Issues:

- *See Event Brief X – Meeting with Council of Elders*

Background:

- The NIPD was formed in 2015. It describes itself as “an Association representative of the Norfolk Island People.” It is primarily a politically-motivated organisation.
- The NIPD describes its purpose as lying “*in campaigning for the rights of Norfolk Islanders, following the Australian Government’s forced removal of Self-Government on Norfolk Island. This involved abolishing its democratically-elected Parliament without community consultation, culminating in the removal of all pretence of self-determination, the Island’s loss of democracy, as well as any recognition of the Pitcairn Descendants’ claim to Norfolk Island.*”
- s47F - personal privacy was Minister for Commerce and Industry and a member of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly between 2007 and 2010.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy +s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 12 – Community Function at Government House

Date and Time: Wednesday 20 July at 17.00 to 19.00 pm

Location: Government House

Meeting with: Community members

Attendees:

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories, DITRDCA

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

80 – 100 guests from a broad cross-section of the community

Outcomes Sought:

- Address and interact with a broad cross-section of community members.
- Hear directly from community on current issues, challenges and opportunities.

Talking Points:

- I am pleased to be able to visit Norfolk Island this early in my time as Minister.
- I welcome experiencing your culture, heritage and unique natural environment.
- This visit is an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and community members, to listen and learn for myself about your priorities and ambitions for the island and your community.
- I hope this visit is a catalyst for strong and open relationships moving forward, with honest communications helping us to work together towards shared priorities.
- I'm looking forward to working together to build Norfolk Island's resilience and sustainability, so you are in the strongest position to meet the challenges and opportunities of the coming years.
- *Further talking points on a range of topics are in brief TPI.*

Background:

- The Administrator often hosts community functions at Government House. These functions are seen as an opportunity introduce key stakeholders, and recognise and thank community efforts, achievements and successes.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 13 – Breakfast bushwalk in the national park**Date and Time:** Thursday 21 July at 7.30 to 9.00am**Location:** Palm Glen, Norfolk Island National Park. Contact Nigel on +6723 53218 if directions are required.**Meeting with:** Parks Australia**Attendees:**

s47F - personal privacy National Park Manager, Parks Australia

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

Outcomes Sought:

- See the Norfolk Island National Park and marine park and discuss measures underway and needed to protect the marine and terrestrial environment.

Key Issues:

- The Australian Government is aware of ongoing issues with water quality at Emily Bay, adjacent to the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston).
- The Department is working closely with the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) and Parks Australia to progress studies, infrastructure upgrades, and engagement of the community in action to improve water quality management.
- Parks Australia is in the process of updating the Norfolk Island Threatened Species Recovery Plan (required under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999*). The Department and NIRC are key partners in the draft plan.
- Reserve management on Norfolk Island is shared by the Department, Parks Australia and NIRC. Parks Australia, the Department and NIRC are strengthening collaboration on managing issues of key concern across all reserves, including pest and weed management, and native vegetation restoration.

Background:*Terrestrial reserves*

- The Department owns and manages several reserves on Norfolk Island including Selwyn Reserve, Nepean Island Reserve, Cascade Reserve and Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (Kingston).
- Recent management actions include the removal of large areas of woody weeds across our reserves and the construction of new fencing to prevent cattle damage.

Water quality

- There is a well recorded history of poor water quality in the Kingston catchment since the 1960s. Chronic pollution has reduced resilience of the reefs in the Norfolk Marine Park to withstand shocks, such as rising temperatures and acute pollution events after heavy rain.

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- Poor water quality in the Kingston area has been attributed to heavy rainfall mobilising contaminants, old and unmaintained sewerage and septic infrastructure, and unrestricted livestock grazing.
- A recent report by the Sydney Institute of Marine Science concluded that the reef at Emily and Slaughter Bays is in poor health. The survey identified increased algal growth and increased spread of coral diseases, both associated with poor water quality.
- There are a number of challenges in supporting improvements in water quality on Norfolk Island:
 - The majority of Norfolk Island residents (90%) rely upon privately-owned septic systems. Many septic systems are beyond serviceable life and have been built in areas that would not meet current standards.
 - A recent inquiry into NIRC highlighted that in the 2016 change of governance arrangements, NIRC inherited wastewater infrastructure that was of poor quality and nearing the end of its operational life.
- The Australian Government is leading and funding a number of projects that will improve water quality management, including:
 - Repairs and ongoing maintenance of septic tanks on Commonwealth property in the Kingston area.
 - Extension of the sewer to include Commonwealth properties in Kingston.
 - Construction of water retention structures in Kingston, to slow the speed of runoff during heavy rain events. Several leaky weirs have been built, and plans for further weirs are in development.
 - Commissioning the CSIRO to undertake studies to improve water quality including developing an ongoing water quality monitoring program.
 - Supporting NIRC to make changes to wastewater regulations to enable regulation of on-site water management systems and connection to the sewer scheme.
 - Fencing of key waterbodies in the Kingston catchment to reduce erosion caused by cattle.
 - Funding the design of a new wastewater treatment plant and expansion of the sewage system.

Contacts:

s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy — s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 14 – Norfolk Island Central School (NICS)**Date and Time:** Thursday 21 July at 9.15 to 9.45am**Location:** NICS – Corner of Cascade and Collins Head Road**Meeting with:** s47F - personal privacy, Principal**Attendees:**

s47F - personal privacy Principal, NICS

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

Outcomes Sought:

- View the school and gain an understanding of education on Norfolk Island.

Key Issues:

- The Australian Government is committed to ensuring a quality education is provided to Norfolk Island as an essential service.
- Since 1 January 2022, Queensland has provided education services on Norfolk Island. The Department of Education now runs NICS as a Queensland public school.
- Queensland is delivering the NSW curriculum to the current cohort of Year 11 and 12 students through to the end of 2023. This is facilitated through a licencing arrangement between the Commonwealth and NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).
- In recognition of the unique Norfolk Island requirements, NICS receives resources above Queensland's policy-based allocations. These include additional teachers, extra wellbeing and corporate support and additional funding for casual teachers.
- The Department provides ancillary (non-teaching staff) at NICS under a labour hire arrangement, including 14 school learning support officers, 1 early learning support officer, 1 engagement officer to promote Norfolk language and culture, and 7 administrative staff.
- Lessons in Norfolk language and culture are included in the school curriculum as a language-other-than-English (LOTE) choice to help preserve the language and culture for future generations. A Joint Commitment Statement on Norfolk Language was signed by the Council of Elders, the Principal and NICS Parents and Citizens in June 2022.
- The Department is supporting a number of infrastructure upgrades at NICS including construction of a covered outdoor learning area, construction of a carpark, installation of an obstacle course, an upgrade of the Art Room roof, and an upgrade to the science room.

Background:

- NICS provides classes from K-Year 12. Currently there are 295 students enrolled from Prep to Year 12. There are 34 teaching staff at NICS, with 13 new arrivals to the teaching team from QLD and NSW for 2022 school year.
- Since 1 July 2016 the Australian Government has provided over \$51 million to support the Norfolk Island Central School. Over \$46.1 million has been spent on education services at NICS and around \$4.9 million in capital upgrades and maintenance projects.

EVENT BRIEF 15 – ENITAIM COFFEE DROP IN**Date and Time:** Thursday 21 July 2022 10.00 – 11.00am**Location:** Enitaim Café, 5 New Cascade Road.**Attendees:** Open invitation to community members to drop in and mingle with the Minister.

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie [REDACTED] Media Adviser

Danielle [REDACTED] a/g Assistant Adviser

Open to community Members

Outcomes Sought:

- Interact with broad range of community members in a less formal setting. Hear directly from community on current issues, challenges and opportunities.

Talking points:

- The economy and broader sustainability of Norfolk Island is a key priority for the Australian Government, as is supporting Norfolk Island on the pathway through COVID to our new normal.
- This visit is an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and community members, to listen and learn for myself about your priorities, to hear concerns and how they have come about.
- I acknowledge the rich history and unique culture of Norfolk Island. This is my first opportunity to personally experience it, to better understand opportunities to enhance community engagement and cultural recognition.
- *Further talking points on a range of topics are in brief TPI.*

Key Issues:

The event is likely to attract a broad range of community members and stakeholder representatives who have not had individual meetings.

The issues which could be raised will be varied. Topics could include shipping services and freight pressures, cost of living on island, the administration of the Council, culture and heritage, Council rates and charges.

Background:

- The coffee drop-in is an opportunity for community members on Norfolk Island to meet the Minister in a less formal format, to have general discussion and raise issues of concern.

Contact: Fiona [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

EVENT BRIEF 16 – Meeting with Chamber of Commerce**Date and Time:** 10.30am-11am, Wednesday, 20 July 2022**Location:** Administrator's Office**Meeting with:** Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce executive committee**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media AdviserDanielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Advisers47F - personal privacy, President, Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerces47F - personal privacy Vice-Presidents47F - personal privacy Secretarys47F - personal privacy Treasurers47F - personal privacy Committee member**Outcomes Sought:**

- Hear from Chamber of Commerce executive on current issues and focus, including freight.

Talking points:

- I acknowledge the Chamber's concerns about shipping and freight to Norfolk Island.
- A regular and reliable supply of freight is essential to the Norfolk Island community and economy, and I share your desire that the situation is stabilised as quickly as possible.
- My Department is currently considering responses from the market for a long-term supplier for air passenger services to Norfolk Island, following the tender closing recently.
- The findings of the airline services survey conducted last year are informing the tender process – Norfolk Island residents' priorities include safety, reliability and sustainability.
- *Further talking points on a range of topics are in brief TPI.*

Key Issues:

- The Chamber of Commerce has recently expressed concerns about shipping and air freight services to Norfolk Island, including in correspondence to the Minister and the Administrator.
- Freight pressures have suppressed economic growth on the island due to shortages in consumables required for wholesale, trades, and retail consumption.
- The Chamber's main concern at present appears to be a sea freight service the Norfolk Island Regional Council is intending to trial following a resolution at its 6 July 2022

meeting. The Council has plans to contract a shipping provider to bring a vessel to Norfolk Island twice with freight for Council operations and projects.

- The Chamber also appears to be concerned that its views on air services have not been taken into consideration. The Department undertook consultation with the Norfolk Island community in 2021 to inform the tender process for air services currently under way.

Background:

The Chamber of Commerce is one of two business groups on Norfolk Island. The Chamber does not currently conduct the strategic advocacy typical of a Chamber of Commerce. Instead, it raises member concerns and seeks access to information on specific issues, primarily from the Australian Government and the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy

23-011



The Hon Kristy McBain MP

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories

Federal Member for Eden-Monaro

MEDIA RELEASE

14 July 2022

MINISTER MCBAIN VISITING NORFOLK ISLAND

Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon Kristy McBain MP is visiting Norfolk Island from 19 to 21 July.

Minister McBain is looking forward to meeting a wide range of stakeholders and hearing from the community about ambitions and priorities for the island.

“As Minister, I am committed to strengthening relationships with our partners on island and to delivering the best outcomes for the community,” Minister McBain said.

“Over the three days I am on island, I am really looking forward to meeting with the school leadership team and the health service manager to discuss the ongoing roll-out of education and health services.

“As a former Mayor of a small, regional town, I know the importance of listening and working with the community on our shared challenges and common goals.

“I will take the opportunity of being on island to meet with Administrator Eric Hutchinson and other representatives to discuss how our government can best partner with the people of Norfolk Island to deliver for the community and support a stronger, more resilient and sustainable region,” Minister McBain said.

During her visit, Minister McBain will attend a community function on Wednesday evening at Government House, as well as participating in a local radio segment. The Minister will also take part in a tour of Kingston and a morning bushwalk through the National Park to experience the extraordinary beauty and rich cultural heritage of the island.

“Norfolk Island is renowned for its astonishing natural beauty and distinct culture, and I am greatly looking forward to being able to experience for myself why Norfolk Island is considered one of Australia’s hidden gems,” Minister McBain said.

There will also be an opportunity for the community to meet Minister McBain and ask questions on Thursday from 10.30am to 12pm at a coffee drop-in at Enitaim.

“I’m really keen to hear from locals on the ground, so if you’re free please pop down for a cuppa and a chat.”

Media contact:

Minister McBain – Melanie

s47F - personal s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy

TALKING POINTS FOR MINISTER MCBAIN VISIT TO NORFOLK ISLAND

Radio Norfolk - Questions for interview with Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon Kristy McBain MP on 20 July 2022

1. Welcome, Minister, on your first trip to Norfolk Island. What is on your itinerary for this visit?

- Very pleased to be able to visit Norfolk Island early in my time as Minister.
- Using this visit as an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and community members, to listen and learn for myself about your priorities and ambitions for the island and your community.
- Schedule includes visits to the school and health service to understand more about these critical services and how we can support delivery of the best outcomes for the community.
- Meeting with key stakeholder groups, including local business representatives, the Council of Elders and Norfolk Island People for Democracy, and am looking forward to engaging with them openly.
- Committed to building strong relationships based on mutual trust and respect, which I will look to carry forward throughout my tenure as Minister.
- Will also be taking part in a community drop-in session on Thursday morning between 11 – 12pm at Enitaim and hope to see many of your listeners there.
- Welcome the chance to meet with the community in person and hear directly from you.
- Also particularly excited to be taking part in a bushwalk to explore the beautiful national parks tomorrow, to see more of the extraordinary natural environment of this wonderful place.

2. What do you bring from your background and experiences which will shape your approach as Minister?

- Having lived and worked in regional Australia, understand the challenges and opportunities facing regional and remote communities like Norfolk Island.
- Know firsthand the importance of tourism and local industry to economies like yours – small, family-run businesses are the backbone of communities
- Extensive experience in local government
- Working across levels of governments to achieve results
- Importance of listening to locals to help find solutions

3. What are your priorities as Minister over the next year?

- The economic and broader sustainability of Norfolk Island remains a key priority, as does supporting Norfolk Island on the pathway through COVID to our new normal.
- Working with your elected representatives and our partners across govt on services and infrastructure which meet your needs now and into the future.
- As former Mayor of a regional town, I am focused on strong and effective governance.

- Toured the Council facilities yesterday, pleased to see the work already undertaken, led by Council Administrator Mike Colreavy, to strengthen the operation, performance and sustainability of the Council to support the best interest of the local community into the future.
- The continued availability of sea freight services is also a key priority of the Australian Government moving forward, as I understand the pressure that the freight shortage is placing on the Norfolk Island community.
- As Minister and also speaking from my own background and experience in local government, waste and water quality management are critical issues.
- Protecting Norfolk Island's extraordinary biodiversity also high on my list and it's great to see the plant and pest survey elements progressing.
- Continuing the discussions under way on community engagement and participation, recognising Norfolk's rich and unique culture and history.

4. What do you hope to take away from this first visit to Norfolk?

- My primary goals for this visit are to listen and learn directly from the community, what your goals and expectations are for Norfolk Island, moving and looking forward
- As Minister, I want to be a champion for tailored and targeted projects that are informed by the local knowledge and expertise
- Hope this visit is a catalyst for strong and open relationships moving forward, with honest communications helping us to work together towards shared priorities.

5. Any closing remarks?

- I want to gather as much information as I can during my time here.
- I'm looking forward to working together to build Norfolk Island's resilience and sustainability, so you are in the strongest position to meet the challenges and opportunities of the coming years.
- Thank everyone for their time and hospitality during my visit this week.
- And don't forget to swing by for a cuppa on Thursday morning if you want to have a chat.

GENERAL TALKING POINTS IF ASKED:

What action is the Government taking to address the critical freight issues Norfolk Island is experiencing?

- I acknowledge the pressures the freight shortage is placing on the Norfolk Island community, businesses and economy.
- The continued availability of sea freight services is a key priority of the Australian Government.
- The Government is working closely with shipping providers to increase the availability and reliability of sea freight. We are also looking at short-term measures to complement

commercial sea freight services to alleviate the immediate shortage. This includes additional air freight flights to help address critical shortfalls.

- The Government is working on a long-term sustainable shipping plan that will secure freight delivery and reduce the prospect of future supply shortages. It's important any investment by Government serves the community in the long term.

Do you understand the impacts of increased land rates and Council charges on local residents?

- I heard the community's concerns loud and clear on the original proposed increases to land rates and charges and empathised with the challenges people were facing in adjusting to the changes.
- In response to this feedback and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, the Australian Government and the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) agreed the proposed increases in land rates and waste management would be staggered over multiple financial years.
- The Council Administrator and I agreed the community needed additional time to plan and budget for these increases.
- Important to remember that Council needs ongoing financial sustainability to support improvements in service provision and better maintenance of critical infrastructure for the community.
- Additional Government funding is allowing a staged introduction over the years ahead, so you can prepare for the changes.

What is your position on community representation and participation in Norfolk Island governance?

- Acknowledge the rich history and unique culture of Norfolk Island. This is my first opportunity to personally experience it.
- The purpose of this visit is to listen and to learn, to hear concerns and how they have come about.
- I am greatly looking forward to my engagement with community groups and individuals so I can better understand opportunities to enhance community engagement and cultural recognition.
- Note ongoing discussions in this space with the Administrator and Department as well, and look forward to hearing outcomes of those.

What is the Govt doing about aged care pressures on island?

- I understand the community's concerns about the ability of current health facilities and services to meet the needs of an ageing population with regard to residential aged care beds and respite services.
- I acknowledge the very real challenges for community members and their families of the wait list on island for aged care beds, or the difficult alternative of seeking aged care services on mainland Australia.

- It is the unfortunate reality of health service delivery in a remote location.
- In positive news, upgrades to the NIHRACS facility will commence in the near future to increase the number of residential aged care beds by three.
- The Government is also continuing to develop the new MPS project. If approved, the new MPS would have the capacity for 24 beds.
- The Administrator is also having discussions with aged care service providers on island with a focus on understanding the current issues and service offerings.

When will we know the results of the air passenger services tender?

- The Department is currently considering responses from the market for a long-term supplier for air passenger services to Norfolk Island, following the tender closing recently.
- The findings of the airline services survey conducted last year are informing the tender process – Norfolk Island residents’ priorities include safety, reliability and sustainability.
- The Department will provide further updates on the procurement as information becomes available.

Why don't flights to Norfolk Island depart from domestic terminals?

- Flights to and from Norfolk Island are subject to biosecurity and customs controls to protect Norfolk Island’s unique environment and the agricultural sector, and prevent the import and export of prohibited goods.
- Checks must be carried out at the point of arrival on flights both to and from the island.
- Domestic terminals don’t have the facilities or officers to carry out these biosecurity and customs checks.

What is the government doing to improve telecommunications?

- I understand the enthusiasm on Norfolk Island for the potential deployment of a submarine fibre-optic telecommunications cable here.
- The Government continues to monitor telecommunications infrastructure and services on Norfolk Island.

When do we get additional state services?

- The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the continuity of high-quality services on Norfolk Island.
- The new agreement with the Queensland Government to deliver state-type services to Norfolk Island commenced on 1 January 2022.
- The agreement allows for the extension of state services beyond health and education to provide rights and protections to Norfolk Island comparable with mainland Australia.
- Work is underway to identify and negotiate additional services that Queensland may deliver to Norfolk Island in the future. I look forward to having more to say on this in coming months.

- Queensland is a strong fit to provide state services to Norfolk Island, bringing relevant capability and expertise to service delivery for Norfolk Island, including experience in delivering high quality state services in remote and island settings.

Visit of Minister McBain to Norfolk Island 19 – 21 July 2022

Itinerary

Day 1 – Tuesday 19 July 2022

Time	Event	Brief	Objective
1400 – 14.30	Check in		
14.30 – 15.00	Meet with Administrator – Administrator’s Office		Introduction to the island and gain an overview of challenges, opportunities and community aspirations
15.00 – 15.30	Meet with Administrator, First Assistant Secretary and Shipping Consultant - Administrator’s Office	EB01	Overview of the current freight pressures impacting Norfolk Island
15.30 – 16.15	Orientation of island	EB02	
16.30 – 18.00	Meet with NIRC including tour of NIRC facilities – Council Chambers <i>30 minute meeting 60 minute facilities tour</i>	EB03	
18.00 – 18.30	Refresh		
18.30 - 21.00	Dinner hosted by Administrator at Government House, Kingston	EB04	Administrator Hutchinson, Minister McBain, Deputy Secretary Bacon, First Assistant Secretary Vandebroek, and invited guests from the small business sector

Day 2 – Wednesday 20 July 2022

Time	Event	Brief	Objective
08.00 - 8.30	Radio segment – discuss day ahead	TP1	The local radio is a popular way of communicating with the Island broadly. <i>Opportunity to extend invitation to coffee drop in on Thursday morning</i>
8.45 – 9.15	Coffee with business groups Executive at Seriously Chocolate –	EB05	Meet with the Norfolk Island Accommodation and Tourism Association and the Norfolk Island Business Council Executive Committees.
9.30 – 10.15	Interagency Meeting – Administrator’s Office	EB06	Meet with Commonwealth agency representatives – Dept of Home Affairs, Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Environment, Dept of Infrastructure, AFP, Bureau of Meteorology, Health, Education.
10.30 – 11.00	Meet with the Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce at Administrator’s Office	EB16	Meet with the Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce Executive
11.15 – 11.45	Tour of Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS)	EB07	Visit NIHRACS to view the facilities and to meet Ms ^{s47F - personal privacy} s47F - personal privacy NIHRACS Manager.
12.00 – 2.00	Lunch in KAVHA - Queen Elizabeth Lookout	EB08	Meet with the KAVHA Museum Manager and Archaeologist for immersion tour into the world heritage site and lunch under the pines
2.15 – 2.45	Visit/Tour Banyan Park Early Learning Centre	EB09	Meet with the Banyan Park manager and committee to hear an overview of the Centre’s activities and discuss the future regulation of the Centre
15.00 – 15.30	Council of Elders Committee – Downstairs meeting room (full committee)	EB10	Meet with the NI CoE Committee to understand role of the CoE and engage directly with the committee
15.45 – 16.15	Norfolk Island People for Democracy – Downstairs meeting room	EB11	Meet with the NIPD to engage directly with the committee
16.30 – 17.00	Refresh		
17.00 – 19.00	Community Function in the grounds of Government House and meet with WAGNI	EB12	Administrator Hutchinson, Minister McBain, Deputy Secretary Bacon, First Assistant Secretary Vandebroek and other invited community members

Day 3 – Thursday 21 July 2022

Time	Event	Brief	Objective
7.30 – 9.00	Breakfast bushwalk in the national park and marine park – Palm Greenup - 53218	EB13	Meet with ^{s47F - personal privacy} Director of National Parks for orientation of the terrestrial and marine parks
9.15 - 9.45	Visit/Tour to Norfolk Island Central School (NICS), meet Principal – Russell More	EB14	Visit NICS and meet with the school leadership team and student leaders
9.45 – 10.00	Check in		
10.00 - 11.00	Enitaim Coffee drop in	EB15	Invite community members to drop in and mingle with Minister McBain
11.10	Arrive airport ready for Departure		Must be at airport by 11:15am for 11:45am departure

EVENT BRIEF 06 – Interagency Meeting**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July, 9.30 – 10.15am**Location:** Office of the Administrator**Meeting with:** Commonwealth agency local representatives, health and education services representatives**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, DITRDCA

Melanie [s47F - personal privacy] Media Adviser

Danielle [s47F - personal privacy] a/g Assistant Adviser

[s47F - personal privacy] Norfolk Island Police

[s47F - personal privacy] Biosecurity Operations, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

[s47F - personal privacy] Australian Border Force

[s47F - personal privacy] Manager, Norfolk Island National Park, Parks Australia

TBC, Bureau of Meteorology

[s47F - personal privacy] Manager, Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service

[s47F - personal privacy] Principal, Norfolk Island Central School

Brendon [s47F - personal privacy], Assistant Director, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts

Outcomes Sought:

- Understand government agency presence and activities on Norfolk Island, and interagency interactions.

Key Issues:

- The interagency meeting is an integral channel for communication and coordination between Commonwealth agencies and service delivery partners.

Background:

- The 2015 governance reforms saw extension of most Commonwealth laws to Norfolk Island. Commonwealth agencies increased their presence on Norfolk Island to support delivery of services in line with legislative requirements.
- The interagency meeting was established by the Administrator of Norfolk Island to assist with sharing of information, identifying emerging issues and coordinating responses.

Contact: Fiona [s47F - personal privacy] [s47F - personal privacy]

EVENT BRIEF 08 – Kingston and Arthur’s Vale Historical Area**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July, 12.00 – 2.00 pm**Location:** Meet at the front entrance gates to Government House, next to No.11 Quality Row**Meeting with:** Kingston Assistant Director and Archaeologist**Attendees:**

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media AdviserDanielle s47F - personal privacy a/g Assistant AdviserBrendon s47F - personal privacy Assistant Director, KAVHA Assets and Reservess47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy Archaeologists47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy Museum Manager**Outcomes Sought:**

- View the World Heritage site and new interpretation way points and signage.
- Observe current site condition, and hear plans to improve site maintenance and interpretation.
- Provide context to community views on future governance and use of the site.

Key Issues:

- Kingston is a central part of life on Norfolk Island and key tourist attraction.
- A five-year statutory review and update of the Heritage Management Plan and Site Master Plan is underway. Consultations occurred earlier in 2022 and drafts are due for release in September 2022.
- Staff who undertake maintenance and museum functions on the site have recently been seconded to the Department from the Norfolk Island Regional Council. This will bring about a more unified approach to site management and more efficient and transparent prioritisation and application of funds.
- Recommendations from the KAVHA Governance model review and KAVHA Heritage Management Plan are being implemented.
- Recent years have seen a decline in the condition of buildings in Kingston due to shortages of materials and skilled trades on the island. The Government is responsible under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) for maintaining the heritage values of Kingston.
- Late in 2021, members of the Norfolk Island People for Democracy changed locks on the Old Military Barracks in Kingston without permission. The Department is working to establish arrangements that will facilitate shared access.
- On 19 January 2022, two protesters took possession of a Commonwealth-owned house at No. 8 Quality Row in Kingston. Australian Federal Police officers peacefully negotiated for protesters to leave on 10 May 2022.

Background:

- The governance arrangements for Kington have long been identified by the Department, KAVHA Advisory Committee, stakeholders and independent consultants as key constraints to the realisation of Kingston’s economic and heritage potential.
- The Department is working to improve governance arrangements for the site in consultation with the KAVHA Advisory Committee, Council of Elders and broader Norfolk Island community.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 09 – Banyan Park Early Learning Centre**Date and Time:** Wednesday 20 July at 2:15pm to 2:45pm**Location:** Banyan Park – corner of Middlegate Road and Collins Head Road**Meeting with:** Banyan Park executive**Attendees:**s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy Director, Banyan Parks47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy President, Banyan Park Executive Management Committees47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy Secretary, Banyan Park Executive Management Committee**Outcomes Sought:**

- Hear an overview of Banyan Park’s activities and discuss future regulation of the centre.

Key Issues:

- The Government is in discussions with Queensland with a view to Queensland taking on the role of the Early Childhood Education Care regulator for Norfolk Island. Until an arrangement is in place, Banyan Park families are unable to receive the Government’s child care payments.
- Since July 2018, the Australian Government has provided funding for subsidised child care, as interim fee relief, to support families attending Banyan Park. These arrangements replicate, as far as possible, the Australian Government’s mainstream child care payments, while a state child care regulator is sought.
- Banyan Park have recently engaged four qualified early education teaching staff, including a new Director. They will commence from late July to August.
- The Department has engaged a mentor since 2018 to assist Banyan Park to work towards and maintain requirements under the National Quality Framework. The mentor service is supporting Banyan Park to meet (where possible) standards for child care, consistent with approved centres on the mainland.

Background:

- Banyan Park is a not-for-profit organisation which was established in 1976 as the Norfolk Island Wives and Mother’s Club. In subsequent decades it has transformed into the Banyan Park Early Learning Centre, providing child care for 3-5 year olds. It is the only child care centre on Norfolk Island, governed by a dedicated voluntary executive committee with strong community engagement.
- In May 2022, Banyan Park reported 68 children are enrolled and receiving interim fee relief—most of them are accessing the care in part-time basis. Banyan Park has a wait list for new enrolments.
- Banyan Park received \$900,000 in funding under the Australian Government’s Building Better Regions program to upgrade infrastructure to meet building safety standards and to increase its capacity to address current demands from the community. The new building opened in January 2020.

Contact: s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy
s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy

EVENT BRIEF 12 – Community Function at Government House

Date and Time: Wednesday 20 July at 17.00 to 19.00 pm

Location: Government House

Meeting with: Community members

Attendees:

Eric Hutchinson, Administrator of Norfolk Island

Rachel Bacon, Deputy Secretary

Sarah Vandebroek, First Assistant Secretary, Territories, DITRDCA

Melanie s47F - personal privacy Media Adviser

Danielle s47F - personal privacy A/g Assistant Adviser

80 – 100 guests from a broad cross-section of the community

Outcomes Sought:

- Address and interact with a broad cross-section of community members.
- Hear directly from community on current issues, challenges and opportunities.

Talking Points:

- I am pleased to be able to visit Norfolk Island this early in my time as Minister.
- I welcome experiencing your culture, heritage and unique natural environment.
- This visit is an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and community members, to listen and learn for myself about your priorities and ambitions for the island and your community.
- I hope this visit is a catalyst for strong and open relationships moving forward, with honest communications helping us to work together towards shared priorities.
- I'm looking forward to working together to build Norfolk Island's resilience and sustainability, so you are in the strongest position to meet the challenges and opportunities of the coming years.
- *Further talking points on a range of topics are in brief TPI.*

Background:

- The Administrator often hosts community functions at Government House. These functions are seen as an opportunity introduce key stakeholders, and recognise and thank community efforts, achievements and successes.

Contact: Fiona s47F - personal privacy s47F - personal privacy