



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 14 | July 2022

### Administrator Eric Hutchinson's message

I take this opportunity to formally congratulate and welcome the Hon Kristy McBain MP as Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, particularly in that part of her role which includes responsibility for Norfolk Island.

Along with the incoming briefings she has received from her Departmental officials, I recently met with the Minister in Canberra and had an opportunity to brief her on the role of the Administrator. I look forward to supporting her as the Australian Government's representative on the island, but also as an advocate for the community of which I have had the privilege to be a part for over five years.

We discussed a number of issues, challenges and opportunities for Norfolk Island, reflecting on the significant progress made since the governance changes in 2015, including Australian Government-funded services and infrastructure that have improved the lives of many people within this community. It is still early days and there are still many challenges, not least of all delivering reliable, regular and cost-effective sea freight services to the island, but here again progress is being made in collaboration with the regional Council. The Minister has a background in small business and local government, life experiences that will be valuable in fulfilling her role and supporting this community.

We discussed the transition to Queensland that has progressed well and will continue to present opportunities for a range of state-type services to be enhanced, that can benefit the community in the future.

In looking to the future, we discussed the many attributes and characteristics the community of Norfolk Island demonstrates, that can be of benefit to the greater Australian community. This is an engaged community interested in good outcomes for those fortunate to call this place home. It is a special and unique part of a big country that has a diverse history and one that goes back to the very foundations of our nation. It is a story that is not well understood, is multilayered and quite fascinating. We should celebrate and better share this story with the visitors to this place. Norfolk Island can be an exemplar to other remote Australian and Pacific Island communities in many areas – from energy generation and storage to waste management, local food production or training in the delivery of remote/isolated medical services. With a shared vision and a willingness to work together, there are many great things that can be achieved.

I look forward to welcoming the Minister when she visits Norfolk Island next week and would encourage the community to offer her a warm island welcome.

### Update on the multi-use community facility project

The business case for the multi-use community facility here on Norfolk Island is progressing behind the scenes.

This proposed facility has the potential to be used for a broad range of community purposes, including sports and recreation, community groups and events, education, and to provide a shelter for the community in the event of an emergency.

Community feedback has played a key role in helping inform the development of the business case, with project manager GHD seeking your input, via a recent survey.

Thanks to those who responded. Local knowledge and expertise is vital to ensuring we are delivering the strongest case for a fit-for-purpose facility in a suitable location. Survey results suggest community support for locating the facility within close proximity to educational and/or health facilities.

Your survey responses will continue to play an important role throughout the development of this project, including to inform further investigation of potential suitable locations.

Timing for consideration of the initial business case will be determined by the Government, with the community updated throughout the process.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact [office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au)

### New play equipment on the way for Norfolk Island Central School

New playground equipment is being installed at the Norfolk Island Central School in a joint project between the school and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

The school previously identified a gap in suitable playground equipment for upper primary-aged children. The new equipment aims to support children to develop their strength and coordination skills and will include a climbing wall, cargo net, full-length ladder and fireman's pole.

The new equipment was purchased by the school from Funky Monkey Bars Australia, with the department managing the installation and preparing the grounds to meet play equipment safety standards.

GP Services are installing the new equipment next to the cricket nets and current playground, within the school grounds, for use from term three.





# Newsletter

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## What's been happening in Kingston

New 'waypoint' viewing areas have been constructed on Norfolk Island using local skills, through the Australian Government's COVID-19 Relief and Recovery funding. This funding was aimed at sustaining tourism at Australia's iconic national and world heritage sites, like Kingston.

Waypoints were a key part of the Interpretation Plan for Norfolk Island, which was adopted following extensive community consultation. They were designed to comply with all KAVHA management plans, including the Heritage Management Plan, Cultural Landscape Management Plan, Development Control Plan, Archaeological Zoning Management Plan and the Norfolk Island Plan. Additionally, they were carefully designed to complement existing infrastructure in Kingston, address safety concerns and have a minimal impact on the environment and heritage.

We engaged with the community on the plans and details for the waypoints, through the public comment and inspection as part of the Development Application process.

As you would have seen, Queen Elizabeth II Lookout has been updated with new pavers and seating amenities for visitors and locals to enjoy the scenic lookout over Kingston.

As part of this work, the memorial chair for Ian Kenny has been refreshed and will be reinstalled, and the telescope is currently undergoing maintenance. Watermill has a new viewing deck with picnic table to enjoy the area.

A new viewing deck has also been constructed on lower Flagstaff Hill which gives an amazing view across the site to Lone Pine. The BBQ area at Chimney Hill has been updated with a new shelter and gas BBQ, which will be available for community use soon.

New interpretative signage explaining the views and historical use of the areas has been designed and will be installed in the next few months. Thanks to all those who assisted with stories, fact-checking and images.

A lot of work has also recently been undertaken in the Cascade and Selwyn Reserves to remove and control noxious weeds, predominantly Hawaiian Holly and African Olive.

We have now cleared weeds from about 40 per cent of the Selwyn Reserve and a widespread section of the Cascade Reserve, as part of the ongoing commitment to remove weeds and rehabilitate the reserves, in line with their individual management plans.

The program will progress through weed removal and control and ultimately revegetate the reserves with a diverse range of native plant species, encouraging more fauna back into the reserves and providing a place for recreational activities. We are undertaking more weed removal over the next few weeks in the KAVHA reserves, so keep a look out for our hard-working employees while you are out and about!



## Latest on Norfolk Island state services

It was great to see such a successful first six months under the Queensland education system for the Norfolk Island Central School (NICS). There has been excellent support for the NICS teachers and staff from the Darling Downs South West Region officials within the Queensland Department of Education throughout this period.

I am sure it will remain an exciting time for the remainder of the school year. Planning is now progressing for the 2023 school year, including supporting our current Year 10 students and parents with subject selection as they prepare to be our first group of students to work towards the Queensland Certificate of Education.

Over the initial six months of the service delivery partnership, there have been regular visits to Norfolk Island from Queensland officials, as part of the ongoing service delivery support and development. I appreciate the warm welcome that the community has provided our Queensland colleagues.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service has been a reliable and enthusiastic partner for NIHRACS, with a special mention needed for their support around COVID-19. The Public Health Unit and Infectious Diseases clinicians have provided ongoing health advice to NIHRACS. Assistance has also been provided to source masks and other critical supplies. Staff from Metro North have also visited Norfolk Island to do fit testing of N95 masks for NIHRACS and other frontline workers. NIHRACS has hosted visits from other Metro North teams including the Nephrology Team to determine future options to support care for patients, the Norfolk Island Support Team who provide ongoing coordination and corporate support functions, and a team providing assistance to prepare for accreditation.

The Chair of the Metro North Board will visit Norfolk Island from 2 – 4 August, taking the opportunity to meet with NIHRACS staff and community members.

I look forward to working closely with the Queensland Government, NIHRACS and the Norfolk Island community to continue to ensure the community has access to reliable health services.

Following their visit on island earlier in the year, Callida Consulting has completed the mapping and cataloguing of state services on Norfolk Island. This project will help inform planning for next steps and the continuing discussions between the Australian and Queensland governments on provision of other services.

I appreciate the time taken by community members to meet with Callida and discuss future areas of service delivery needs. The Norfolk Island community will remain a key partner in the work of the Australian and Queensland governments and we will keep you informed and engaged as next steps are determined and decisions made.



Office of the Administrator

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