



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 07 | 11 June 2021

Canberra visit and engagements

Last week, I was in Canberra to meet with a number of Ministers and Departmental staff.

Issues of importance discussed included freight, air services, telecommunication infrastructure and the provision of the best health and education services possible for this community into the future.

Community engagement is a key part of the obligations I have, and with a direct line to our own Minister Nola Marino and other portfolio-specific ministers within the Australian Government, it is a key focus of my role to engage with government on behalf of this isolated community.

During the week, I met with Assistant Minister Marino, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia Keith Pitt and David Smith MP.

Assistant Minister Marino emphasised the ongoing commitment to finding the best possible partner for the delivery of Norfolk Island's state-type services and the ongoing negotiations with potential partners.

I also had worthwhile discussions with Deputy Secretary Rachel Bacon and Territories Division First Assistant Secretary Sarah Vandenbroek. Some of you may have had the opportunity to meet with Sarah this week during her time on Norfolk Island.

Tarler bird program breeds success

Over the past three years the Australian Government, through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, has invested \$90,000 in a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment for the Tarler Bird Control Program on Phillip Island, supporting the long-term conservation of the island's extraordinary wildlife population.

As part of the Norfolk Island National Park, the ongoing conservation and protection of the different species of seabirds that use Phillip Island as a breeding site is a key priority of the Australian Government.

The NSW Office of Environment & Heritage inspected Phillip Island in March 2021 and reported that since the implementation of the Tarler Bird Control Program, the population of the Tarler Birds has almost reached sustainable numbers. The impact this has had on the local bird life is stark.

With fewer Tarler Birds to steal the eggs and chicks, this current breeding season – which is not yet complete – has seen a significant increase in the breeding of Kermadec Petrels on Phillip Island. With an estimated global population of 150,000 – 200,000 Kermadec Petrels, these results from the Australian Government program lend hope to the future of these important birds.

Other seabirds are also returning to Phillip Island, with Sooty Terns observed for the first time since 2012, and Grey Ternlets and burrow-nesting Black winged Petrels both showing signs of increased breeding seasons.

The Australian Government is committed to protecting the rich, biodiverse ecosystem of Norfolk Island and look forward to seeing the extraordinary birdlife.

A message from the Administrator Eric Hutchinson



Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter, following another busy month.

Bounty Day on Norfolk Island is a special day. Thanks you to all those who took the time to visit Government House on their way back to All Saints. It is always such a pleasure to see children rolling down the hill, getting dirty and having fun.

I have sometimes reflected on what those who arrived from Pitcairn Island 165 years ago would make of the island today.

The infrastructure has changed, there are more people than there once were, but I'd like to believe the beauty and magic of this special place we are fortunate to call home, at least for a time, would be recognisable to them today.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

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COVID economic stimulus update

The Australian Government's Norfolk Island Economic Stimulus package is continuing to deliver important community infrastructure to Norfolk Island.

Polynesian Cultural poles have been installed along the driveway entry to the Norfolk Island Lion's Park. The Polynesian Cultural poles were provided by Norfolk Island Community Arts Society, signage with interpretation of the cultural poles will also be prepared by the Norfolk Island Community Arts Society.



At the Norfolk Island Pistol Club, people will see the veranda construction is almost complete and roofing works are expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.



The Airport to Burnt Pine footpath works have commenced, with the first section adjacent to the Norfolk Island Airport concreting works complete. The footpath from Norfolk Island Airport to Burnt Pine will provide pedestrians with appropriate roadside access into town and allow for safe pedestrian access along this main road.



Also at the Lion's Park, our young community members can learn road rules and to ride safely with the small scale road signage.



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Current consultations

Eco Logical has been on island this week to consult with stakeholders around the development of the Fire Management Plan for Norfolk Island.

This consultation is following on from the previous round of engagement held earlier this year, including a community drop-in session.

Preparations are also under way for the next round of engagement on the Norfolk Island Multipurpose Health Service project, with details on upcoming consultation opportunities to follow shortly.

2030 Sustaining Our Future Plan update

The *Norfolk Island 2030 Sustaining our Future* Plan remains a priority for the Australian Government, however due to the public inquiry into the Norfolk Island Regional Council and other priorities under way, final development of the plan has been temporarily put on hold.

The Australian Government remains committed to the long-term sustainability of Norfolk Island and working with the community to ensure Norfolk Island reaches its full potential over coming decades. Engagement with the community on the plan will be reinvigorated at an appropriate time in the future.

For more information on the Public Inquiry, visit: https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk_island/public-inquiry-nirc/