



Norfolk Island | Issue no. 15 | September 2022

Administrator Eric Hutchinson's message



By the time this edition goes to print, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will have been laid to rest. At rest after a lifetime of humble and dedicated service to the people of the British Isles, the Commonwealth nations and beyond. The outpouring of respect and naturally grief across the globe, regardless of your views of monarchy or the alternatives, is testament to the dignified way she conducted herself unflinchingly in the service of others.

I was in Europe when the news of her passing became public and it was a local Mayor in France who first made me aware of the sad news. He was clearly moved and we spoke at length reflecting on the moment and it was clear how even in a country like France how significant this moment was – it is after all the end of an era. French President Macron also made one of the more moving tributes to the Queen I have heard in the past few weeks.

Like so many others around the world, I have written on behalf of the community of Norfolk Island to His Majesty the King, offering our sympathy and recognising the special place the Queen held in the hearts of so many here. I briefly reflected as I did at the passing of Prince Philip last year, how fondly this community remembers her visit to Norfolk Island in 1974.

The British certainly do pomp, ceremony and pageantry better than anywhere else in the world and watching the funeral service and procession on Monday evening our time, one could not fail to be moved at the solemnity of the occasion and the genuine respect reflected, not least of all among the British public. It was a moment in history I shall not easily forget. May she rest in eternal peace.

New signage for Government House open days

Surrounded by picturesque rolling hills covered in verdant Norfolk pines, Government House is not only the home of the Administrator, but also houses a remarkable collection of pieces of Norfolk Island's history, dating back to the 1800s.

While not generally open to the public, on selected days Government House is able to be explored by visitors, where they can tour the formal reception rooms where official ceremonies and community functions are often held.

To support visitors during Government House open days, we have updated the signage in the formal rooms to provide insight into the rich and vibrant history of the island.

Some of the key artefacts of Norfolk Island's past with updated signs include examples of the original paintwork from 1829 which have been left partly exposed, the lady's writing desk and sewing cabinet from the formal drawing room, and the portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II painted by Sir William A. Dargie in 1954 to commemorate her visit to Australia.

I encourage all interested visitors to head down to Government House during the next open day to see first-hand the hard work and dedication that has been put into the restoration and interpretation of one of Norfolk Island's, and Australia's, most historically significant buildings.



Improving wastewater management in Kingston

To support improved water quality, the Australian Government is proposing a new sewerage system in KAVHA to reduce human waste pollution in Kingston and the surrounding Norfolk Marine Park, specifically Emily Bay and Slaughter Bay.

In the first part of a three-stage project that would ultimately collect all sewage generated on Crown land in KAVHA, stage 1 of the sewerage system would collect, transfer and store sewage from buildings on Crown land in KAVHA including the Golf Club, Emily Bay Bathing Shed, Quality Row houses #5 to 10, Government House, Old Military Barracks and New Military Barracks. This will replace the existing holding tanks infrastructure and will allow the decommissioning of the old system.

A Development Application (DA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project have been placed on public display to 13 October 2022. Throughout this period, the Norfolk Island community is invited to make written submissions on the proposal for the waste management system, to the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

Local knowledge and input needs to inform the future of Kingston, including through the design and delivery stages of new infrastructure projects. We encourage all interested community members and stakeholders to provide your feedback on the DA and EIS as part of the public consultation process, supporting a holistic approach to waste management in the heritage site.

Throughout the display period, the DA and EIS are available for viewing at the following locations:

- Norfolk Island Regional Council, Customer Care Office (EIS only).
- Norfolk Island Regional Council, Public Library, (EIS only).
- Norfolk Island Regional Council website, <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/your-council/council-documents/documents-public-exhibition> (DA and EIS).

Submissions must be received by the Norfolk Island Regional Council by close of business on Thursday 13 October 2022.

SMP consultations recap

Conrad Gargett and SMA Tourism were on island last week to present the draft recommendations of the Kingston Site Master Plan (SMP) to the community. The exhibition showcasing the key opportunities and recommendations from the SMP were on display at #11 Quality Row, allowing an open forum for the community to meet with the project team to gain a better understanding of the SMP process while also sharing their views and expertise to help inform the pathway forward for this exciting project.

We will continue to keep the public informed as we progress the finalisation of the SMP, and together shape the future of this remarkable site.



Update on the Slaughter Bay Sea Wall works and Kingston Pier Channel project

Emergency works have been successfully completed on a section of the Slaughter Bay Sea Wall, after large waves caused significant structural damage in June this year.

The Department is currently working to progress further works to repair and stabilise the wider wall, with an industry briefing taking place in the coming weeks to advise local tradespeople of the works and provide an overview of the Department's Request for Quote (RFQ), to assist with the preparation and submission of bids.

At the same time, the Department is continuing to progress the broader Kingston Pier and Channel project, having recently held a public exhibition for the purposes of seeking development approval.

A second round of public exhibition will soon take place, to support environmental approvals, in line with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

The public exhibition will provide an overview of the channel augmentation and Kingston Pier remediation works and the range of measures that will be put in place to protect the valued marine environment. Following environmental approval, the Department will then commence procurement activities for a construction contractor.

As the project progresses, the Department will work with the engaged construction contractor to identify sub-contracting opportunities for local tradespeople for portions of the works.

