

# Norfolk Island Governance Committee

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## Communique

### Meeting – 6 December 2023

The Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) met on-island today (6 December 2023) at the Old Military Barracks in Kingston.

NIGC members include the three democratically elected community representatives Chris Magri, Alma Davidson and Chelsea Evans, the Administrator of Norfolk Island George Plant, Australian Government representative Sarah Vandenbroek and Queensland Government representative David Thannhauser. Anita French was also in attendance for the meeting having been formally appointed as proxy member for the elected representatives.

The NIGC undertook training on managing conflicts of interest, delivered by the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Linda Waugh, and Senior Integrity Adviser, Ruth May.

The NIGC discussed the recently released *Restoring Democracy – Report of the inquiry into local governance on Norfolk Island* by the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSC). The NIGC reviewed the JSC's seven recommendations and agreed to focus forthcoming community consultation on responding to these recommendations.

The NIGC agreed to a provisional plan with the intent of delivering a well-considered governance model to the community in a timely manner, while also considering the JSC's ambitious timeframes.

The NIGC discussed the state services currently being delivered by the Queensland Government on Norfolk Island and the forward work program for 2024. The NIGC also discussed how delivery of state services could be approached in future, especially to prioritise local delivery once the new governance body is established.

The NIGC considered what additional information it would need to inform its consideration of a new model of governance, including the remit for delivery of services and a funding model.

The NIGC has agreed to meet virtually in January and on-island again in early February to keep up momentum on developing a proposed governance model for Norfolk Island and responding to the JSC's recommendations.

Communiques and other public information about the NIGC will be distributed through Norfolk Island media and online at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/norfolk-island/norfolk-island-governance-administration/norfolk-island-governance-committee>. Additionally, the community representatives are currently establishing a website to provide further information to the community.

Contact [NorfolkIslandGovernance@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:NorfolkIslandGovernance@infrastructure.gov.au) and the community representatives at [NIGCcommunityreps@gmail.com](mailto:NIGCcommunityreps@gmail.com) or directly at [chrisni2899@gmail.com](mailto:chrisni2899@gmail.com), [alma.buffett@gmail.com](mailto:alma.buffett@gmail.com), and [chelsea497@gmail.com](mailto:chelsea497@gmail.com)