

## Public Inquiry into the Norfolk Island Regional Council

### Summons to Produce No. NIRC/7

#### **Schedule Item No. 13**

Any loan agreement relating to the Norfolk Island Airport pavement repair and resurfacing project.

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#### **NIRC Response:**

There were no loans made or raised by Council regarding the Norfolk Island Airport repair and resurfacing project.

In Council Resolution 2019/29 Council approved that “Council contributes any shortfall in funding for the project, over and above the funding provided by the Commonwealth of Australia, by way of a loan from the Norfolk Island International Airport (NIIA) Government Business Enterprise”.

The NIIA is called a Council owned business enterprise but does not have a separate governance structure and is effectively another responsibility centre within the Council structure.

Any “loan” would have been effectively drawings of any surplus generated by the NIIA to fund any project shortfall. This became an irrelevance with the Declaration of a State of Emergency on the Island in March 2019 due to the COVID pandemic, resulting in an almost immediate cessation of flights to the Island, and consequentially the NIIA principal revenue streams, which are only now recovering.