



**THE HON KRISTY MCBAIN MP**  
**MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND**  
**TERRITORIES**  
**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO**



**COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**Progressing bespoke governance for Norfolk Island**

The Hon Kristy McBain MP, Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Minister for Emergency Management, recently met with Norfolk Island Administrator George Plant, and Chelsea Evans and Chris Magri, the elected community representatives of the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC), for a productive discussion on the committee's progress and community concerns about the governance reform process.

At the meeting, it was agreed to extend the timeline for the inaugural elections of the Norfolk Island Assembly to ensure that it meets the needs of the community. This extension will also ensure sufficient time for the community to be engaged on the details of the Assembly before elections take place.

The Minister affirmed that the NI Assembly will be a bespoke model that will be specifically designed for Norfolk Island's unique circumstances, and to ensure that Norfolk Islanders have democratic representation and accountability in the delivery of additional functions as well as local government responsibilities.

Minister McBain emphasised the first priority remains the formation of the new governing body – the Assembly - and the democratic election of its members, but noted the governance journey will continue in the years following the first election with ongoing work needed to support the Assembly to be successful.

Members elected to the inaugural Assembly, together with the island's public service, will face the significant challenge of implementing the new model and shaping a long-term and sustainable vision for Norfolk Island's future. Equally, the Australian Government is committed to providing the NI Assembly with ongoing support to underpin its success, and helping

community members who may wish to seek election to the Assembly are provided with information and support about the process well in advance of the election.

As outlined in the Australian Government's November 2024 announcement, the transition to the new NI Assembly model will also be supported by future reviews to assess how the model is meeting community needs. As part of the planning process, the NIGC will develop a suite of key performance indicators for the planned two- and five-year reviews to consider how the Assembly is progressing, and to determine the next steps.

In the coming days, the NIGC will publish its forward Work Plan, outlining the steps to be undertaken leading up to the election. This will include the development of a comprehensive governance transition plan, accompanied by a dedicated community engagement process to support it.

Both Minister McBain and the NIGC remain committed to delivering a governance model that reflects Norfolk Island's unique circumstances, which is built on shared responsibility, sustainability, and the democratic participation of the Norfolk Island community.

**Quotes attributable to Minister McBain:**

"As I have said from the start, our government is committed to restoring local representation and decision-making on Norfolk Island."

"I am very pleased to be able to continue this productive work with the NIGC to deliver a new, bespoke governance model for Norfolk Island in line with the Government's commitments."

**Quotes attributable to NIRC community representatives Mr Magri and Ms Evans:**

"We look forward to continuing to work with Minister McBain and the Australian Government to ensure that the views and concerns of the NIGC, broader community and future NI Assembly are addressed in a planned, transparent and responsive manner."

*Further information on the framework for the bespoke governance model is available here:*  
[Norfolk Island Assembly—Fact sheet | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)  
[Norfolk Island Governance Model—Frequently asked questions—November 2024](#)

**ENDS**

**9 July 2025**