



MEDIA RELEASE

Norfolk Island Governance Committee: Work Plan

The Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) has developed a Work Plan outlining the indicative timeline and key milestones for the transition to the new Norfolk Island Assembly (NIA) governance model, following a productive workshop from 3-4 July 2025

Anticipated Milestones:

2025 - Second half

- Completion of the NIGC recommendations on the **Electoral Ordinance**.
(Public consultation on the Electoral Ordinance will commence in July 2025).
- Completion of the NIGC recommendations on the **NI Assembly Ordinance**, including public consultation.
- Completion of the NIGC recommendations on the **Financial Model**.

2026 –First half

- Launch of the **Transition Plan**.
(The Transition Plan will outline the necessary legislative, institutional, administrative and financial changes required to implement the NIA model, ensuring all key stakeholders have a shared understanding of the transition process. It is intended to serve as a single source document to guide and align the actions and decisions of all stakeholders throughout the governance reform process.

The objectives of the Transition Plan include to:

- Provide a plan, methodology and timeline to transition to the NIA in line with the Australian Government's November 2024 decision on the future governance of Norfolk Island.
 - Establish a phased approach to address matters of importance to the community and restore representative democratic government to Norfolk Island.
- Community consultation period on the Transition Plan will occur in this period.

2026 –Second half and longer term

- Capacity-building support for community members interested in standing for election.
- Ongoing community consultation on exposure drafts of new legislation as released by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC), in line with legislative requirements.
- Training and upskilling of NIRC staff to maintain key services independently.
- Implementation of ordinances as they take effect (subject to OPC timelines).
- Election of the new Norfolk Island Assembly (following implementation of ordinances).

- Formal commencement of the Assembly model

Post-Election Milestones:

- A 2-year review to assess progress, incorporate the proposed Preamble, and address community priorities.
- Commencement of the transition of continued Norfolk Island laws to be administered by the NIA.
- Exploration of further ‘state-like’ responsibilities that could be gradually assumed by the Assembly.
- A 5-year review, which may include development of a long-term strategic plan for consideration by the Australian Government

This Work Plan reinforces the shared commitment of the Norfolk Island community and the Australian Government to a transparent, inclusive, and forward-looking governance reform and transition process.

This Work Plan is a living document and we will keep the community informed as the Work Plan changes.

Communiques and other public information about the NIGC will be distributed through Norfolk Island media and online at <https://www.norfolkislandgovernance.com/> or on DITRDSCA’s website at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/norfolk-island/norfolk-island-governance-administration/norfolk-island-governance-committee>.

Contact NorfolkIslandGovernance@infrastructure.gov.au or the community representatives directly on NIGCcommunityreps@gmail.com.