



Administrator's update



The Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) met in Brisbane for an intense two-day workshop to reach agreement on elements of the governance model framework. The workshop was very successful, with all members of the committee providing discussion on the elements from the point of view of the stakeholders they represent. Everyone felt heard during the workshop, which in turn led to successful discussions and consensus agreement on most elements. The Department will provide recommendations on the overall framework of the new governance model to the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, the Hon Kristy McBain MP by the end of June 2024.

This recommended framework is for the Minister's consideration. The NIGC will continue to work collectively to meet agreement on the remaining elements such as the Preamble and recommendations covering elements for the new Assembly to implement; the revenue model and for the transition period. While the timeline for this first recommendation is tight, there will be ongoing opportunities for community consultation in order to meet the needs and aspirations of the Norfolk Island community.

Marking first year as Administrator

In my first year since commencing the three-year term as Administrator of Norfolk Island, I have continued to support the Australian Government's priorities for Norfolk Island – particularly around restoring democratic representation for the community.

The past twelve months have started this process with the election of three community representatives for the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC). The committee has provided a mechanism for greater collaboration, cooperation and communication between the Norfolk Island community, and both the Australian and Queensland Governments.

A huge thank you to Alma, Chris, Chelsea and Anita – the elected community members of the NIGC for their continuing, extensive stakeholder engagement weekly at the Supper Room on Wednesdays. The members have been engaged with the community and bring this feedback and their local knowledge and expertise to the table at each meeting, so that a shared vision may provide a path forward for our island.

A couple of highlights over the last year would be my trip to the Indian Ocean Territories and Minister McBain's recent visit to island. In her visit, she confirmed the Australian Government's ongoing investment in Norfolk Island's sustainable future and her personal priority in finding a pathway forward for establishing a new democratically-elected governing body for Norfolk Island.

Over the rest of my term, I will continue to prioritise increased engagement with the community, and support the pathway forward to a new governance model for Norfolk Island.

Hats off to our volunteers!

We took the opportunity in the week of 20 May, which was National Volunteer Week – and Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering, to honour and acknowledge the important roles our volunteers play in our community.

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to receive their medallion of appreciation.



Volunteers in a small community play a vital role in delivering services and I encourage you all to volunteer in what way you can.

Everyone has something to offer, and it is phenomenal what can be achieved through collaborating on a project with like-minded people.

Thank you for giving your time, talents and enthusiasm – you are truly appreciated!



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Newsletter

Norfolk Island

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Digital Solutions for Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island businesses have the opportunity to take advantage of a suite of services offered by Digital Solutions – an Australian Government initiative that works with small businesses to make the most of digital technology.

The Digital Solutions program is being run by Regional Business HQ which has a long history of helping small businesses equip themselves with the skills and knowledge they need to start and sustainably grow their businesses.

Free and unlimited workshops

Eligible businesses on Norfolk Island can access unlimited free workshops offering a range of advice on how to use digital tools to help your business, use websites to sell products online, how to make best use of social media and digital marketing, using software specifically designed for small business, and the best ways to protect your business online – including data privacy.

You can see the upcoming workshops and register through the Digital Solutions website -

<https://digitalsolutions.businessfoundations.com.au/workshops/>

4 hours of 1:1 support from a digital expert for only \$110

Businesses can register for a Digital Action Plan to access up to four hours of 1:1 support from a digital expert to help them with anything digital in their business. You can find all the details and register here -

<https://digitalsolutions.businessfoundations.com.au/digital-action-plan/>

Regional Business HQ will be working closely with stakeholders over the coming weeks to connect with local businesses and promote the program, supporting a more connected and sustainable business community in the region.

Celebrating Bounty Day 2024

On Monday 10 June, we celebrated Norfolk Island's Anniversary Day which is always very special day in the hearts of Norfolk Islanders. The day saw wonderful weather as we participated in the celebration of the arrival of many of the islander's ancestors from Pitcairn Island. The dressing in traditional outfits, participating in the re-enactment of the arrival at Kingston Pier followed by the march through Kingston, up Quality Row, past Government House to the cemetery is an island tradition where we pay respect to those laid to rest. The community picnic in the compound was terrific. We joined David Buffett and his family this year and "dem wetls was swiit" thank you.

The tradition of morning tea with James' home baked biscuits at Government House saw a couple of hundred enjoying the sunshine. We look forward to welcoming everyone again next year.



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From ship to shore – PTV hardstand complete

The Australian Government is pleased to advise Norfolk Islanders that the Passenger Transfer Vessel (PTV) hardstand project is now finished and would like to thank the community for their patience during the construction phase.

The project will now provide a safe work area for the maintenance and storage of the vessels. The project delivered a new concrete hardstand area with drainage and kerbing as well as an upgrade to the public toilet facilities.

The drainage system is designed to enable the operators of the PTVs to isolate the drainage during refuelling to ensure no hydrocarbons can be inadvertently accidentally be released into the marine environment. The desalination plant has been relocated into the area and is now fully operational and will provide fresh water into a large storage tank that has been installed in the hillside above.



Freight services to Toll extended

The Australian Government has extended the arrangement with Toll Remote Pty Ltd for air freight services to Norfolk Island through to 31 January 2026.

Toll flights will continue to arrive on Norfolk Island, on average, three times per fortnight.

The Australian Government underwrites a regular air freight service to Norfolk Island to help meet the island's demand for essential, time-sensitive freight.