



Update on Canberra visit

Last month I visited Canberra for a series of very successful and necessary conversations with Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino, as well as senior executives within the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

The meetings focused on restarting and building the Norfolk Island economy through COVID-19 recovery.

The meeting with Assistant Minister Marino covered a number of strategic projects. We discussed enabling infrastructure such as sea freight, air services and data connectivity, and we reviewed the progress of the opportunity for a domestic route and passenger services to Norfolk Island.

It was also productive engagement with the Department, which is assisting in cross-agency discussions on the domestic route, as well as progressing the Ports Management Strategy and the Norfolk Island 2030: Sustaining our Future plan development.

Post-visit, I am pleased to advise that Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service (NIHRACS) and Care Norfolk are extending the delivery of aged care services to provide coordinated support packages of in-home care, ensuring our older people with more complex care needs can now access this support. The home care support services have now commenced. Thanks to the Department of Health for its work to finalise these arrangements.

Economic stimulus package update

Norfolk Island residents will soon start to see work commencing on a number of priority community infrastructure projects funded under the Australian Government's COVID-19 stimulus package for Norfolk Island.

Upgrades to Cockpit Reserve is the first project to break ground, with the design approved and local contracts awarded and construction commenced.

These works are part of the Government's commitment to not only provide short-term economic stimulus through the COVID-19 pandemic, but to ensure Norfolk Island and its community facilities are enhanced for residents and visitors alike.

The Government worked closely with the Norfolk Island Regional Council to identify 22 community projects to generate employment stimulus and provide an essential economic boost to the Island, with the majority of materials now ordered and awaiting shipment before the end of the year.

The Department, with Council, has been collaborating with stakeholders on Island to develop and complete the scope of works for the projects, with more than 20 quotes sought. The Government will continue to inform the community as we progress these significant infrastructure upgrades, and deliver the best outcome for Norfolk Island residents, visitors and the economy.

In the meantime, the Council has also progressed the White Tern Project with all of the content and imagery being finalised. This purpose-designed digital platform was driven with some urgency by Council and has already commenced launching digital marketing campaigns.

A message from the Administrator Eric Hutchinson...



Welcome to all our readers to our new Administrator's Newsletter.

Complementing the regular media releases from the Assistant Minister, myself and the Department, these regular newsletters will provide readers with up-to-date news and information about our community, including events, consultation opportunities and Government announcements.

I look forward to keeping you informed on my current focus and priorities, along with upcoming activities, visits and opportunities.

Let us know if you want us to include information in relation to specific Government initiatives or programs. Suggestions for our newsletter are very welcome and can be emailed to my office at:

office.administrator@infrastructure.gov.au.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Newsletter

Norfolk Island

Issue no. 01 | 6 Nov 2020

Norfolk Island Regional Council election delay

At the request of the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC), Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino, has delayed the upcoming council election.

Council's request follows the receipt of the draft independent governance and financial audit of NIRC operations which the elected members requested be undertaken prior to the scheduled 2020 council elections.

On 30 October, the Council held an Extraordinary Meeting and resolved that the Council request the Assistant Minister delay the elections up to four months from 14 November 2020. Assistant Minister Marino agreed to the Council's request, to enable full consideration of the final audit report once available.

The Assistant Minister acknowledged the Council for making this difficult, but responsible, decision in the best interests of Norfolk Island's economic sustainability and future.

The audit reports are not yet finalised but will be made public as soon as possible. I will update the community as matters are further considered.

Green thumbs gather at Government House Community Garden

Some 100 community members gathered for the Government House Community Garden opening on 27 September. The revitalisation of the former Government House stockyard areas into a working community garden was initiated in 2019 by community members to create a space and sense of belonging for the broader public.

The garden's development and maintenance has been driven by hard work, effort and initiative from volunteers and community groups including Norfolk Island Health & Residential Aged Care Services, Anglicare Norfolk Island, Care Norfolk, NI Connect and the Men's Shed, focusing on wellbeing and sharing local produce. My particular thanks to Jane Evans for driving this initiative and her ongoing dedication to see the gardens flourish.

Development of the garden spaces has included additional wicking beds for community use, accessible garden beds for all ages and mobility levels and a sensory garden. Future goals for the space include horticultural education, healthy cooking demonstrations, playgroup activities and early learning activities.



Office of the Administrator

New Military Barracks, Kingston, Norfolk Island 2899

Current consultations

MPHS consultations

Responding to community feedback received in September, KPMG and design services contractor GHD Pty Ltd conducted a further round of on-Island consultation on the initial design concepts for the Norfolk Island Multipurpose Health Services Facility (MPHS) from 28-29 October. I thank the community for its enthusiastic and informed engagement. Written submissions through territories_projects@infrastructure.gov.au closed on 6 November 2020.

Fire control community consultation

Earlier this year, following dry weather conditions and ongoing reduced water availability, the Council proposed improved fire control measures under the Fire Control Act 2000 (NI). Proposals are outlined in a discussion paper available online at https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk_island/legislation-updates.aspx.

To contribute, please send your comments by email to: NI_Legislation@infrastructure.gov.au by COB Monday 9 November 2020, or in hard copy to my office.

Did you know...

Myself and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications provide regular and up-to-date news and information for Norfolk Island residents which is available on the Department's website?

For all the latest news and information, including community consultation materials, visit https://www.regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk_island/media/