



**The Administrator
Australian Territory of Norfolk Island**

Statement on proposed community model for future governance

The Australian Government acknowledges the community-led document on future governance elements for Norfolk Island. It is important residents understand many of the aspirations included are beyond the scope of what is being considered in developing the new governing model.

The document, published by the Norfolk Island Governance Committee (NIGC) community representatives recently, represents feedback received from the members of the community that engaged in the governance model consultation process.

However, it is not the agreed position of the NIGC. There is a lot more work to do to design a model for Government consideration, in line with what Government has asked the NIGC to deliver.

The Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Kristy McBain, met with the NIGC on her visit to the island last week to confirm the scope of the new model, so the community representatives can keep the broader community informed.

The Government is committed to restoring community-led democracy on Norfolk Island as soon as possible. The Committee needs to finalise a proposed model which has a solid revenue base to fund and deliver services to Norfolk Island.

Commonwealth laws will continue to apply on Norfolk Island. The power of the new governing body to make laws will be limited to local government-type laws.

Matters such as land ownership are not part of designing a new governance model. Any transfer of assets to or from the Commonwealth will be matters for discussion with the new governing body.

In relation to the Norfolk Island Regional Council, the payment of rates and charges is vital for the Council to provide the services the community needs and expects. As the NIGC develops the new sustainable model for our future, we need the Council to have the strongest financial position possible heading into transition to a new body. Payment of rates and charges now will support the success of the new body.

The NIGC has a significant body of work to do in a short period of time to meet the community's and the Government's expectations about implementing a new governance model as soon as possible.

George Plant, Administrator of Norfolk Island

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