



Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

PO Box 370
Norfolk Island

31 May 2017

Ms Robin Adams
Mayor
Norfolk Island Regional Council
Kingston, Norfolk Island

Email: mayor@nirc.gov.nf

Re: Norfolk Island - Future Waste Management System

Dear Madam Mayor,

The Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce, Inc is very concerned that the deadline of "nothing over the Tip by 1 July, 2018" is too imminent to enable confident systems engineering decisions about how best to replace the existing waste management system. This concern has nothing to do with our commitment to a clean environment and the objective of ending the dumping of waste into our oceans, nor does it diminish our sense of urgency that this milestone be accomplished as soon as possible.

Our concern has solely to do with being able to achieve this state of operations, in addition to quickly, wisely and well within the severe time constraint being levied on the project.

We do not believe this absolute condition of "nothing over the Tip" can be attained by 1 July, 2018, without both imposing substantial technical compromises on the technologies considered, while needlessly incurring the increased operating costs these types of premature engineering decisions so often create.

Simply put, the Chamber of Commerce is not aware of anyone knowledgeable of this project who would argue that adequate design time sufficient to build has gone into the waste management system presently being considered. The consultant's report on which the proposed system is based reasonably acknowledges significant cost and schedule uncertainty in her recommendations, uncertainties which we fear are being subsumed rather than addressed to meet this single date. Rushed as it is, the risk becomes ominously high that we will end up with a waste management system less reliable, technologically adaptable and cost-effective than what the Norfolk Island community and the Commonwealth are expecting to buy and we will have it for a long period of time.

For that reason, we are asking that the Norfolk Island Regional Council seek the assistance of Mr Eric Hutchinson, Administrator in obtaining what would be a second extension to this 1 July, 2018, deadline.

Because this deadline is required by a department of the Commonwealth, we believe the Administrator's intercession as the Commonwealth's representative on Norfolk Island, if he is willing, is the fastest, surest way of having this request deliberated and acted upon.

The Chamber is also of the opinion that if this additional extension requires the participation of Commonwealth personnel in the system development process, the Norfolk Island Regional Council ought to welcome that contribution.

The Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce, Inc would appreciate meeting with all members of the Norfolk Island Regional Council urgently to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce Committee

cc: Norfolk Island Regional Counsellors

cc: Ms Lotta Jackson, General Manager, Norfolk Island Regional Council

cc: Mr Bruce, Taylor, Group Manager Services, Norfolk Island Regional Council

cc: apc waste consultants.