



Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

1 August 2017

Ms Robin Adams
Mayor
Norfolk Island Regional Council
Bicentennial Complex
Norfolk Island 2899

E: mayor@nirc.gov.nf

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda 19 July 2017 Item 9.2: Economic Development Appointment of Hindle Enterprise Group

Dear Madam Mayor,

Reference is made to the Chamber of Commerce's previous letter (18 July 2017) regarding Council's appointment of the Hindle Enterprise Group and the schedule meeting between those two parties. The discussion and outcome of the meeting held earlier today still leaves serious concern as to exactly what the Hindle Enterprise Group is engaged for and the following further questions Chamber requests answers to:

1. The contract "Legal Implications ...six (6) months term, including 6 weeks working on island during this period. The contract includes part payment on key achievement".
 - What are the 'key achievements'?
 - What measures are in place for these 'key achievement'?
2. The "... contracted sum is \$72,000 plus travel and accommodation when on island"
 - What is the budget allocation for travel and accommodation?

The Norfolk Island community has a right to know what the Norfolk Island Regional Council is spending public funds on.

Refer to Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2016-2026*:

Section 7: Our vision for the future

Strategic Direction 1: An environmentally sustainable community – our choices benefit our natural environment and our community:

Objective 1: Use and manage our resources wisely.

Strategic Direction 5: An Informed and accountable community – we are transparent and accountable for our individual and collective decisions and actions:

Objective 9: An informed community.

Objective 10: Transparency in decision making.

3. It is noted that “... *the General Manager conducted the appointment process in consultation with senior staff and Human Resources*”.
- What due process was completed by **Council** for the Norfolk Island Regional Council to engage Hindle Enterprise Group?
Reference is made to Norfolk Island Community Strategic Plan 2016-2026; 8.2 Role and Responsibilities of Regional Council Staff.
“General Manager: Guide and advise Councillors and council staff in developing the various plans and requirements of the framework.”

Chamber cannot find anywhere in this document that states any Norfolk Island Regional Council staff has the final ultimate say on any matter. If this is incorrect then the Chamber requests Council to provide that information.

4. How many Expressions of Interest were received by the Norfolk Island Regional Council?
5. Reference is now made to Council’s resolution 2017/12 (February 2017):
“(2) that, if the recruitment of the Economic Development Coordinator position is unsuccessful the second time around, Council calls for Expressions of Interest for a consultant to undertake the review and development of the Economic Development Strategy in line with the discussion in the project report “Norfolk Island Economic Development Next Steps” as well as the brief stating ‘implementation of actions’, to form part of the consultant’s task.”
- Chamber refers to Council’s Operational Plan 2017-18 wherein there are 9 different areas for responsible division / officer *Economic Development Coordinator*.
When Chamber asked Hindle Enterprises today about these accountable deliverables Chamber was informed – Hindle Enterprises is a contract, the Operational Plan refers to Coordinator and the aim for Hindle Enterprises is to work directly with Norfolk Island businesses and community.
 - Therefore Chamber now asks Council a very important question:
 - What is Council doing about the areas mentioned for the division / officer - Economic Development Coordinator?
 - Who is going to be responsible for these areas?

The Chamber requests a full and comprehensive explanation to the above questions.

Yours sincerely

Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce Committee

CC via Email:

Cr Rob Buffett, Cr John McCoy, Cr Dave Porter, and Cr Lisle Snell of the Norfolk Island Regional Council