

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

1.02 EVENT BRIEF – Meeting with the Mayor, Norfolk Island Regional Council

Date and Time:	Monday 12 November 2018, 4.30 pm 5.00 pm
Location:	Administrator's Office
Attendees:	Eric Hutchinson, Administrator Mayor Robin Adams

Outcomes Sought:

- Explore opportunities to work Cooperative, Collaborative and in Partnership with the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) and the Norfolk Island community.
- Discuss priorities for Norfolk Island and the NIRC, including
 - New health facility;
 - Norfolk Island Airport runways resealing;
 - Undersea cable; and
 - Monitoring the economy.

Key Issues:

- During the former Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP visit to Norfolk Island the Mayor, Ms Robin Adams' emphasised 'Cooperation, Collaboration, and Partnership' as the best approach to moving forward and for the Commonwealth and NIRC to work together.

New Health Facility

- The 2018-19 Budget included a commitment of \$1.2 million for the preparation of a business case for a new Multipurpose Health Service Facility (MPS). Dr McVeigh announced this funding during his visit in July 2018.
- The Mayor recently wrote to you outlining the Council's proposal for Norfolk Island to be 'A Centre for Health and Wellbeing in the Pacific'. The proposal suggests building a 'state of the art New Age Hospital' on the island, including a modern operating theatre, maternity services, surgeons and anaesthetists. These services are not provided under an MPS model and it is highly unlikely they will be provided in the new facility. Community consultation will commence in December with expectation management being a critical element of the consultation. (Also refer to Event Brief 1.06 and Key Issues Briefs 2.06 and 2.09)
- In addition, the Mayor has written to you about the Nuka model of care. The Nuka model of care is focused on listening to patients rather than being told by a medical professional and involves strong community involvement in preventive and supportive health care.

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

Two officers from the Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Services (NIHRACS) attended a recent Nuke model of care conference in New Zealand. The Nuka model of care could be accommodated in the MPS model.

- You may wish to explore the Nuke model of care with the Mayor.

New Health Facility

- As you are aware, NIRC has sought funding from the Australian Government to reseat the Norfolk Island runways. The matter is to be considered by the Expenditure Review Committee on 12 November 2018.
- Using the approach of ‘Cooperation, Collaboration, and Partnership’ the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities is assisting NIRC in their project planning. The Department will continue to work with NIRC in the delivery of this significant project.

Undersea Cable

- After writing to Dr McVeigh in August 2018, the Mayor raised the connection of Norfolk Island to the Coral Sea Cable System in the 20 October 2018 edition of the Norfolk Islander.
- In his response to the Mayor, Dr McVeigh advised that connection to a cable is a commercial decision for investors and that the undersea cables to PNG and Solomon Islands is being funded through the Australian Government’s Official Development Assistance program. This remains the Australian Government’s position in regards to building and extending undersea cables. (Also refer to Key Issue Brief 2.12).

Monitoring the Economy

- The Mayor may also raise with you the monitoring of the Norfolk Island economy. The Mayor wrote to Dr McVeigh requesting a Productivity Commission review of the Island’s economy. In accordance with Dr McVeigh’s response to the Mayor the Department has met with Dr Chris Nobbs and the Department of Small Jobs and Business. These meetings identified the following as possible economic and social measures:
 - Annual Visitor Arrival Numbers
 - Consumer / Retail Price Index
 - Incoming Freight Amounts
 - 2016 Census data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- You may wish to explore other measures with the Mayor.

Background:

- Ms Robin Adams has been the Mayor of Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) since July 2016.
- Ms Adams is Australian born and educated, and a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian of HMAV Bounty.

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

- Ms Adams' previous roles include:
 - 1984 to 2010: Clerk to the Norfolk Island Parliament
 - 2010 to 2013: Speaker of the Norfolk Island Parliament
 - 2013 to 2015: Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services in the Norfolk Island Government

Sensitivities: Nil

Attachments: Nil

