



The Hon Sussan Ley MP
Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories

05 February 2019

Statement

Dear Norfolk Island residents

I want to take this opportunity to respond to the publication of extracts (The Norfolk Islander, 02 Feb) from ministerial briefing notes, provided to me during a recent visit to Norfolk Island.

I wish to acknowledge the hurt this has caused to some, given the sensitive nature of the subject; the preamble to the Norfolk Island laws.

As Minister I receive a lot of information and advice from a range of sources. Some of it I accept and some of it I don't.

I would like to reassure you that this particular extract does not represent my view, nor the view of the Australian Government.

In November, the Council of Elders raised with me the issue of reinstating a preamble into the Norfolk Island Act. I was supportive of this initiative, and I remain supportive. Since then I have been actively considering mechanisms to make this happen.

A revised preamble could be included in a Bill to amend the Norfolk Island Act, and I understand your Council will soon commence discussions with the community about the wording of the preamble. I am committed to progressing this.

I look forward to continuing to develop our strong and positive working relationship, so that together we can achieve the things that are important to all of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Sussan Ley'.