

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

1.10 EVENT BRIEF – Meeting with former Norfolk Island Advisory Council

Date and Time:	Wednesday 14 November 2018, 11.00 am – 11.30 am
Location:	Administrator's Office
Meeting with:	Duncan Evans, Melissa Ward, Eve Semple
Attendees:	Eric Hutchinson, Administrator

Outcomes Sought:

- Discuss the recommendations made by the Advisory Council as set out in Council's final report to the Government in June 2016 (**Attachment A**).
- General discussion regarding the advancement of the reforms.

Key Issues:

- The Advisory Council made 22 recommendation regarding governance and the legislative framework to the Australian Government in their final report (Refer **Attachment A**). The majority of these actions were deemed to be the responsibility of the Regional Council.
- The Advisory Council recommendations include that the management of the Norfolk Island government business activities sit outside of the core functions of the Regional Council, and an alternative professional and independent management and oversight model be established by the Australian Government. Government business activities include the airport, electricity and Norfolk Telecom.
- At the time the report, it was decided by the Australian Government that the management of the government business activities and future operational structuring would be the responsibility of the Regional Council.
- The Advisory Council is likely to raise this recommendation with you. The Administrator, Mr Eric Hutchinson has recently raised the issue of a skills based board for the government business activities.
- Alternate management and oversight models, including the establishment of a Commonwealth Government Business Enterprise are available for the government business activities. Before the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities can brief with options regarding this matter, a project to scope the issues and potential outcomes needs to be undertaken. The project is planned to commence shortly with a report expected by the end of the financial year.

Background:

- On 4 June 2015, the Hon Jamie Briggs MP, the former Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, announced the appointment of Ms Melissa Ward as Chair of the Norfolk Island Advisory Council.

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- Subsequently, on 12 June 2015, the Minister and Chair announced the appointment of the other four members, Mr Wally Beadman, Mr Duncan Evans, Ms Eve Semple, and Mr PJ Wilson. The members formally commenced their roles on 1 July 2015.
- The Norfolk Island Advisory Council was established with a membership drawn from within the local community to ensure there was a local representative body during the interim transition period between the dissolution of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and the commencement of the Norfolk Island Regional Council.
- The Advisory Council provided a final report to the Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government in June 2016. The Advisory Council ceased on the commencement of the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC).
- Mr PJ Wilson he is now employed by the NIRC and will not attend meeting due to conflicts of interests. Mr Wally Beadman is no longer resident of Norfolk Island.

Sensitivities: Nil

Attachments:

A Norfolk Island Advisory Council Final Report, June 2016

