

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

1.12 EVENT BRIEF – Chamber of Commerce

Date and Time:	Wednesday 14 November 2018, 2.30 pm – 3.00 pm
Location:	Administrator’s Office
Meeting with:	Chamber of Commerce
Attendees:	Eric Hutchinson, Administrator Cherri Buffett, President Brett Sanderson, Vice President Natasha Arnold, Committee Alison Christian, Committee Naomi Thompson, Committee

Outcomes Sought:

- Recognise and listen to the concerns of the Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) while asserting the Australian Government’s long-held position about the status of Norfolk Island.
- Key issues likely to be raised, include:
 - ACT Government negotiations;
 - Norfolk Island Response Taskforce and Medical Records; and
 - Application to the Fair Work Commission.

Key Issues:

- The Chamber’s mission is to be the voice of business to champion opportunities that drive investment and enable community prosperity. The Chambers 2017-22 Strategic Plan is provided at **Attachment A**.

ACT Government negotiations

- The Chamber, through social media sought reasons why the Norfolk Island Community was not informed about the “move” to the Australia Capital Territory. (Refer to Key Issues Brief 2.11)

Norfolk Island Response Taskforce and Medical Records

- The Norfolk United Group, which the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities understands works closely with the Chamber wrote to all Members of Parliament and Senators regarding the removal of health records from the

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Island and the establishment of the Norfolk Island Taskforce. (Refer to Key Issues Brief 2.10)

Application to the Fair Work Commission

- On 30 June 2018, the NSW Business Chamber made an unsuccessful application to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) for a new award to be made specifically for Norfolk Island private sector employees, similar to the existing Miscellaneous Award 2010. (refer to Key Issues Brief 2.01)

Background:

- The Chamber has approximately 70 members.
- The Chamber also wrote to you on 24 September 2018 about Mr Eric Hutchinson, Administrator.
 - In your response to the Chamber, you stated that the Australian Government values the work of the Chamber and that you want to work collaboratively, openly and transparently with the community and the Chamber.
- In July 2018, the Chamber sought a written explanation from Mr Hutchinson why the Chamber had not been given an opportunity to meet with the previous Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government, the Hon Dr John McVeigh MP.
 - The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities responded to this request stating that representatives were attending a number events and meetings with Dr McVeigh

Sensitivities:

- The Chamber is closely aligned with the Norfolk Island People for Democracy (NIPD). The NIPD is lobbying the United Nations and members of the UK Parliament claiming breaches of human rights by the Australian Government and is seeking to gain self-determination in free association with Australia (Refer to Key Issues Brief 2.04)

Attachments:

A Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce 17-22 Strategic Plan

