

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE ELEVENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

MADAM CLERK Please be seated. Your Honour the Administrator, Mrs Tambling, Honourable Members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. This meeting, the first of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island is convened pursuant to the following notice which appeared in the Norfolk Island Government Gazette dated 26 October 2004.

"I, Grant Ernest John Tambling, Administrator of Norfolk Island, under section 40 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979*), do by this notice, convene the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island after a general election of that Assembly, to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers, Kingston, at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 27 October 2004" And that message was dated the 26 October 2004 and signed Grant Tambling, Administrator

**PRAYER**

I now invite all present to be upstanding, while Dr John Duke reads Prayers.

DR JOHN DUKE God most high, His kingdom is an eternal kingdom, we give you thanks for Government on this island, established, instituted and authorised by you and our constitution. May the new Governance arrangements involving all Members of this Assembly mark a maturing of this model of self Government. Enable those who are to be appointed to this 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, our Chief Minister, those to hold executive positions, those to assist and the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of this House to carry out their responsibilities wisely and well and to function as a team. Encourage each Member to look forward to making this 11<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly the best ever and may we, the Norfolk Island community who have elected these Members take up our responsibilities in supporting them. These things we ask in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Almighty God we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this House, direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island, Amen

**RETURN TO WRIT FOR ELECTION**

MADAM CLERK Thank you Dr Duke. Please be seated. I have received a Return to the Writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2004. By the endorsement on the Writ it is certified that the following Members have been elected:

- Geoffrey Robert Gardner
- Timothy John Sheridan
- Neville Charles Christian
- Lorraine Carol Boudan
- Ronald Coane Nobbs
- David Ernest Buffett
- John Terence Brown
- Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack
- Timothy John Brown

I lay the Return on the Table of the House.

**OATHS BY MEMBERS**

MADAM CLERK Honourable Members, we now move to the next process which is the swearing in of Members and I now ask the Deputy Clerk to approach each Member in turn so that they may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation of allegiance and the oath or affirmation of office, thank you

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Buffett, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BUFFETT I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Gardner, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR GARDNER I, Geoffrey Robert Gardner, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Geoffrey Robert Gardner, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Sheridan, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SHERIDAN I, Timothy John Sheridan, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Timothy John Sheridan, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Nobbs, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR NOBBS I, Ronald Coane Nobbs, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Ronald Coane Nobbs, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Christian please read and subscribe the affirmation

MS NICHOLAS I, Neville Charles Christian, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law.

I, Neville Charles Christian, do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island.

DEPUTY CLERK Mrs Jack, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MRS JACK I, Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Brown, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR T BROWN I, Timothy John Brown, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Timothy John Brown, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mrs Boudan, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BOUDAN I, Lorraine Carol Boudan, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Lorraine Carol Boudan, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

DEPUTY CLERK Mr Brown, please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BROWN I, John Terence Brown, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, John Terence Brown, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

MADAM CLERK I will now ask His Honour the Administrator to sign the form attesting to the making and subscribing of the required oaths and affirmations by members of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly

#### **ATTESTATION BY ADMINISTRATOR**

MADAM CLERK Thank you Deputy Clerk. I will now ask His Honour the Administrator to sign the form attesting to the making and subscribing of the required oaths and affirmation by Members of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly

ADMINISTRATOR Members of the Legislative Assembly I wish to congratulate you all as successful candidates and now Members of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island

**ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

MADAM CLERK Thank you Your Honour. The next business is the election of a Speaker of the Assembly. Are there any nominations please? Mr Gardner

MR GARDNER I nominate David Ernest Buffett to be Speaker of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and do now take the Chair as Speaker

MADAM CLERK Mr Buffett, do you accept nomination.

MR BUFFETT I accept nomination Madam Clerk

MADAM CLERK Are there any further proposals? The time for proposals has expired and I declare that David Ernest Buffett has been elected Speaker and would ask Mr Buffett to now take the Chair

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable members, thank you indeed for the honour that you pay me in electing me as Speaker of the 11<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. The next business is election of a Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and I ask are there any nominations please

MR BROWN Thank you Mr Speaker and congratulations on your appointment. I move that Mr Timothy John Brown be elected as Deputy Speaker

SPEAKER Mr Tim Brown, do you accept nomination.

MR T BROWN I accept nomination Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals Honourable Members? There are no further proposals. The time for proposals has expired and therefore I declare that Timothy John Brown has been elected Deputy Speaker of this 11<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and offer congratulations to him on such an election

MR BROWN Mr Speaker is it appropriate for me to say a few words

SPEAKER Indeed, it is very appropriate for both yourself and any other Member who would care to offer some words at this stage of our proceedings. Mr John Brown

MR BROWN Mr Speaker could I address both your appointment as speaker and the appointment of the Deputy Speaker. Mr Speaker you and I have been Members of many Legislative Assemblies in Norfolk Island. In your case, longer than myself and you have had the honour of also having been a Member of the previous advisory Council. You and I have been old foes but good friends for a long time and I see my other grey haired friend behind the radio desk whom I would describe similarly, an old foe and a great friend. It is a great honour Mr Speaker for you to be appointed as the Speaker of this Legislative Assembly. It is an honour not only for you but also for us because in this Legislative Assembly having completed twenty five years of self Government we've all decided to take another step forward.

We've recognised that the position of speaker is one which has existed in the British system for hundreds of years. We've recognised in this Assembly the independence of the Speaker throughout that time and you have agreed to accept appointment, not only to accept the responsibility for the normal roles of Speaker but to accept the responsibility for introducing an educational system for existing Members, for the community and for future interested candidates and you have agreed to undertake a number of responsibilities which in my view will bode well for the future of Norfolk Island. It's important in my mind that we encourage the younger Members of our community to stand for election to this place and in appointing a young Deputy Speaker today we have spoken loudly in that regard. I look forward to working with you Mr Speaker and with the Deputy Speaker. This of all of the Assembly's of which I have been a Member is the Assembly which I hold great hopes for. I hold great hopes that during the life of this Assembly, not only the Norfolk Island community but the communities in Australia and other places will see that Norfolk Island has come of age and will join with us in sharing our ambitions for the future and Mr Speaker I congratulate you on your appointment in that regard

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Brown. Are there any further contributions from Honourable Members this morning

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS**

SPEAKER Honourable Members, we now move to the tradition address from His Honour the Administrator at the opening of each Assembly and invite His Honour the Administrator to now address us

ADMINISTRATOR Mr Speaker, it is indeed a privilege to be present and to officiate at this opening session, particularly as it follows so closely the important occasion in August this year of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of substantive self-government arrangements for Norfolk Island. These occasions strongly reflect the Australian federal system of government whereby state and territory governments contribute as partners to the well being and governance of all citizens. The Norfolk Island Act of 1979 specifically provides that there shall be a legislative assembly of the territory consisting of nine members to make laws for the "peace, order and good government of the territory". As members of the 11<sup>th</sup> assembly you are charged with special responsibilities on behalf of the community which has elected you as its representatives. It is acknowledged that the historical and political development of Norfolk Island is unique, and reflects the special links and traditions of many descendant families with their Pitcairn island forebears as well as later contributions by Australian, New Zealand and other residents who have chosen to make Norfolk Island their home. I know from recent discussions with Mr Gardner that this assembly will be proposing new governance arrangements which mark a maturing model of self-government for Norfolk Island. Whilst there will obviously be differences of opinion and robust debate on key issues from time to time, I understand that you have reached unanimous agreement on a new democratic process which will involve all members of the assembly working together for the good of the entire community. Later this day several of you will be nominated in this assembly to assume ministerial responsibilities as executive members to effect the good government and public policies of Norfolk Island. This arrangement will be historic in that at your request Mr Gardner has selected a team of ministers to form the incoming Norfolk Island government. My remarks today hopefully highlight the policy areas and many of the issues to be addressed by Mr Gardner's government and your assembly in this term. Mr Speaker, I am also informed that it is proposed your parliamentary role will be enhanced to include support for associated cultural activities, civic education and inter-parliamentary issues. Apart from some specific exceptions the legislative assembly is empowered to pass bills on matters related to the good government of the territory. It is important to acknowledge at this stage my role, as administrator, in the assent making procedures for bills under these arrangements. The

administrator assents to bills on the advice of the Norfolk Island government on a range of matters listed under schedule 2 of the Norfolk Island act. Should matters fall under items listed in schedule 3 to the act, such as education or immigration for example, these proposed laws are referred to the federal minister for territories for instructions as to whether assent should be given or further amendments considered. Matters not listed in the relevant schedules are reserved for assent by the governor-general. These procedures are designed primarily to ensure consistency with commonwealth laws and national policies. I look forward to working constructively with the Norfolk Island and Australian governments to promote the effective and timely consideration of bills requiring assent by the administrator or governor-general. From the individual policy statements made by each member of this assembly prior to your election on 20<sup>th</sup> October it is apparent that plans and ideas for positioning Norfolk Island well into the future are being considered. Such plans will build and complement past local achievements, Norfolk Island's unique history and the significance of the island's natural and heritage assets. The legacy of the 10<sup>th</sup> assembly, and for that matter previous assemblies, has been to identify a number of governance and economic management issues, including recently initiated reviews of revenue raising options, long-term asset management and telecommunication strategies. Past reports of this assembly and the Australian parliament's joint standing committee on the national capital and external territories have made recommendations for your consideration related to political and electoral reform, transport infrastructure, financial sustainability and health issues. As part of a strong Norfolk Island your attention may be drawn to the inter-dependence of a number of areas of government policy. These include the relationship between the public and private sector, promotion of community partnerships and business support, and direct government intervention and regulation. The changing landscape of political reforms, the Norfolk Island and commonwealth land initiative, and a sustainable economic future will also require cooperative and continuing inter-government relations between the Australian and Norfolk Island governments. In addition to the need for adequate revenue raising to cover basic community services at the standards now demanded in any contemporary society it is important to recognise areas of special interest to Norfolk Island. I know that this 11<sup>th</sup> assembly proposes to place these matters under investigation and form policy and legislative responses as priorities for further and continuing action. Amongst the many challenges facing any remote regional community like Norfolk Island are the issues of the ongoing efficiency and capacity of public administration; healthcare standards and welfare services, particularly for aged and veterans in the community; appropriate education outcomes and vocational training; secure energy; and the maintenance of transport infrastructure and roads. I also note the initiation of a process of ongoing law review by previous governments. I have been informed this will continue by the government and your assembly. A number of pieces of legislation have come to my particular attention in the course of my statutory duties which may now require review by your assembly to better reflect the maturing self-government arrangements and more devolved administrative practices. The Norfolk Island education act and police act are two recent examples, and no doubt members of this assembly will continue to address the issue of law reform. The tranquillity and natural beauty of Norfolk Island are too often taken for granted. We all appreciate that this beauty contributes to the tourism industry which is the island's economic lynchpin. Because of the pressures for improvement and upgrading of associated services your assembly will be called upon to recognise the market opportunities of the national and international market place while at the same time promoting the island's sustainability and essential character. Similarly, wider economic and social changes will also present a number of future planning challenges including global and regional factors that impact on the community. These include advances in technology, changing demographic and employment patterns, and the impact of an ageing population. Some of these issues may relate to future service requirements and associated funding through superannuation arrangements or other long term initiatives. I know the Australian government is keen to work positively with the Norfolk Island government and legislative assembly in pursuing your vision for a strong and vibrant community. The Australian

minister for local government, territories and roads, the Hon Jim Lloyd mp, has asked me to convey his best wishes to your assembly. He has expressed a desire to promote understanding and progress matters of importance to the Norfolk Island community. Mr speaker, let me conclude by drawing the assembly's attention to the importance of 2006 as an upcoming milestone in the development of Norfolk Island. The year 2006 will be an important year of symbolism and celebration with the centenary of the Norfolk Island central school and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Pitcairn island families on Norfolk Island. These occasions will rightly attract domestic and international attention and will be reflected in a series of government and community supported projects and events. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the unique history and achievements of Norfolk Island as well as a time for contemplating the future directions for the island under the leadership of Mr Gardner and his ministerial team. I wish all members of the assembly the very best in your personal endeavours and in the interests of the Norfolk Island community which you have been asked to represent.

### **SPEAKER'S ADDRESS IN REPLY**

**SPEAKER** Your Honour thank you warmly for your address to us this afternoon. You Honour, we of the Eleventh Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly warmly welcome you and Mrs Tambling to this Chamber. This is the first occasion that you both have been formally present at an Opening Sitting of this Legislature. We offer our compliments on your statutory swearing in of all Members and do appreciate your greetings, your words of congratulations and encouragement, and the recognition of issues as we commence our duties and responsibilities today. On behalf of Members I also acknowledge the generous words from the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, the Honourable Jim Lloyd MP. We applaud the continuity of contact with the Australian Government, by his re-appointment, offer him our congratulations; and ask that you convey our thanks, and equally warm wishes to him, upon the commencement of this Assembly here. Your Honour you did identify the Norfolk Island Act of 1979. It did commence our present parliamentary government, and provides for our substance here today as Members as you described, and for yours as Administrator. The Act sets out at length in its Preamble a recitation of Norfolk Island's unique historical sequence; and a visionary future in self government. We have now concluded Ten Assemblies, under these arrangements and today commence the Eleventh. We have spanned a quarter of a century. Those who have served have honoured our heritage and advanced our vision. We who are Members of the Eleventh Assembly, wish to continue this service, and to do so with a passion, in commitment to the Norfolk Island community. Thank you for your address

### **SUSPENSION**

Honourable Members we have concluded the formalities of making oaths and being sworn in as formal members and we will now pause as His Honour and his party withdraw from the Chamber and we will resume in a moment or so and continue with substantive business, so Honourable Members, the House will now briefly suspend. I would ask that members and guests stand while His Honour the Administrator and his party depart from the Chamber. Thank you

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members, the House has now resumed its sitting and I move now to the next item of business on the Programme which is the tabling of papers.

I table the following disallowable instruments: Waste Management (Amendment) Regulations 2004; Employment (Amendment) Regulations 2004 and the Warrant of

Delivery approved under section 14 of the Removal of Prisoners Act 2004, for the purposes of section 5 of that Act

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 1**

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members, I have received the following Message from the Office of the Administrator and it is Message No 1 which reads that on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2004, pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I declared my assent to the following: Evidence Act 2004 (Act No 19 of 2004), Removal of Prisoners Act 2004 (Act No 20 of 2004), Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 2004 (Act No 21 of 2004 and Annual Reports Act 2004 (Act No 22 of 2004. I also reserved the following proposed law passed by the Legislative Assembly for the pleasure of the Governor-General: Planning (Amendment) Bill 2004, and that message was dated the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and signed Grant Tambling, Administrator. They are the formal documents that we are by statute required to table at the next sitting, and this is the next sitting Honourable Members,

#### **EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

**SPEAKER** The next item of business Honourable Members is to determine the number of executive offices and their respective designations pursuant to Standing Order 243. Mr Gardner

**MR GARDNER** Mr Speaker, I move that, under section 12 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 (1) All previous resolutions under that section be revoked; (2) there be four executive offices; and (3) these offices have the following designations

Chief Minister  
Minister for Finance  
Minister for Community Services  
Minister for the Environment

Mr Speaker I commend the motion to the House

**SPEAKER** Thank you Mr Gardner. Any further debate? Then I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, that motion is agreed thank you

#### **APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF CHIEF MINISTER**

**SPEAKER** We move onto the next item of business, the proposing of Members to fill each executive office that has been determined by the motion that has just been passed and I call for nominations for the position of Chief Minister, Mr Sheridan

**MR SHERIDAN** Mr Speaker, I move that Geoffrey Robert Gardner be chosen to be Chief Minister and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

**SPEAKER** Thank you. Mr Gardner, do you accept nomination

**MR GARDNER** I do Mr Buffett



SPEAKER Is there any further proposal? Is there any further debate Honourable Members, then I put the question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, Mr Gardner as Chief Minister I offer you warm congratulations

#### **APPOINTMENTS TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE MINISTER FOR FINANCE**

SPEAKER Continuing appointment to executive office. you. The next process through the executive offices Honourable Members is the process for the position of Minister for Finance. I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Finance. Mr Christian

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker, I move that Ronald Coane Nobbs be chosen to be Minister for Finance and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Nobbs, do you accept nomination

MR NOBBS Yes Mr Speaker I accept nomination

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Nobbs. Is there any further proposal? Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Then I put the question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you that motion is agreed to. Congratulations to you Mr Nobbs

#### **APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

SPEAKER Continuing to move through the Ministries Honourable Members I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Community Services. Mrs Boudan

MRS BOUDAN Mr Speaker I move that John Terence Brown be chosen to be Minister for Community Services and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Mr Brown do you accept nomination

MR BROWN Mr Speaker I accept nomination thank you

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Brown. Is there any further proposal? Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Then I put the question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you that motion is agreed to

**APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

SPEAKER: I now move to the final ministry of the four and I call for nominations for the position of Minister for Lands and the Environment. Mr Tim Brown

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker, I move that Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack be chosen to be Minister for the Environment and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Mrs Jack, do you accept nomination

MRS JACK I accept nomination Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Is there any further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate Honourable Members, I put the question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

That motion is agreed. Congratulations to you Mrs Jack

**FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DATE**

Honourable Members, we have concluded the substantive business for this formal opening which is to set in place the ministerial posts, both the number, the titling and the individuals that are to occupy them and tomorrow the Administrator will respond to those recommendations at Government House with formal appointments so thus being the case Honourable Members, we are the stage of firstly setting our next sitting day and then concluding today's proceedings

MRS BOUDAN Mr Speaker I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 10 November 2004, at 10.00 am.

SPEAKER Is there any debate. The question is that the Motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

**ADJOURNMENT**

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn

SPEAKER Is there any adjournment debate Honourable Members?

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I would like to echo the words of Mr John Brown in recognising your appointment as the Speaker of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly and also warmly welcome Mr Tim Brown's appointment as the deputy Speaker in this the Eleventh Legislative Assembly. Mr Speaker I would also like to warmly welcome the new members of the Eleventh Legislative Assembly, including Mrs Boudan, a very warm welcome to you, particularly Tim as a representative of the young people of Norfolk Island, a recognition of Neville Christian's return to this table and certainly to my young friend Mr Tim Sheridan as a newly elected Member of this Eleventh Legislative Assembly and at the same time Mr Speaker to pay recognition of

the outgoing Members of the Tenth Legislative Assembly some of them who are obviously around this table today for their contribution to the betterment of Norfolk Island and also if I might recognise Ms Nicholas is here today having served as Deputy Speaker in the previous Legislative Assembly, thank her for her efforts and certainly at this time to recognise our good friend and colleague from the Tenth Legislative Assembly and his contribution up until his sad passing, of Mr Ivens Buffett. Mr speaker I am confident that the Eleventh Legislative Assembly will stand up to the kind words offered by a number of speakers today as being the best yet for the betterment of Norfolk Island and I look forward to being part of that team and making a meaningful contribution to it as I'm sure every Member around this table will as well thank you

MRS BOUDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I count it an honour and a privilege to be elected into this Eleventh Legislative Assembly and I look forward to working together with each one of the Members as a team

MR BROWN Mr Speaker in this House we have a total of four ladies. We have two Members, a Clerk and a Deputy Clerk and our Clerk and our Deputy Clerk have in fact been in this place for a long, long time. We have four older Members and we have one younger Member. When we attend Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conferences year after year we are bombarded with demands for greater female representation. I hope that during the life of this Assembly we will be able to encourage greater young representation and that at the time of swearing in the next Assembly there might be an even larger representation of the younger community because after all the younger community are the future of Norfolk Island. Mr speaker you are intending I'm aware to run a number of education programmes during the course of this Assembly. I would certainly like to encourage all young people to take a real interest in those programmes. To such extent as opportunities are available to young people along the lines of Churchill Fellowships or other similar opportunities, I hope that some of our young people will take those up with the intention of grooming themselves to sit in this place in later years. I look forward to working in this Assembly. As I said earlier its an Assembly where a few old warriors are actually on the same team and I believe that can only be good for all of us and it's certainly a team that I am committed to and I look forward to trying to get to the end of the next three years and have people look back and say gee those guys achieved something. We're at an important stage of our development. We are at a stage where we can achieve, we need to set goals. They need to be high goals, we need to kick the ball and follow through and I have great confidence that in three years time the community will look back with approval on the term of this Assembly. Could I join with the Chief Minister in expressing thanks to those Members who have been here in past times, not only in the last Assembly but in previous Assembly's and could I join the Chief Minister in congratulating and welcoming those new Members. We have made some massive steps forward already in this Assembly. We have moved to a far more traditional system of Government, a system that will be far easier for other jurisdictions to understand but we have at the same time created a far more meaningful involvement for the whole of our Membership during this Assembly Mrs Boudan and I will be working together in my portfolio areas, I congratulate particularly Mrs Boudan on her election and I look forward to working with her. For a number of reasons, not the least of which is that I've worked with her son Desiree for many years and it is a wonderful thing for me to now be working with his mother. Not many fathers have the opportunity to propose their son for appointment as Deputy Speaker and that was indeed an honour for me today. Mr Speaker I wish all Members well during the term of this Assembly. I hope and I am confident that we will all bear in mind the words of the Legislative Assembly prayer in everything we do in our role as Assembly Members and I certainly as I said, have confidence that this is going to be an Assembly which will be looked back on with some pride, thank you

SPEAKER  
no further debate I put the question

Thank you. Any further debate? There being

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Wednesday 10  
November 2004, at 10.00 am.

