

PRAYER

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

CONDOLENCES

We move to condolences, are there any condolences this morning? Mr Tim Brown

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker, it is with regret that this House records the passing of Yvonne Buffett, wife of Mervyn, on Monday 25th October 2004 after a long fight with a lung disorder. Yvonne was born in Whangarei New Zealand to the late Ella and Charlie Herman. In 1968 the Herman's settled in Norfolk Island and Yvonne, Diana, Merle, Aunty Raewyn, Val and Phil and Melvyn and his family also came with them. At 21 Yvonne married Merv and became stepmother to his four children, a task she carried out with success, while at the same time supporting Merv. Always at his side, whether renovating, farming, cattle mustering or fishing. Yvonne was a diligent worker and a talented sportswoman. At about age 25 Yvonne was diagnosed with a lung disorder, which progressively worsened. In 1997 Yvonne and Merv moved to Brisbane then to Sydney where two years later, she had a single lung transplant. Later that year they were able to return home, although Yvonne had to fly to Sydney every six to 12 weeks for treatment. Yvonne was able to go back to work which she enjoyed until her body forced her into retirement. Yvonne was a great fighter who never once complained and she will be sadly missed by our community. To Merv and her sister Aunty Raewyn, to the Buffett and Herman families and to her many friends, this House extends its deepest sympathy

It is with regret that this House records the death of Bruce MacDonald, Administrator of Norfolk Island from 1989 to 1992. He with his wife Faith was well liked amongst us. Mr MacDonald enjoyed a distinguished Commonwealth Public Service career, including secretary to the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism and secretary of the Public Service Board. He was also Chief Executive of the Office of the Review of Commonwealth Administration. The quality of his work was highly regarded. Mr MacDonald was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1991 for his public service and work as Administrator of Norfolk Island. Over the past few years he suffered ill health. He had a heart attack in 1997 and then battled Parkinson's Disease. He died last Saturday and his funeral in Canberra is tomorrow, Thursday 11th November. To his wife Faith and their three daughters, this house extends its sincere sympathy

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Brown. Honourable members as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I ask that all members stand in silence please. Thank you Honourable members.

SPEAKER'S NOMINATION OF PERSON TO ACT AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members in accordance with standing order No. 9 I have today nominated Mr Neville Christian to act as Deputy Speaker when called upon to do so and I table the instrument of nomination

PETITIONS

We move to petitions. Are there any petitions this morning?. There are no petitions.

GIVING OF NOTICES

Are there any notices?

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I give notice that at the next formal meeting of the executive council of Norfolk Island I propose to have made regulations under the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Act that will effectively increase the number of Members on the Bureau from five as provided for in Regulations to six. That will provide for the opportunity for Mr Tim Sheridan to be nominated for appointment as a member of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau as a representative of the Legislative Assembly on that Bureau

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

We move to questions without notice. Are there any questions without notice

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I direct this question to Mr Nobbs as Minister for Finance with responsibility to the public service. Minister I understand that the Administration's recruitment process for filling both permanent and casual positions within the public service. Can the Minister assure this House that correct procedures are followed for the filling of all permanent and casual positions, and if the Minister is unable to give such an assurance, will he take appropriate measures to remove all those who have conspired to circumvent the correct process for Administration employment

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker, thank you Mr Christian, for that question. It is my understanding that the correct procedures are followed and we went through a lengthy period with the Assembly before last to establish some procedures and put them in place and hopefully they are followed at the present time. If they are not, I will investigate it on behalf of Mr Christian, look at what's actually happening in specific areas, and if he wants to give me instances which I could follow up that would be fine, but from a general sense at the present time all I can say is that I understand that the procedures are being followed to the letter and they are somewhat onerous in some areas as you are aware Mr Speaker as far as the selection process is concerned and the appeals process, but I will investigate it and report back to Mr Christian and this House if I come across any instances of anomalies

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, a further supplementary along the same lines and I direct this to Mr Nobbs as Minister for Finance, Minister can you assure this House that when jobs are advertised for a position with the Public Service the advertised criteria actually relate to the job requirements rather than the credentials of an individual who might apply for that position and if you cannot give the House that assurance, will you remove from public employment those that have benefited and any others who have assisted the beneficiary where job criteria has been distorted to suit a particular individual

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker thank you and thank you Mr Christian again. It is another question where I cannot assure the House at this point in time but I will investigate it and report back to Mr Christian but the understanding I have is that the procedures put in place do not allow for what he suggests, if they are operated properly because as you Mr Speaker and I know both being ex Public Servants in the old days that was one of the tricks of the trade but the procedure has been put in place and hopefully it doesn't occur under the arrangements we have with Administration but I will definitely investigate it and report back if that are any anomalies

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I direct the next question to Mr Brown as Minister for Education, Minister are you aware that a dispute has developed between Administration and teachers who leave at the end of this year over relocation allowances and if you are aware, what do you intend to do to resolve the

dispute and if the Administration position is not defensible, will you call those responsible to account

MR BROWN Mr Speaker I became aware of a difficulty yesterday when it was brought to my attention by the headmaster. The Secretary to Government has provided me with a briefing in relation to the issue. The files on the matter are quite thick and I am in the process of reviewing those. In the event that there is a contractual obligation with teachers who are leaving this year, then there is no doubt that we are bound to comply with our contractual obligations. As for the last part of the question, the response to that will need to await completion of my investigations but Members can be assured that it will not be my policy to allow such situations to occur, thank you

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I direct this to Mrs Jack as Minister for the Environment with responsibility for land management. Minister can you advise whether the Barkman properties have been withdrawn from sale and whether the cause of the withdrawal from sale has been the discovery of significant levels of chemical contamination within the soil

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, Mr Christian I'm aware that there has been a chemical and insecticide located on the Barkman estate. The insecticide is deildrin. I've been informed somewhat contrary to what you imply that the amounts taken in soil testing have been of a level not dangerous to health. This is obviously quite different to your implication and so rest assured I will investigate this matter as soon as I can and get the results back to you and if the situation occurs where that property which is currently up for tender will bring that into doubt I will take the appropriate steps

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I've quite a few questions but firstly to the Minister for Immigration, Mr John Brown. I've four questions here so I'll just ask the first one then continue on. Are there any loopholes in the Norfolk Island Immigration Act which allows persons to be granted permits to reside on the island contrary to Australian Immigration requirements. If there are loopholes, are these being urgently addressed and if not, why not

MR BROWN Mr Speaker I certainly have no intention of allowing Norfolk Island to become a back door for entry into Australia. Similarly I have no intention of allowing the quality of education at our school to suffer as a result of teachers having to divert their attention to new students who might require inordinate amounts of their time. I am presently considering ways to charge the parents of such children for the whole of any abnormal costs which might be incurred at the school as a result of such children attending the school if their attendance is approved. The matter that Mr Sheridan has raised is the subject of current review and as soon as that review has been completed I will bring its results to the attention of the House

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a supplementary. Is it a requirement of the Norfolk Island Immigration Act that persons wishing to gain permits to reside on the island by way of purchasing a business must prove that the proposed business can support the equivalent number of persons wishing to be granted permits. If so, is this issue being urgently addressed and if not, why not

MR BROWN Mr Speaker it is probably not a requirement of the Act that a business be shown to be viable in a sufficient way to support the number of applicants who may apply to come to the island to own and operate the business. The viability question is a policy question which is addressed in our Policy and Guidelines booklet and which is addressed by the Immigration Officer, the Immigration committee and the Executive Member before an application is approved. I can't speak for the way it has been addressed in previous times but Members can be assured that I will require either a business to be shown to be viable in terms of the number of applicants for

permits by reputable external verification of fact or alternatively as has been the policy for some time, I will need to be satisfied that there is a business plan and sufficient funding available to turn that business into a viable business in terms of the number of applicants. It's been a two pronged situation for some time but I shan't be ignoring those requirements

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker just a follow on from that. Is it a requirement of the Norfolk Island Immigration Act that persons requiring permits to reside on the island needs to pass a general written or oral English examination and if not is this requirement being addressed and if not, why not

MR BROWN Mr Speaker a number of amendments to our legislation are required in this regard. It is not realistic to take a view that we must process absolutely every application that we might receive from anywhere in the world. Other countries don't do it, we are not obliged to do it but we need to bring about certain changes to our legislation to ensure that it cannot be suggested that we have a responsibility to do that. Obviously fluency in the English language is critical in a jurisdiction such as Norfolk Island. We do not have English language schools available for people to tend to learn the English language, we do not have interpreters available within the community, we do not have any of the facilities available which you would require in another jurisdiction before you could comfortably accept people from countries where the English language is not spoken. Mr Sheridan can be assured that this matter will be promptly addressed if it is not adequately covered in our legislation Policy and Guidelines at this stage

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I think Mr Brown has already alerted us to the final question that I have for him. Is there a current Immigration booklet, brochure available at present and if so, is it the intention of the Legislative Assembly to provide the community by way of a mail out a copy of this booklet or brochure

MR BROWN Mr Speaker there is a booklet which is available from the Immigration Office, so that would be the first part of my response to the question. The second part of my response is certainly additional copies of the booklet could be printed. I've not looked at the cost of that nor have I looked at the feasibility of attempting to distribute it as widely as Mr Sheridan has suggested but I expect that the third part of my response will be to suggest that the Policy and Guidelines booklet may be available on the Administration's internet site. I'm not certain of that and I will check that and I will let Mr Sheridan know if it is there. If it's not there I'll see whether it can be put there because that might be a simple way for people to access its contents

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a question for the Minister for the Environment. Could the Minister undertake to ensure that a comprehensive review and report be conducted on the sewage treatment scheme with a view of identifying problems if any and recommendations for rectifying these problems if any, especially in the area of raw sewage being pumped straight into the sea, raw sewage seeping onto public/private land and the treatment plant itself with regard to the maintenance of it, in particular the roof over the pool and the cleansing out of the pool

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, Mr Sheridan, a few issues there but Mr Sheridan refers to problems that may have occurred with raw sewage being inadvertently leaked onto public land. There was a situation which I believe did occur on Melbourne Cup day. A fitting end to some people's bets I suppose. But the problem was solved. The person responsible for that, it was a tree root blocking the drain and the person responsible for its removal was in fact at a Melbourne Cup function but the matter was resolved and I have asked that a review take place of ensuring that the proper repairs and maintenance to these pipes occur before rather than after any problems arise. As to doing a report on the whole of the sewerage scheme, I believe that the Water Assurance Scheme plant is nearing the end of its shelf life so to speak and

may well be due for a review to make sure that any further capital expense is well spent so that any population increases, changes that may be made to the zoning arrangements, that all these issues can be catered for, that normal repairs and maintenance are carried out and I don't see any problem with trying to get the Administration or those relevant bodies necessary to implement such a report and I will endeavour to do so

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I've got five questions for the Minister for Broadcasting and Minister for Telecommunications, Mr Ron Nobbs

SPEAKER Yes if you have a number of questions, just let me see if there are any others who would wish to participate in Questions Without Notice at this time. Are there any further questions without notice around the table Honourable Members

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker the first question for the Minister. Can the Minister advise what is any training is put in place for the radio announcers

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker, thank you Mr Sheridan for these questions. I understand there are four others coming on the same subject so I'll just if I may Mr Speaker make a brief statement. The Radio Station is run by a manger of course but it is also run under the Norfolk Island Broadcasting Authority. The Broadcasting Authority has a Board which has from memory I think five Members. Currently there are two Members, that's all that's been appointed and it is the intention that we will fill the remaining vacancies on that board at the December Legislative Assembly meeting. As it's a statutory board Membership needs to be passed by the Legislative Assembly so that's the broad outline of what's happening at the radio station at the present time. As far as training is concerned, I know that there is an ongoing programme of training and one guy that I can recall coming over here on several occasions when he was here with the Country Music Festival was an ABC Announcer and Trainer John Nutting, and I can recall him undertaking sessions with the broadcasting people every time he came over here, and he was actually here from memory about two months ago, not related to the Country Music Festival and I heard him at the station and I understand that he undertook a fairly extensive training programme at the time but as far as I'm aware and I will follow it up because it's obviously in my area, but I haven't had a chance to visit the station as yet but I'll follow it up and if there's anything that can be done in that area I will ensure that it's done

MR SHERIDAN Just a follow on there Mr Nobbs. We are now hearing songs with bad language in the lyrics. Can the Minister direct the Station Manager to ban these songs from airplay as this has currently been the practice in the past

MR NOBBS Yes there is a policy in place in relation to bad language and I understand that they don't play them. There is a slight problem that the radio station takes broadcast from other areas and I really will need to check as to what powers we have in relation to those areas. I think there's an outfit called Spirit FM that broadcasts I think out of Western Australia from memory and that comes on when we haven't local broadcasting so I'll check as to the impact of those programmes but we do have a policy in place and I understand that it's being followed

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker again to Mr Nobbs. How many radio staff Members are currently being paid as announcers and how many are voluntary

MR NOBBS I'll have to take the exact number on board and advise Mr Sheridan what the exact number are, but I understand that its normal working hours that broadcasters are paid but outside that they are volunteers except for a limited period on the weekend but I'll have to clarify the exact number and get it to him. I

understand there's about two dozen announcers who are actually operating at the station over a variety of time slots

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker also to Mr Nobbs. Can he advise why the radio is sounding like an offshore radio station with lots of commercials and advertising

MR NOBBS thank you Mr Sheridan, well as the Minister for Finance may I say that I thank them for conducting a sponsorship program which does get in some funding otherwise we would be paying it through our taxes so I believe, and it's up to the Legislative Assembly to change this view, but I believe personally that the more sponsorship we can gain for the Radio Station the better and if people are prepared to support it well that's great because it saves the public purse somewhat. The question of why its sounding like an offshore radio station again, might be as I mentioned before, there are times when the station takes outside Norfolk stations and rebroadcasts, and maybe that's confusing people. It may be that it's actually an offshore radio station broadcasting and we are just rebroadcasting it

MR SHERIDAN Finally the last of these questions, could the Minister advise what hours does the manager at the radio station actually work

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker thank you. The Radio Manager is an employee of the Administration. He or she, depending on who's running it, would be required to work the seven and a half hours per fortnight of a normal Administration employee. I know that the current manager works well past the seven and a half hours per fortnight and he does have to fill in at odd times outside what you would expect is the normal working hours of a manager and without additional pay, thank you

SPEAKER Any further questions without notice Honourable Members? Then we have concluded questions without notice and we move to Presentation of Papers because there are no answers to questions on notice today

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker although there is no formal requirement as far as I'm aware of for the tabling of the Inbound passenger statistics over the last number of years I note that previous Members for Tourism have made a point at each monthly meeting of the Legislative Assembly to table those statistics and it is my intention to continue with that practice to ensure that those statistics are made publicly available for consideration in general and certainly for the purpose of Members consideration at this time with the tabling of that document so if there is debate or suggestions or concerns or criticisms that they wish to raise it is an opportune time for them to be able to do that. In looking at the Inbound Passenger Statistics for the month of October 2004 and casting my eye back over the Inbound Passenger Statistics for this financial year, in other words the last four months, there is concern on my behalf and I am aware of concern from Members and others in the community about what appears to be a significant decline in the number of visitors to Norfolk Island on a percentage basis. I think at the end of October from the information that I have to hand it indicates that there's been a general decline of some 21% on the number of visitors from Australia. That is of particular concern to me as a new incoming Minister into the Tourism portfolio and I will be doing my very best, certainly I believe that the industry will be doing their very best over the coming months to ensure that we reverse that trend and get it back to a stable footing. In saying that and referring to the numbers coming out of Australia I need to point out that it's a contrary situation in New Zealand. The increase in numbers of visitors out of New Zealand is I think up some 80% or thereabouts for the same period which is encouraging however, when you combine them, there still is a net decrease in the number of visitors to Norfolk Island and as I've said I'll be working

closely with the Assembly and the industry as a whole. I've already entered into a number of discussions with the industry to try and get a feel for where we are going, the reasons for the decline so that we are able to put in place the necessary strategies to reverse that trend. In doing that, I table that document Mr Speaker

MR J BROWN

Mr Speaker I move that the Paper be noted

SPEAKER

The question is that the Paper be noted

MR J BROWN

Mr Speaker I would like to commend the Chief Minister on the prompt attention which he has given to the tourism part of his portfolio. He has recognized the substantial decline in visitor numbers from Australia. He has recognized that there has been an increase from New Zealand and he has begun to look at the reasons for that and he is well aware that a large part of the reason is that from New Zealand there have been some very cheap fares in recent months as a result of a second airline beginning to operate on the New Zealand route. Hopefully that fare initiative will result in a continuation of the climb in visitor numbers but I'm quite comfortable that the Chief Minister will monitor that and if it turns out that it is only the cheap fares that attracted the numbers and that the numbers fall back once the cheap fares end, then that is an extra problem that the Chief Minister will need to address but I just want to commend him on the early attention that he's giving to that part of his portfolio

MR SPEAKER

Thank you Mr Brown. Further debate. The question is that the Paper be noted.

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker I have three papers. The first relates to the virements of funds which I'm required to table in the House. The virements of funds is actually the moving of funds from one vote to another within a cost centre, as you are aware, Mr Speaker. These funds were for forestry, welfare and the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly 25th Anniversary Celebrations and they were approved by my predecessor, Mr Donaldson and I table those

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker the second papers I table is the Revenue Fund monthly Financial indicators for October 2004 which have been circulated to Members and I table those and I move that the Paper be noted

SPEAKER

The question is that the Paper be noted

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker the Revenue Fund Indicator report is based on accrual accounting principals, and accruals of substantial revenue such as customs duty, FIL, Accommodation levy, telecom, funds transfer, postal funds transfer, fuel levy, have been included although on an estimated assessment based on historical records. The indicator is based on the original budget effective at the 1st July 2004 however, it should be noted that the budgeted transfer of funds at \$1.2m in 2005 from Norfolk Telecom is in fact, doubtful. These indicators include 33% pro rata, of the \$1.2m. In addition it appears that budgeted income collected from other sources will also need to be reduced by about \$204,000, the actual amounts to be considered and determined at the budget review which will be undertaken next month. There are also authorized virements which we've seen and are carried forward from the 2003/2004 budget of some \$9seven,000 in appropriations. In relation to the income at best it can be determined at the 31 October 2004, is that the Revenue Funds overall income is 9six% of the budget, that is, some \$19six,000 short. Customs duty is \$34,000 ahead of budget but earnings collectively from other income categories is \$230,000 under budget. Land title fees are \$12seven,000 behind, FIL \$28,000 behind and departure fees \$31,000 behind. When I

say behind, I mean behind the estimated budgeted figures. Expenditure overall which includes known creditors and outstanding auditors raised in 2004/2005 is at the end of October on a pro rata basis about 13% which equates to some \$5093 under budget. At the 31st October 2004 the overall revenue fund budget is in surplus by some \$281,000 but I just draw Members attention to the reservations about the \$1.2m which I mentioned earlier, which is to be received from Telecom. I'll explain that very quickly, that in the last financial year \$1.9m was taken from Telecom whereas the normal figure would be \$1.2m so there is a bit of a cash shortage in that area at the moment

MR SPEAKER
The question is that the Paper be noted.

Thank you Mr Nobbs. Further debate. The

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR NOBBS
Mr Speaker section 2(b)(92) of the Customs Act 1913 makes provision for the executive Member to exempt goods from duty where the duty payable is less than \$200. Section 2(b)(5) of the Act provides that where the executive member has exercised his power he shall lay a copy of the exemption on the table of the Legislative Assembly. I so table those exemptions which were approved by the previous Minister for Finance. The exemptions include the sum of \$24 for the importation of emergency telephones for the use by senior citizens by the Norfolk Island Lions Club. I understand this is a trial for a bigger project which the Lions Club intend to follow up. The sum of \$27.65 on the importation of equestrian award ribbons by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, the sum of \$58.20 on the importation of trophies by the Norfolk Island Junior Rugby League, the sum of \$118.07 on the importation of wire rope by the Norfolk Island Fishing Club

MR GARDNER
Mr Speaker I table, for want of better words, the Administrative Orders for the 11th Assembly and move that Paper be noted

SPEAKER
The question is that the Paper be noted

MR GARDNER
Mr Speaker I am referring to the Administrative Orders. They are simply a one page chart that identifies the various players in the Legislative Assembly and the role that they fill including your role as the Speaker, Mr Tim Brown's role as Deputy Speaker and the four executive Members areas of responsibility and their portfolio responsibilities. Even though it is not entirely a new concept there has been added to this Orders paper a listing of the Members assisting in each of the portfolio areas and that will appear on this. I also need to draw Members attention to the fact that history has shown that over many Assembly's there have been reasons at times for areas of responsibilities to move between Ministers and in fact even from time to time Ministers names have changed on the top of the paper but it is a general guide that is available and proposed to be gazetted so that people who have particular queries or questions of the Government know in which area they should direct those questions and queries, bearing in mind all the time, that each and every executive Member has equal authority in matters of Government business, however for administrative ease they are split in the fashion that we have split them and it is important that, that information be provided to the community and hence the reasons for tabling it today thank you

MR SPEAKER
The question is that the Paper be noted.

Thank you. Further debate. The question is

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

STATEMENTS OF AN OFFICIAL NATURE

MR J BROWN Mr Speaker I wish to make a statement about Immigration. At an early date Mr Speaker I intend to introduce a Bill to amend the Immigration Act in order to provide that before applying for a General Entry Permit a person must either have lived in Norfolk Island for five years on a Temporary Entry Permit, or be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident. I propose that those amendments will be made retrospective to today including any application which has been lodged but not approved at this stage. I intend to also review the application fees for General Entry Permits so as to ensure that they are sufficient to cover the actual cost of processing the applications, thank you Mr Speaker

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I wish to make a statement to clarify the Road Traffic Amendment Act 2004. The Act to amend the existing Road Traffic Act was passed and assented to late in the life of the last Assembly. However, whilst it was assented to, the only parts commenced were the title and the ability to fix a commencement of the remaining parts by notice in the gazette. Put simply provisions of the Act as they relate to mobile phones, seat belts, helmets, riding on trucks etc were not commenced. As a consequence it was left to the present Assembly to make a decision on commencement. As a consequence of there being three motions on the Notice Paper relating to certain issues within the amended Act, it is intended to await the outcome of these motions before any decision is taken as to commencement of the remainder of the Act. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker as Members would be aware and I think the listening public would be aware from the various radio talks I've done early in the life of this Assembly, this Assembly took the step of ensuring that we let the public know at an early point what we considered to be our priorities as the 11th Legislative Assembly and those matters that we will be turning our attention to initially in this Legislative Assembly. We have developed following a call to Members and obviously from a list of matters that the 10th Legislative Assembly were dealing with, put together a list that contained twelve points or major areas of priority. There's not a great deal of detail which attaches to each of those points which I proposed to table in the paper today, other than to say that I would certainly hope that my executive colleagues will enter into discussion on the statement today and certainly I would encourage other Members of the Legislative Assembly to provide their views up front in relation to the list that has been developed. Mr Speaker those twelve points if I could run through them and maybe make some initial comment on each of those before looking to Members for their input. The list begins with the maintenance and strengthening of self government and this list is in no particular order of priority. I think I need to emphasise that but obviously the maintenance and strengthening of self Government is what we are here about and the reason that the Legislative Assembly exists. There is a very clear feel within the community that there is a wish to maintain the status quo in other words, to continue the path that we are headed down with self Government, that we need to measure our performance not necessarily by our words but by the actions that we do, in other words our responsible governance actions and how we handle our budget and the level of services that we provide to this community. Mr Speaker there has been in relation to that first item recommendations of the Select Committee of the 10th Legislative Assembly that have talked about issues such as establishing a constitutional convention so that our self Government position is clarified and also such diverse views from that Select Committee Report is the implementation or the encouragement to have a representative based in Canberra on some sort of formal part time basis so that our views if we have difficulties or there are matters that we wish to promote with the Commonwealth we have somebody who is readily available to do that. Now those are matters that the Legislative Assembly as a whole will have to consider as we develop a strategy for putting in place those things but it is important I think firstly to say that we need to maintain and strengthen our self Government arrangements so that we can get on with the job that we are given and do it responsibly and appropriately. The second point is important in that it deals with the development of a 15 year Asset Management

Plan. There has been a tender let for the development of that plan, it is a long term planning term and when I talk about an Asset Management Plan I leave off the list, and from this list of twelve items, things such as the replacement of a new hospital, or the repairs to Cascade Pier or the establishment of a harbour or the replacement of school buildings and things like that, because they have yet to be identified, their useful life span needs to be identified, so that we are in a position to priorities the needs of this community rather than I guess, the hit and miss approach that has been taken in years gone by. That is not to say Mr Speaker that in the development of 15 Asset Management Plan there will not be opportunity that arise, and that in the past examples of those opportunities that have arisen that we are able to step outside of our normal budgetary type processes and strategic planning processes, are for example, the works and the funding provided by the Commonwealth for the stabilization and repairs to Kingston pier, the offers if we decide that we are going to head in an alternative energy direction, the offers of complementary funding for those sorts of things, and also commitments that have been made by previous Governments, commitments to this community where funding will be made available for the development of particular parts of infrastructure and probably the best example of that, that I have to hand today is the development of the Youth Centre so I'm not listing those as individual priorities. They fall under the Asset Management Plan and also tie into the next point which is point 3, the finalization of Revenue and Expenditure Reviews and to implement preferred options, and in brackets I've said after that, that's tied to forward estimates and the Asset Management Plan and importantly the Administration Management Plan. The Administration or the Public Service as we refer to them, are charged with providing us with the necessary advise in relation to those matters and of course linked to that, is the dollars and cents and I guess our Strategic Plan of where we want to go over the next few years. It is vitally important that whatever initiatives we put in place in any of those areas are supported by an appropriate Administration Management Plan so that the resources within the Public Service are directed to achieving those goals and that will take a whole of Government and certainly whole of Assembly approach to achieving those goals and to ensure that, that happens and a partnership between this House and the Public Service. that will provide the necessary focus on the levels of dollars and cents that are required long term. The fourth point is to finalise the land transfer initiative. I think most of us recognize that that is virtually a given, or on the verge of completion but it is important to realize that there have been a number of issues that are raised that slide of the side of the land transfer initiative and that is about the ownership and management of parks and reserves, a whole host of other ideas about our 200 mile zone and the fishing box and things like that. They are all matters that I guess are incidental to, but very important parts of the process that we are going through with the land transfer. In other words, demonstrating that we have in place responsible and appropriate planning measures to ensure that when things for example, like the leasehold land is transferred to freehold that our planning system is in place and robust and strong enough to ensure that we don't lose the values that this community places on land in general on Norfolk Island and I'm sure Mrs Jack will support those comments later on. The fifth point is completing community service reviews and listed under that is the item of the Police Memorandum of Understanding. These are things that need continual revision and updating. I understand we are in the process of that and that has fallen into my portfolio responsibilities in this Government. I'll be pursuing that. The Education Review which is the review of the Memorandum of Understanding which is underway. That's a happening thing and I'm sure Mr Brown will have comments to make on that. That relates to how we operate our education system on Norfolk Island . I think that's about as blunt as I can be about it. Also the finalization of the Social Services Review which has been an ongoing review for quite some time now, but very important because it is an area of our budget that is coming under increasing pressure on an annual basis and something that we need to direct some attention to, to ensure that it continues to provide the necessary level of support to welfare recipients on Norfolk Island but at the same time being conscious of our revenue base and the moneys that we have available in that area. I should apologise to Members, there was one other dot point that should have been included under that which is the maintenance and continuation of efforts to ensure the

delivery of the first class health service which includes things like ensuring that we continue to have available medivacs services for Norfolk Island and also access to specialist services both on island and off island. Again I would hope that Mr Brown would have some words to say in relation to that particular point. The sixth point is the Airport Upgrade completion including the runway and safety area options. That's vitally important I think as we all recognize because without the airport being in first class condition and being in a position to be able to provide a safe and secure surface for the landing of aircraft on the island it puts in jeopardy our whole tourism industry and at the end of the day our tourism industry is what drives all the other points that we have here, so it's important that we continue with that. We are nearing I think the finalization of the tender arrangements. There has been a very valuable suggestion made just in recent days about a committee of the Legislative Assembly being established to review where we are today and maybe I could ask Mr Neville Christian to talk about that later on. But it's important that we review and make sure that the moneys we are spending are being spent appropriately in the right areas and that we are going to reap the maximum benefit from them. The seventh point is the completion of the Administrative and Governance Review matters. This is something that certainly gained a life of its own in the previous Legislative Assembly and has led to calls for more appropriate responsible legislative provisions to be put in place on Norfolk Island for example, in the area of freedom of information, whistle blowers type legislation, the role for an ombudsman in Norfolk Island and certainly the complaints handling procedures across the board. If I can just touch on the complaints handling procedures Mr Speaker, I think it is well known within the Public Service there has been a great deal of work done in the dealing of complaints, in probity, officers have been identified for complaints to be directed, the Legislative Assembly under the initiation of Mrs Jack in the Tenth Legislative Assembly moved to establish under statute a Register of Members Pecuniary Interest and a Code of Conduct for Members that was passed by the 10th Legislative Assembly and is now awaiting assent from the Commonwealth as a reserve matter. I expect and certainly hope that the Commonwealth will see our desire to want to improve our accountability and transparency mechanisms and that is one very important part of that process so a lot of work has been undertaken. I understand a representative of the Ombudsman's Office will be on island next week to work through some of those complaint handling mechanisms with the Public Service and will also be speaking to your good office Mr Speaker in relation to some of the matters that we may encounter as a result of the commencement of the Members Interest legislation and I see these as all being positive responsible good governance measures and they should continue. The eighth point is the completion of a telecommunications strategy and the implementation of recommendations that may flow from the finalization of that strategy. Things that we need to urgently address. We talked about it three or four years ago,. That we have a carrier agreement in place and that won't finish until 200six. Well 200six is almost on our doorstep. These things need some urgent attention being placed on them. They are things that are in place such as the carrier agreement. Such as the ownership of the satellite dish that was partially funded under the networking the Nation arrangement. It will become ours in 200six. Currently it sits on a block of land that we don't own. Consideration needs to be given as to whether we should look to acquiring that block of land and I guess the REACH infrastructure out at Anson Bay but this is all dependent on the outcomes of the strategy, on who is the preferred carrier. Whether that be REACH or somebody else. It also relates to other items of infrastructure as far as telecommunications is concerned and service provision on Norfolk Island and also to deal with the very many and varied challenges that have presented themselves over more recent times such as voice over internet protocols and general internet capacity to be able to I guess work around the edges of our telecommunications infrastructure on Norfolk Island . We need to be a little bit smarter about how we go about doing it to ensure that it continues to provide the necessary services to this Island and the necessary infrastructure and service provision to any new industry initiatives that we may pursue, for example to continue to ensure that we can continue with our gaming initiatives and also at some time, maybe the development of the much talked about finance centre type concept and it's important that should continue. I do note, and it's

important to note Mr Speaker, the Minister for Finance words earlier this morning in relation to the perceived cash shortage within the telecommunications areas, that is a challenge in itself if we are looking at the acquisition of property and further infrastructure and upgrades in the long term. Again this relates to the Asset Management Plan and the development of that and the urgency for that to be completed. The ninth point is the resolution of crushing, quarrying problems and to settle and industry policy. I think we've talked about the national importance of the crushing industry because things like the construction industry, our roads system, our airport overlay all those things spin off the ability to be able to quarry and crush rock on Norfolk Island. Rather than just say the words I think its important that we do recognize the importance of it in a firm Government policy is put in place to ensure we can put in place the appropriative measures to ensure those practices can continue on Norfolk Island and we are not faced or burdened with the excessive costs of the importation of material into Norfolk Island and of course its related quarantine issues and concerns with the importation of material. It is vital that it be resolved. It's been going on long enough and I believe with a combination of Mrs Jack's proposed legislation, and I don't mean to pre-empt discussion on that this morning, but with a combination of that and certainly the robustness of our Planning regime that we have in place, I think that we can resolve that and sooner rather than later. The tenth point is tourism industry support to be strengthened to ensure Unity 2005 targets are met as a minimum. I think over recent months it's certainly become very clear to me that the ideal would be to meet those targets of Unity 2005 I think from the symposium's that have been held on island in recent times there is not the desire to massively increase that target in any form or fashion. There is debate about the numbers that we get now and Mr Brown and have had discussions about that and I know that the Membership of the Legislative Assembly are aware about the bednight statistics that we are provided with, that there may be a fairly significant error of some 10% or thereabouts in those figures. We need to come to grips with that. We need to ensure that the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau are provided with the necessary information to develop their long term strategy and their more short term punchy marketing strategies into the future by providing them with the correct information by ensuring that we are in a position to provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure that our population policies support and go hand in hand with any policies that we have for the long term tourism industry on Norfolk Island but I believe strongly that those targets will sustain our current populations levels at a level that we have become accustomed to and necessarily provide us with the support and revenue necessary to provide all the services that we as a community look forward to. The eleventh point is the completion of the Immigration Review and to adopt the population policy. I made brief mention of that in the previous point. Mr Brown has this morning already given us some notice of some amendments that he is keen to pursue in relation to our Immigration Legislation. They are generally supported by the advisings that have been provided in more recent months in relation to a number of matters and also I believe are supported by the general review that was undertaken I think in about 2002 with the general review of the Immigration Department and other legislative amendments that need to fall off that review. It's important to point out that the 10th Legislative Assembly also took a step that was unanimously supported by that Legislative Assembly to repatriate I guess the appeals mechanisms to Norfolk Island. That is legislation that I said, was unanimously supported by the 10th Legislative Assembly. It is another matter that is awaiting assent from the Commonwealth but I believe has had broad ranging support from a number of Departments and certainly a number of different Ministers that I've had the opportunity to discuss the matter with. It's really just the matter now of clicking it into place to ensure that everybody is comfortable as we are aware, Immigration is a schedule 3 matter, and that they meet best practice standards for those appeal mechanisms and if I can relate back to the point seven, the Administrative Review and Governance Review, I see that that as a strengthening of our on island roles generally across the board through our Administrative Review Tribunal and if it requires, as our legislation as was passed by the 10th Legislative Assembly indicates, the participation for a period of time if somebody from the Migration Review Tribunal in Australia is a Member specifically for the purpose of Immigration Reviews under our Administrative Review Tribunal legislation so be it, we then are given a great

opportunity to demonstrate that we can manage those things responsibly and appropriately and therefore I would see that maybe in the future, and maybe through Mr Brown's amendments, that there be some sort of sunset clause attached to that type of arrangement in the future so that it becomes an entirely island based review mechanism. The final point on the list, item twelve, is committing to and commencing a long term roads programme. I would think that most Members of the Legislative Assembly and many people on the island and certainly a great deal of the visitors to the island recognize the problems that potholes on the road have caused. It is a very tight net of complexities that are set around our roads, and the strategy that Mr Nobbs is attempting to put in place to overcome those problems, they relate to matters such as ownership, those that Norfolk Island own, those that the Commonwealth own, these are all matters that need consideration as far as transfer ownership, at what level they are going to be maintained to before any transfers might take place. A lot of arguments, a lot of consideration will need to be given to those matters by the Legislative Assembly but importantly this relates back to crushing, again this relates to the mechanisms that Mrs Jack is looking to introduce later on today so that we can improve our roads so that the Minister with the revenue that's been budgeted for the purposes of expending on roads is able to be expended in this financial year and that a long term forward programme is put in place that hopefully will provide a significant upgrade into our roads network on Norfolk Island for the benefit of everybody who lives on the Island and I would certainly hope that Mr Nobbs may have some comment in relation to that later. Mr Speaker its important in conclusion to point out that this is a document of the Legislative Assembly. It is hoped it will be agreed to and supported by the entire membership and not as I think you said Mr Speaker in your paper to me in relation to what you saw as your priorities, not a wish list of individual Ministers but something that is supported roundly, solidly by Members of the Legislative Assembly. That is not to say that this list doesn't prevent the development of other matters including policy development in each Members area of responsibility and there I refer to things like the development of a primary industries policy. Those are seen as being very important. I know Mrs Jack has a passion for that and I think that is supported by the Members of Government and the Legislative Assembly as a whole. Those things will still continue. The want to see a commerce policy developed. Those things will still continue and things like training within the public service. We were talking about the radio broadcasting earlier today and Mr Nobbs was making mention of that as the responsible Minister for Broadcasting. Those are important areas where we can provide training and support and apprenticeships across the board. Other issues that are of importance to the community, other issues that are of importance to the individual members and we will pursue them with vigor in this Assembly to ensure that those things do happen. In closing it is important, imperative, that the priorities list that I've tabled today be linked to the asset management plan, to the revenue review and expenditure reviews, to the forward estimates and be incorporated in the Administration's management plan if we are going to successfully deliver those initial items on this list in the term of the Legislative Assembly. I would certainly hope that the items on this list will significantly change over the next three year period and that we are in a position to have in place a list of twelve responsible priorities that we can recommend to the twelfth Legislative Assembly

MR BROWN
the Chief Minister

Mr Speaker I would like to support the words of

SPEAKER
the Statement that you have made be noted

Yes. Chief Minister would you like to move that

MR GARDNER

Mr Speaker I so move

MR BROWN
the Chief Minister. It is clearly important that we show that we do have a list of immediate priorities and it is clearly important that we go about working on that list of priorities and don't get sidetracked by other issues, in particular, I hope that we will not

have to be sidetracked by more interference by Commonwealth committees. There have been far too much of that in the past. It's time they sat back for a while and let Norfolk Island get on with it. A few of the areas mentioned by the Chief Minister come within my portfolio responsibilities and I want to make a brief comment about one of them today and that is in the healthcare area. For some years now as a result of a statement made in the House by a previous executive member the Norfolk Island Government has picked up the whole of the cost of medical evacuations. I wish to state today that, that policy is changing as from today. As from today it will only be in the most exceptional of circumstances that Norfolk Island would fund the cost of a visitors evacuation. If I am a visitor in Australia there is no way that the Australian Government is going to put on an aircraft to fly me back to Norfolk Island. Nor will the New Zealand Government do so or any other Government do so and it is time that we put that responsibility on the Governments of the countries in which visitors reside. That is how it occurs elsewhere in the world and that's how it must occur here. In terms of evacuations for residents, there will be a prompt examination as to whether or not there is a need for a system of co-payment. Perhaps a means based system so that if a resident is to be flown out or wishes to be flown out they will contribute towards the cost of that. There will be more emphasis on evacuation by scheduled air services rather than charter flights and I have commenced discussions with a possible insurer to possibly cover the cost for all residents and perhaps all visitors of such flights and that discussion includes discussions with a potential source of impartial professional advice as to the appropriate means of evacuation for any particular patient. Now I'm talking there of one of the companies that provides that service to the travel insurance companies now. There are a number of them with whom I intend to speak, but at this stage my initial discussions are with one and I am hopeful that we will develop within the space of just a few months a meaningful and comprehensive policy on the cost of medical evacuations and how they should be managed, thank you

MRS JACK

Mr Speaker, I too reiterate Mr Brown's words and agree with much that the Chief Minister has already spoken about with regard to this list. There are just a couple of areas that I would like to cover. The maintenance and strengthening of self Government, I think what must be stressed is that we are not after independence at all but after a strengthening of our self Government position, of reinforcing the way we approach the subject when explaining self Government to others and of course the way our self Government position is viewed not only by the Commonwealth but by each state and territory within Australia because our position is a unique one and we cannot let there be a threat of any normalization process start to take hold so that fact came up a couple of times in the last Legislative Assembly and I would like to stress that again. An issue in point two with the Asset Management Plan, the Waste Management Centre comes under my portfolio and it's a new asset to the island, one that certainly has a long way to go in its full involvement and participation by the community. It's one that the community can assist in increasing the value of that asset in the way they assist in the sorting of waste management, the way we use the green waste and the other assets, capital items that have to be brought to make that waste management centre more effective, but it's a double edged asset for the community and for the Asset Management plan and it just needs continuing assistance by the community and I'm sure it will get it. The glass crusher will also be looked at in the same waste management centre operation. We can lessen our demand on sand by purchase of a glass crusher. This would help the electricity, lay cables and take the stress of using sand from cemetery. Another area I would like to comment on is the Social Service reviews and having been a Member of the Social Service Board I can only stress to Mr Brown the Minister there the need for a full Social Service review. It's a high cost item and certainly needs completion. Moving down to point nine, the crushing and quarrying aspect, well Members realize and I think the public realize that I have proposal for the last issue on the program today. It's an interim measure but I agree with what the Chief Minister said, that we must settle this and get some consistency to the community. The Population Policy on point eleven effects planning which is in my portfolio, it effects water management and other infrastructure management, and we need to get a firm

policy in place to make allowances for the long term effects of population growth on Norfolk Island. That's just a very very broad response to the Chief Minister and I look forward to hearing other Members comments

MR CHRISTIAN

Thank you Mr Speaker, earlier in his statement the Chief Minister during his comments on the airport upgrade project indicated that I might like to add some words to what he had said and he indicated that a working group of Assembly Members would be set up to not so much review the tender process, because that's already in place, but to assist Members with coming to grips with the enormity of the task before us and to allow them to feel comfortable with the proposed solutions. I suggested at last week's meeting of Members and the Minister for Finance has indicated his support, as has most other Members, and what I would like to do here is to set up a committee that comprises Minister for Finance, myself and other Members of the community who have first hand knowledge of the operation of airports in general. The sorts of things we would toss around are the things that cause me personal concern and they are, how did the consultants get the costs so wrong. I have a view that if they had indicated to the Membership of the last Legislative Assembly that they would be looking at finding \$10-12m for an airport upgrade that the Members would have thought things through possibly a little differently so I would like to try and get to the bottom on that. Why are we looking at cost estimates or tender prices now that are twice the cost estimates. I would like us to learn a bit from history. Some of us sitting around this table were here when we looked at the airport upgrade in 1992 and we sought the views of the airlines that were flying to the island at the time on what level we needed to upgrade the strip to and relied on that information but we went beyond what they gave us. We thought and we've been shown to have been correct that we have to plan for tomorrow not just for today because you only get the opportunity once every ten or twelve years to do this airport upgrade work and our remoteness adds greatly to that cost so you can't be coming back five years into the life of an upgrade looking at having to fix something you overlooked. So it's important that we get it right and what I'm proposing is that we call on all our resources that we have in Administration and complement that with input from the wider community so that we can cover all aspects, and that's all I have to say on the matter thank you Mr Speaker

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker thank you. I think the Chief Minister has covered most of what I'm was going to say but that's fine. He did a good job and I agree with what he said. Of the twelve points in the list five are directly related to the Finance area and the others have indirect implications as well therefore in this area we have an interest in the whole package so to speak. The Asset Management is the first of the five and as the Chief Minister said, the previous Government initiated a tender. This tendering process has not as yet been completed. The majority of the Governments physical assets are located within the Government Business Enterprises Telecom, electricity etc. These are government business and should be run as business's, but are not at the present time although there seems to have been some partial attempt when they were established, to operate them as a business. Their budgets are not required to be part of the formal Assembly Budget process. GBE Budgets are not normally dissected, even informally, by the Members and the responsible Minister has significant powers. I just assumed that when the GBE concept was established there was an intention for them to run on business lines but somewhere along the way they have been swamped by the bureaucrats and I believe they should be run as a business, that the shareholders are the community and they should have a significant input, probably through the Minister responsible I guess, but that's an issue we have to work through. There are a lot of negatives around at the moment in relation to privatisation. This is not privatisation. This is retaining the assets and businesses within the community's control whereas privatisation is selling them off. That's my view and it's up to the Legislative Assembly to say at a later date what their particular views are. Bearing in mind I've only been here for less than two weeks. If they were run as a business, we would then have funds available to cover such things as asset replacement because as you know Mr Speaker, what's happened in the past is we

scrounge around for funds to pay for say, a new generator or some other essential asset whilst the proposed method may have a short term negative effect on the Revenue Fund Budget. The existing process has a really long term effect with sudden grabs for usually large sums to urgently fund replacement of assets. The second point mentioned for my area is the finalisation of the revenue and expenditure review. This is actually ongoing. But I fully understand what the Chief Minister said and we have to finish the thing sometime I guess, but that review has to be seen as ongoing. I personally, have always believed, because I'm a simple soul, that you look at things in order. First you look at essential actual expenditure at present and regardless of what people think within the Administration there's a considerable segment of the budget which is essential expenditure. Now we need to look at that first and then go on to look at how we are going to fund it. And I'm thinking then, that essential means different things to different people. I think particularly people working in a particular area, they think it's essential for this, or essential for that, but what the community considers essential is what we should be considering. Once we've worked through that, I think it's then a process then of working through the remainder and trying to fund that and then looking after that at what I call, being an ex public servant, the wish list process and maybe looking at funding that if there are sufficient funds and the community are prepared to fund that type of activity and I just say briefly although it has some fairly different connotations to different people, raising revenue need not always be by increasing taxes. I believe if we can ensure expenditure is justified and where it is going the majority of the community will accept reasonable increases. Particularly for special projects. Although the FIL has dented peoples confidence a bit in that area but FIL is something we must do something about and fairly soon. The Airport is an essential part of the islands infrastructure. The proposed overlay which has been around for a few years now, bearing in mind that four years ago it was urgent and had to be done within twelve months. It's a huge project by Norfolk's standards. No contract has been let but the estimated costs are extremely high. It must proceed, it must be done properly, and it must have the communities involvement and blessing. To assist in achieving those three objectives. Mr Christian has mentioned establishing a working group. I se tek et staat. It will comprise Mr Christian and myself, airport management, admin staff and outsiders involved in the project, but most importantly members from the community and they have yet to be selected. Community members will have known expertise and are able to assist in disseminating information to and receiving comment from the community, and that's where that proposal lays at this stage. There are issues of probity as far as dealing with the tender of such magnitude, but that is something that will be worked through and I can assure the community that there will be no underhand stuff going on if they think that maybe that's the caper, because it aint! What we are doing is we want input and we need the blessing of the community to get this thing going, because as has been said in the last Assembly a \$12m project is a huge project by Norfolk Island's standards and that's the estimate that's been put on it. Telecommunication Strategy is an issue of major importance to the Island as the Chief Minister said. Telecom provides not only a service, and a good one at that I accept that, but also, due to the current fee arrangements, and I've a bit of doubt about this after what I said this morning, some 10% of the Revenue Fund normally comes from Telecom. Telecom falls within the Asset Management Tender but also, as the Chief Minister stated, a tender has been called for advise and what may be the way ahead for Norfolk's telecommunication. I am really concerned that there appears to have been no action in relation to the carrier agreement with REACH which has less than two years to run. Decisions and action is required fairly quickly. Just a quick concern I have is in the trunking system. It was running into problems several years ago and remedies were to be put in place and this needs some urgent attention. The final point is the Road Program. I guess people will say, well where do we start and where do we finish. I think It is essential this government puts in place an achievable road program, then progresses it with some vigour and encourages future Assemblies to follow. It won't be done in the time of one Assembly and I think the basis of such encouragement is showing future Assemblies the way. I hope that the proposal to be dealt with later in the day will allow rock to be available. This would allow the commencement of a roading program. There are a couple of constraints which will need

to be addressed in relation to roading. There will be a need to ensure the roads guys can concentrate on the program; Their being required to do sundry other jobs is not helpful. There will be a need for close co-operation between the roads workers and the public. The public will be put out but only in the overall interest of the job. I don't know whether the community is aware, although the Chief Minister made mention of it earlier, but I didn't until the last few days that the title to all the Islands roads except from memory Mitchell's lane and the village road, are held by the Commonwealth of Australia or by private individuals. The title to all the main roads is held by the Commonwealth. I don't see this as a huge constraint but it does raise certain questions. One of this is where responsibilities actually lie. Discussions have recommenced with the Commonwealth in relation to the roading issue. Another constraint here is weather and in my personal opinion, winter should not be counted as a time for construction work. Any lengthy dry periods in winter should only be classified as a bonus. Mr Speaker as I said earlier the other issues on the Chief Ministers list have financial implications so are indirectly of interest. My final point is that whilst there are only five points in my direct area the next step is to break each of those twelve points down into actions. Members will then see how much needs to be done

SPEAKER
to you that the Statement be noted.

Is there further debate? Then I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The Statement is noted. Are there further Statements this morning Honourable Members

MR NOBBS
Mr Speaker, I have a couple of Statements here so if anyone else wishes to jump in my voice would like a break. The first is in relation to the Norfolk Island Government Budget. I wish to advise the community I have requested a review of the 2004/05 Budget which is due to be with Assembly members in December. The community should not be alarmed as mid year review is not unusual, except that this one will be dealt with earlier than in the immediate past. The reason for this is that there are a number of issues which require clarification from a budget perspective and they need to be tackled sooner rather than later. Items not currently within the 2004/05 Budget which require inclusion are Medivac Funding and Mr Brown has spoken on that. There's a teachers salary increase which is to commence on 1 January, there are Custodial costs which were not considered at the time of the budget and undoubtedly there will be more coming out of the woodwork. An example is roading, depending on how much metal is available, some funding may be required. There are two outstanding wage claims. The PSA has lodged with the tribunal a claim of 15%. If granted this equates to a significant sum for the 2004/5 year, that's this current year. The Nurses have a wage claim with the Hospital Board at the present time. There is a concern related to revenue where Telecoms dividend in the last financial year was some \$seven00,00 greater than usual taken from Telecom in the last financial year and thus the undertaking is a little cash strapped. Telecom will I understand have difficulty even approaching its normal dividend of \$1.2m in this current year. Whilst the Budget may have a few hiccups they can be worked through, particularly with a bit of good will all round. And I say that again, a good will all round and good luck all aklan, however, there is a need for an adjustment to the Budget prepared and introduced some six months ago and it is important to clear up the issues rather than having them sit around unattended for months. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR NOBBS
Mr Speaker I have a statement on electricity. There has been some concern due to the much publicised fuel price increase that the cost of electricity to the consumer was to rise. Mr Speaker I've heard of big percentage increases. It is not proposed that the electricity tariff will rise during this quarter. The

Electricity undertaking will absorb the fuel price increase for this quarter. The tariff will be reviewed in December - once the fuel costs for the January to April quarter are known. If, and I repeat if, there is to be a variation - it would occur from 1 January 2005. I also wish to advise the community that a long standing loan from the Airport to the Electricity Undertaking was repaid last week. Electricity borrowed the money to assist in the purchase of three generating units a few years ago. I would hope that the proposal to operate government business undertakings more on business lines in the future will see proper consideration of depreciation. This will ensure an undertaking has funds to replace equipment - such as was required to replace those three generators in the electricity undertaking.

SPEAKER Any further Statements Honourable Members?
No. Then we have concluded Statements. There are no Messages from the Office of the Administrator. We move to Notices

APPOINTMENT OF BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I move that this House pursuant to standing order 20 in addition to the Speaker appoints Timothy John Brown; and Ronald Coane Nobbs, to be Members of the Business Committee

SPEAKER Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

MR J BROWN Mr Speaker I move that this House, pursuant to standing order 1seven, in addition to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, appoints Geoffrey Robert Gardner, Ronald Coane Nobbs; and Lorraine Carol Boudan, to be Members of the Standing Orders Committee

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker just briefly if I could. I guess many people listening would wonder what a Standing Orders Committee is. We have I suppose for want of a better word, Rules of the House which are contained in the Standing Orders document. There hasn't been a lot of action in reviewing Standing Orders certainly in my term as a Member of the Legislative Assembly over the last three Legislative Assembly's but it is important to note that with some of the amendments that have been made to various pieces of legislation in the introduction of new legislation in the 10th Legislative Assembly and the passage of that legislation that there will be almost an immediate need to review some of our Standing Orders so that the necessary mechanisms can be put in place to enable committees and certainly the Privileges Committee to be able to respond more appropriately to the provisions of that legislation

SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I move that this House, pursuant to standing order 18, appoints David Ernest Buffett, Geoffrey Robert Gardner, Timothy Sheridan, Neville Christian; and Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack, to be Members of a Committee of Privileges

SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

APPOINTMENT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I move that this House, pursuant to standing order 19, in addition to the Speaker, appoints Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack; and Timothy John Sheridan, to be Members of the House Committee

SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

Honourable Members, is leave granted for our next matter which is one relating to appointments of the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee. Is leave granted? Leave is granted thank you

APPOINTMENT OF THE IMPACT OF BILLS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I move that this House pursuant to Standing Order 20A appoints David Ernest Buffett; Neville Charles Christian; and Timothy John Brown to be members of the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee, and Timothy John Sheridan, as the alternate member

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. Further debate. Honourable Members, will recognize that this is a new committee since the life of the last Assembly. Honourable Members I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

We have now completed the Standing Committees and we now turn to the Statutory Committees

IMMIGRATION ACT 1980 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO THE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE

MR J BROWN Mr Speaker I move that for the purposes of section six(2) and six(4) of the Immigration Act 1980, this House recommends to the executive member that Lorraine Carol Boudan; and Timothy John Sheridan, being

members of the Legislative Assembly, be appointed as Members of the Immigration Committee

SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

HEALTHCARE ACT 1989 – APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE HEALTHCARE CLAIMS COMMITTEE

MR J BROWN Mr Speaker I move that for the purposes of section 22(2) of the Healthcare Act 1989, this House resolves to choose Timothy John Brown, to be a Member of the Claims Committee

SPEAKER Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

Honourable Members, we are at the stage where we need to seek leave for two additional committees under two pieces of legislation. Is leave granted in respect of both of these so that they might proceed accordingly. Leave is granted thank you

SEA INSTALLATIONS ACT 198seven (CLWTH) – NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO BE REPRESENTATIVE

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I move that for the purposes of paragraph (d) of the definition of “representative” in section 4(1), of the Sea Installations Act 198seven of the Commonwealth, this House nominates John Terence Brown to represent Norfolk Island for the purposes of the Act

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker just in explanation. I think the last time that this came up back in the life of the 9th Legislative Assembly I took the opportunity to explain exactly what this appointment was all about. The appointment under Commonwealth legislation provides a mechanism for a representative of a state or territory, in this case, Norfolk Island, and opportunity to discuss with a representative of the Commonwealth the granting renewal, variation, revocation or giving as the case may be, of a permit to operate a sea installation. At that time I think I made reference to oil rigs. This sea installation mechanism doesn't apply to things such as that. It is more related to environmental and scientific research and the structures that are associated with those type of activities. It might be helpful just to outline the objects of the Act as to the reasons for this appointment and I guess the role when it comes to the consultation process that would take place between the Commonwealth and the Norfolk Island representative, and those objects are to ensure that sea installations that are installed in adjacent areas and in the case of Norfolk Island the adjacent areas are out to the 200 mile EEZ zone, are operated with regard to the safety of the people using them and of the people, ships and aircraft near them, secondly to apply appropriate laws in relation to such sea installations and thirdly to ensure that such sea installations are operated in a manner that is consistent with the protection of the environment. I commend Mr Brown's

nomination and certainly hopefully the acceptance of the nomination to be appointed as the Norfolk Island representative to be able to undertake any necessary discussions or consultation with the Commonwealth if ever the need arises for the purpose to install such installations in the water around Norfolk Island

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is so agreed thank you

SOCIAL SERVICES ACT 1980 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE NORFOLK ISLAND SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

MR J BROWN Mr Speaker I move that for the purposes of section 5(1) of the Social Services Act 1980, this House resolves to choose Lorraine Carol Boudan, being a Member of this House, to be a member of the Norfolk Island Social Services Board

SPEAKER Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

Honourable Members, we have concluded our appointments to committees both standing and statutory for this morning, so we are moving on to Notice No seven

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1982 – PROPOSAL TO REPEAL REQUIREMENT FOR CYCLISTS TO WEAR HELMETS

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I move that this House requests the responsible executive member to prepare and introduce as soon as possible a Bill to repeal the provisions in the Road Traffic Act 1982 that require a cyclist to wear helmet

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Brown. The question before us is that this motion be agreed to. Mr Brown

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I've been concerned about these issues. I touched on them in my policy speech. I've deliberately brought them forward today, rather than ask the Draftsman to spend time preparing Bills at this stage. It has been suggested to me that I should ask to adjourn the motions until the next sitting in order to allow for any community comment but before I move to adjourn the motion I will wait to hear any debate by Members

SPEAKER Before you embark on your debate Mrs Jack, may I just point out to Honourable Members, that in Mr Timothy Brown's presentation of that motion he has made his maiden speech in this Legislative Assembly and on your behalf I offer him congratulations

MEMBERS Hear, hear

MRS JACK

Thank you Mr Speaker. I appreciate Mr Tim Brown's offering to adjourn this but I feel that I will just put everything on the table now and save any further debate or my taking up further time with the other two pieces of legislation that Mr Brown is putting forward. Mr Speaker it was an emotive time bringing this legislation in, in the last Legislative Assembly and once in I thought that commonsense would prevail. This motion opens it all up again and I see more emotive times ahead. I'm sure the community is well aware of my views on this motion as well as my views on the other two that Mr Tim Brown is putting forward and I will talk to this and bypass the other two though my vote for all three will be the same and that will be no. Mr Speaker for many of us, the day begins with a walk on Norfolk Island and why? Well we are all told that it is healthy, good for us, gets the old heart pumping, exercise, fresh air, and on Norfolk, early in the morning it really is a social event down here on the waterfront. And when we get home our eating habits have changed as well. We're informed that more fibre, less fat, more good fats, more water lower alcohol intake. All information we listen to because we would want to live longer and live healthier lives. When we go to the beach, hats and sunscreens are the order of the day, why, because we're informed that we live in an area where the harshness of the sun's rays have increased the incidence of skin cancer, and we want to protect ourselves. All this information that we listen to and we take it on board. Why then do we shut out the information that comes to us regarding the three safety issues mentioned here today. I've been given responses to this question of mine and responses have covered some of the following. That's it's a tradition here on Norfolk Island that these issues have always been. Quite frankly I say rubbish. I say it's a tradition born of necessity and today has turned into one of convenience. Another response has been that the personal comfort zone is being threatened. And to some extent that is true. I can point out to people that say it's their personal comfort zone and what right have I to infringe on their zone, I point out that when people travel to Australia or New Zealand they have no problem following the same safety issues that they question here on Norfolk Island and I'm told that Norfolk Island is their home, they've never had to do it, why should they, and they feel that their way of life is under threat. Well Mr Speaker they are right. Their way of life is under threat because if people fail to take this advice, this information, this legislation on board, then the result will be greater risk, greater threat and I for one don't want to stand down at Kingston again feeling that massive outpouring of grief if steps can be taken to avoid it to lessen it. The emotional cost can almost cripple a community. I've mentioned emotional cost and I'll just touch on the financial cost and ask can Norfolk Island afford not to have this legislation. How will the island stand or be viewed by insurance companies, companies that today view everything in terms of risk management. They increase their premiums. So what cost will the public and private sectors be forced to cover. If this motion proceeds then surely we'll be forced to look at capping healthcare and social service payouts in view of what we know, then surely keeping an open ended healthcare scheme would be self defeating. The third issue that people talked to me about is they say it's a personal responsibility. Some view these three issues as being an individual's or parents responsibility and if they choose to ignore safety issues, then whatever outcome they get they deserve. Well I find that pretty harsh sentiment. And the trouble with it is while the outcome of ignoring safety issues may result in a person or a parent having to deal with severe injury or death, it is still the community who pays, pays with all or one with medivacs, intensive care unit costs, hospitalization, counseling, rehabilitation, or bereavement and they pay with healthcare and social service payments. We have tried over the years to say do as I say and not as I do and it's failed. As far as I can see we need legislation. I just want to end with this, that in our Legislative Assembly prayer it ends in the true welfare of the people of Norfolk Island, Amen. Well personally I feel that if these are going to go through I would be defeating that prayer and it's another aspect of why I must say no. I respect Mr Tim Brown and what he's doing. He believes in what he's doing and that's fine but as far as I'm concerned, I can't vote with him, thank you

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker I declare now that I have been given a responsibility for this bit of legislation but my views from the last Legislative Assembly

have not changed. I won't be changing my vote but whatever the Legislative Assembly decides I will do it, and that's what it's all about but I would like to say that I support the thrust of the three motions by Mr Tim Brown, I did in the last Legislative Assembly. I changed in relation to riding on the back of trucks to a proposal that was put up by then Member Mr Rick Robinson because I thought it had a chance of getting there but it didn't in the end, but I feel that there are better ways of doing things. I feel that we could go through with education and get the community on side through co-operation and the like and I spoke at length about it, and I don't intend to repeat it, but I would like to say that even though we go to other areas, and wear their seat belts and hats and whatever you have to do, they still have huge accidents. They still have real problems with youth at the present time and they are now looking, the authorities in the other areas like Australia and New Zealand I guess would be the same, they are looking at other ways of achieving precisely what Mrs Jack has to say. Sure, in the high speed areas, I mean I've travelled 1500 kilo or 1000 miles without a stop at 130 to 150 k's an hour and it wasn't just open road, there was quite a deal of traffic on those areas, and you have to. That is completely different to the situation here on the island and I believe that we have laws in place at the present time and it's my belief and I will be as Minister doing something about it to have those laws policed and the main one which they are finding now, and I think it's been a significant cause in some of the accidents that have been on the island, and that's speed, and I said it before that's pressing the pedal, today is a problem and we need to address that and address it fairly quickly. I'll be supporting the three motions that Mr Brown has introduced because whilst I believe that there are concerns in that area, we need to give the community a chance and we need to get through that if people want to wear seatbelts or they want to wear hats or ride on the back of trucks, that is their prerogative and they shouldn't be looked down at or laughed at or people make derogatory comments if people wish to do those sorts of things and I'll be supporting Mr Brown

MR BROWN Mr Speaker I just wanted to check that my understanding is correct. I understand that this motion relates to riders of pushbikes, not to riders of motorbikes. So we are talking of the question of whether or not it should be compulsory for the rider of a pushbike to wear a helmet. My view about that is that a responsible parent ought to be ensuring that his or her child wears a helmet when riding a pushbike. I'm going to be interested when the motion comes to final debate, to hear what Members say generally about it thank you

MRS BOUDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. I will be supporting all three motions. As long as we keep the maximum speed limit at 50 k's per hour then I see no need for the compulsory wearing of seat belts. I agree with Mr Brown with the helmets that the parents should take the responsibility there. I suggest that major road accidents are without a doubt, resulting either from excessive speed or negligence or both. I recall in recent times two occasions where a vehicle has been driven down Taylors Road and has gone into the Watermill Dam. Had seatbelts been worn at these times, lives would most certainly have been lost. So I would definitely be supporting the motion of seatbelts as well. And the driver knowing that the Road Traffic Act requires the maximum speed of 50 k's per hour, he takes on the responsibility of not only his own behaviour, but also the behaviour of his passengers. It comes to basic commonsense, thank you

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Boudan. Honourable Members, may I also point out that in Mrs Boudan's address to us just now, she has delivered her maiden speech in this Assembly and I offer her compliments on your behalf

MEMBERS Hear, hear

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker thank you. I'm a bit like Mr Nobbs. My position hasn't changed from that of the previous Legislative Assembly but I am heartened by the words of Mr Nobbs about a number of strategies that he believes could

be put in place to address the risks that Mrs Jack has talked about and I think that, that has probably been the most sensible approach to dealing with this issue. I am prepared not to want to push for commencement of this legislation if I can get agreement from Mr Nobbs that he is prepared to bring forward those proposals so that we can assess them to ensure that they will deliver the same sort of safety and similar concerns addressed by the legislation and I will be only too happy to give those consideration at the appropriate time. There is no need to pull this off the statute books in my view if what Mr Nobbs is proposing can become a reality and given appropriate consideration at that time. Now if it can be demonstrated at that time that it is going to provide the necessary restraints and safety matters and other related issues which are immense in nature and content and obviously one just has to refer back to Hansard of the previous Legislative Assembly in relation to this matter, I'll be the first person to support the repeal of the legislation if it can be demonstrated that those mechanisms will provide the same benefits as the legislation would

MR SHERIDAN

Mr Speaker, I know we're dealing with the cyclists wearing helmets at this time, but I would like to make comment on the whole amendment to the Act. I've gone through the Act and as you can see I've labeled quite a few areas that I believe are inconsistent. There are a few anomalies in there such as when we are talking about registration, you must not drive a vehicle unless it is registered and then we are talking about the importation of vehicles, it's exempt if they've been on Norfolk Island for less than three months. Then further on we talk about the issuing of number plates and in the same context it states that if the vehicle has been in the island for less than 12 months they don't have to abide by this. I see that as one anomaly. Another one with the registration of vehicles. It states if an applicant is not ordinarily resident of Norfolk Island then they can license a motor vehicle. I don't believe that's correct. I think you should have to be a resident of the island to register a motor vehicle. It says here that they are exempt. While I'm not picking this to pieces, I support a lot of this in here and in particular the requirement for a labeling system for motor vehicle but again it says in this Act that the registration label is not required for Administration vehicles. Why not? I believe it would be a good way for the public to see that the Administration vehicles are registered, are in a fit working condition and order, and that they are complying by registration requirements. Also I get a feeling that a lot of legislation is cut and pasted from overseas legislation. I see in the exemption from wearing seatbelts area, a person on a motor vehicle is exempt from wearing seat belts if they are engaged in a door to door delivery or collection of goods where it requires a person to get in and out of the vehicle frequently. How many door to door salesmen do we have on the island? Very few I would imagine. Again. Talking about how persons must travel in a vehicle. It says that you can't travel in a vehicle unless the whole of your body is totally enclosed in a vehicle. Except a bus. The driver of a motor vehicle, except a bus, must not drive with a passenger if any part of the passenger's body is outside the window or part of the vehicle. Why not? Does it mean that the bus can drive down the road if somebody is sitting on the roof? I don't believe that is the intention of this amendment and again it says that a person must not travel inside a motor vehicle if they are engaged in door to door delivery. So there you are saying that they can sit on the back of a truck. If they are doing under 25 k's per hour. Well that's 50% of our speed limit here, so we are saying one thing in one part of the Act that you can do it in certain areas, and at other times you can't and this discrimination against a lot of people on the island who feel that they would love to be able to put their kids on the back of a truck, go to the beach. It's a personal responsibility for the parents. The other one is where they are talking about an enclosed part of the motor vehicle, means enclosed by the structure of the vehicle, does it exempt a convertible when the hoods down as it is not enclosed. They can't utilise the vehicle so there are so many areas in here that I believe have anomalies to it that I just don't believe I could support any amendments to the Act as it stands now so in this instance I will be supporting the motion on the table. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Honourable Members, may I also point out that in Mr Sheridan's address he has made his maiden speech in this Legislative Assembly and I offer him compliments on your behalf

MR BROWN Hear, hear and the most entertaining speech of the day so far Mr Speaker

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I'll take a leaf out of Vicky's book and address all three of the motion's that Tim Brown has on the table. Unlike Vicky I'll support all three of the motions principally because I believe that parents do have a responsibility for the way their kids conduct themselves and also education should play a big part in how we live within our community. I have reservations in respect of seatbelts, for instance, whether they would bring about the desired level of protection in all cases. I have grave doubts that in a sideways impact they would have any ability to save someone at all without the added benefit of side intrusion bars and air bags. Most of the vehicles we import to Norfolk Island don't comply with Australian design rules therefore the safety equipment that works in Australia will not necessarily work here. I also have grave doubts that the requirement to retrofit seatbelts to a lot of vehicles will actually be effective because what's the point of running into a tree and shooting through the side of the car with the pillar, part of the floor and the seat all still attached to you because the vehicle fell apart. And that has happened. It happened to Holden Commodores when they were first introduced in Australia, they used to break in half behind the drivers seat. Once again, we don't have the design rules in Norfolk Island to ensure that what we are talking about will succeed so whilst I don't deny that there are some safety benefits in what the Act tries to achieve I also think that freedom of choice plays an important part and we've got to be a bit sensible about it. New Members might be aware that a CPA document was recently distributed and interestingly that document went on to say that road safety depends largely on the success of the design of the road, so if you place a power pole at the base of a hill with a fairly sharp right hand turn and a negatively or wrongly cambered road, it's an invitation for an accident, so road design plays a big part. And when you look at the statistics in Australia the most horrific accidents happen on country roads, and in almost every instance, the culprit is a tree. Someone falls asleep, runs off the road and hits a tree. If the tree wasn't there they would still be alive. I think in our situation here the power poles are probably our greatest threat, and we need to look at ways of minimizing the effect that power poles have when a car runs into it by clever design, and that might be as simple as a collapsible barrier around a telegraph pole that slows the vehicle before it actually hits the pole and these sorts of things, or we might need to look at asking property owners, would you really mind if we set the power pole another four feet or two metres from the road knowing that the cross arms will overhang your property. Will that really be a problem because the difficulty we have here is that our road reserves are too narrow to fit all of our services and utilities in and accommodate an acceptable standard of road width. The other alternative is to underground all the power lines, and that's probably prohibitively expensive but it seems to be progressively happening in other parts around the island, so maybe we can accelerate that but they are the sorts of things that I would like to see us look at in a total context rather than just a knee jerk reaction requiring what I see as a major impact on the way we live in Norfolk Island. I feel that we can successfully accommodate these safety initiatives if people stick to the 50 kph speed limit and drive sensibly and bring the weight of the law to bear on those who abuse it, thank you

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I move that the debate be adjourned and resumption of debate be made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members I put the question to you

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That matter is so adjourned

CUSTOMS ACT 1913 – EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I move that under subsection 2B(4) of the Customs Act 1913, this House recommends to the Administrator that the goods specified in the first column of the Schedule imported by the person specified opposite, and on the conditions mentioned, in the second column of the Schedule be exempted from duty –

SCHEDULE

Column 1

Goods

Christmas Cakes for senior citizens

- amount of duty applicable \$223.5six

Column 2

Importer/conditions

Norfolk Island Lions Club

Conditions – Nil

Mr Speaker there is a policy in relation to the exemption from the payment of customs duty on goods imported and this is by recommendation. I will not be voting on this as I'm not only a Norfolk Island Lions Club Member but also I'm told I am eligible to get a cake so I won't be voting on it, although I don't get a cake normally

MR BROWN Mr Speaker this exemption is a long standing exemption, is the first thing I would like to say. Secondly we do have a policy. I'm of the view that the policy should be changed but nevertheless, it's the current policy, the motion is totally within that policy and I have no difficulty in supporting that today

SPEAKER Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR NOBBS ABSTAIN

The motion is agreed thank you

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1982 – PROPOSAL TO REPEAL REQUIREMENT TO WEAR A SEAT BELT

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I move that this House requests the responsible executive member to prepare and introduce as soon as possible a Bill to repeal the seat belt amendments that were recently made to the Road Traffic Act. Mr Speaker these two next issues are similar to my previous motion and I propose to move to adjourn the debate once Members have had the opportunity to speak

SPEAKER Thank you. Debate Honourable Members? No further debate. Mr Brown

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I move that the debate be adjourned and resumption of debate be made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting.

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members the question is that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That matter is so adjourned for another day

CUSTOMS ACT 1913 – EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I move that under subsection 2B(4) of the *Customs Act 1913*, this House recommends to the Administrator that the goods specified in the first column of the Schedule imported by the person specified opposite, and on the conditions mentioned, in the second column of the Schedule be exempted from duty -

SCHEDULE

Column 1

Goods

Educational equipment

(books, Paints, Paintbrushes, play items)

- amount of duty applicable \$208.34

Column 2

Importer/conditions

Banyan Park Playcentre

Conditions – Nil

Mr Speaker, this is another one which I didn't mention and I thank Mr Brown, is another long standing arrangement we have per the policy in relation to exemption from payment of customs duty as set out and I recommend that it be supported

MR BROWN Mr Speaker notwithstanding that I'm of the view that we need to review the policy, as Mr Nobb's said, this exemption has been granted before, the application is in accordance with the policy, it's appropriate that I support the motion

SPEAKER Further debate. No further debate Honourable Members? Then I put the question that the Motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed thank you

ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1982 – PROPOSAL TO REPEAL SECTION HEADED “HOW PERSONS MUST TRAVEL IN OR ON A MOTOR VEHICLE”

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker I move that this House requests the responsible executive member to prepare and introduce as soon as possible a Bill to repeal the recent amendment to the Road Traffic Act headed “How persons must travel in or on a motor vehicle”. Mr Speaker I propose to move to adjourn the debate on this motion as well, once Members have had the opportunity to speak

SPEAKER Thank you. Debate Honourable Members? No further debate

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, just to catch up with a point that I forgot to mention earlier in the discussion on a similar matter, what we need to not lose sight of in passing legislation is the fact that passing legislation alone does not of itself provide the desired benefit. If you look at this one, at how you are supposed to be within a vehicle, or not use a mobile phone or wear a seatbelt, whatever, it doesn't compel you to wear a seatbelt, so if you choose not to wear a seatbelt and you are involved in an accident, you could be injured or you could not be injured, but if you were injured and you are the driver of the vehicle, all the legislation really does is not make it better, it just provide a mechanism for the authorities to penalize you and that in itself is not a safety improvement and so we need to be mindful of that

SPEAKER
further debate. Mr Brown

Thank you. Debate Honourable Members? No

MR T BROWN

Mr Speaker I move that the debate be adjourned and resumption of debate be made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting.

MR SPEAKER

Thank you. Honourable Members the question is that this matter be adjourned and made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That matter is so adjourned

LIQUOR LICENSING BILL 2005

MR NOBBS

Mr Speaker, I present the Liquor Licensing Bill 2005 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle and I table the explanatory memorandum to the Bill. Mr Speaker the purpose of this Bill, I won't read in full the explanatory memorandum because it's going to take quite considerable time, and I'll explain later what I propose will happen to this Bill. There is currently a Liquor Licensing Act. Since about 1998 there have been attempts and a will to actually amend that Act. There have been so many drafts that a guy is giddy trying to work out how many there have been. I had responsibility in this area some three years ago and I thought that we were getting fairly close to an acceptable Bill, which relates to the licensing of premises and the supply of liquor on the island. We had discussions with quite a wide range of groups within the community in relation to that including the licensees at the time, and I thought it was ready to go. Last week I asked where it was, and they said that another Bill has been drafted and I read it, and I took the opportunity then of seeking the views of Members in relation to this, whether this proposal would be acceptable. That the Bill would be introduced, that it would then be referred to the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee who would then run it through the processes and gain community input in relation to where the community actually wanted to go, and that I undertook to give it as wide a publicity as possible. For instance there's a proposed other sections of the Bill which have been developed, and there's what are called Liquor Licensing Regulations 2005 have been drafted in a draft form. They would be made available to the committee and the community. I believe that we need to give it wide publicity. The Bill very quickly repeals the existing Liquor Act which was a 1960 version which has had subsequent amendments to it and it makes provision for several classes of licenses, there are general licenses issued to hotels and guest houses, restaurant licenses, club license, manufacturers license, a BYO license and a special events permit. The latter is intended for issue for organized particular purposes such as progressive dinners, cliff top barbecues, weddings and the like that may be granted to individuals, groups, including service or sporting clubs, or businesses. The Legislative Assembly is empowered under this Bill to fix the maximum number of licenses in each category on the advice of the executive Member following consultation with the board. Other provisions are that an applicant may apply for any one class of license for a particular area although the board can approve otherwise, although a licensee of a restaurant license is entitled to apply for a BYO license for the same place. The Bill provides for the officer in charge of the Norfolk Island Police to be chief inspector of licensed premises and empowers the officer to delegate his powers to another Member of the Police Force and for the board to appoint additional inspectors of licensed premises. As I said, I won't read the whole explanatory memorandum as I intend to publish it in the paper as soon as possible, and I will just leave it at the moment but I do have a motion which I will move later on which allows for the progression of this Bill to the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Any further debate Honourable Members? No.
Mr Nobbs

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I move that debate on the Liquor Licensing Bill 2005 stand adjourned and that the Bill stand referred to the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee for its consideration; the Committee to report to the Legislative Assembly on its deliberations and recommendations at the February 2005 sitting of the House

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members I put that question to you

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That matter is so adjourned and referred

QUARRYING AND RELATED PUBLIC WORKS BILL 2004 – DECLARATION OF URGENCY

The Speaker reported that the Business Committee, under standing order 158, declared that the Quarrying and Related Public Works Bill 2004 should be passed through all stages at this sitting

MR BROWN Mr Speaker I wonder if I could ask you to note that I propose to leave the Chamber while this matter is discussed. I tender my apology for doing so, and I will leave now

SPEAKER Mr Brown that is noted accordingly, thank you

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I shall do likewise

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. That is noted also

QUARRYING AND RELATED PUBLIC WORKS BILL 2004

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I present the Quarrying and Related Public Works Bill 2004 and move that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Thank you Mr Speaker, in talking to this Bill I would just like to read the explanatory memorandum relating to this Bill and talk on a couple of issues that have arisen. This Bill is intended to provide a degree of flexibility to deal with situations concerning the non availability of necessary materials. The Bill empowers the executive Member to invite applications to treat materials that have been quarried or otherwise extracted and which are held in stockpiles. If the executive Member is persuaded that the material so held are required in the public interest, and if the Legislative Assembly agrees that it is in the public interest so to do, the executive Member may be given approval to proceed to issue an approval or approvals to move and or treat the material. The Bill will allow the crushing of rock required for public works and purposes that are in the public interest. A permit cannot be given for operation on more than seven days. The permit must expire within six0 days. If the material is to be moved the places to which it can be moved are restricted. Work can only be done between the hours of seven.30 am and 5pm and if more than one person seeks permission to crush or otherwise deal with the material, the persons must be treated as equally as possible. A day when work is done is described as a working day and is divided into two part days. The seven days permit therefore consist of fourteen part days. It must not be possible for more than seven days work to be done on any area in any consecutive 21 days, even if more than one approval has been given for that area. Once granted the approval may allow material to be moved

from one place to another and may include such other conditions as the executive Member or the Legislative Assembly require to be included. The proposed act provides that the Legislative Assembly can give approval to the conditions of the form of approval and to a proposal from an executive Member that it is in the public interest to proceed to make arrangements to seek applicants to do the proposed work before the act receives assent and thereupon after assent is given that approval will be as effective as if it had been given subsequently. If a permit is granted under this proposed act it cannot be objected to and no action lies against the Administration arising out of it. As the permit requirements are stringent and must be adhered to, a severe penalty provision is provided to ensure compliance with the conditions. Mr Speaker, that's the explanatory memorandum to the Bill and I would just like to talk on some of the issues that I've raised. First of all the idea of breaking a working day into two parts came about because when formulating this Bill, what was a working day and how long should the machines run before it was classified as a working day and should we give operators the benefit of working for an hour before the working day commenced and we could see problems arising there. We could see them perhaps operating for 59 minutes, saying it wasn't an hour, and losing a whole day's operation, so we decided that a working day would begin when the machine was switched on. However, there could be a fault with the equipment and to lose the whole day because of a fault seemed harsh, so we broke the day into two halves. A fault in the equipment would result in the loss of half a day but not result in the loss of a whole day. The working day, the description of the two halves are not equal. One is 4 1/2 hours if my memory serves me correct and the other is five hours, sorry, I beg your pardon. One is 4 1/2 hours and the other one is 4 and the working day must mean that you have the 4 1/2 hours and the 4 makes up one working day. You can work seven half days, seven 4 1/2 hour days but you would have to then follow it up with working seven 4 hour days so you have that same total all the time. The other point I would like to highlight was the paragraph that talks about it must not be possible for more than seven days work to be done on any area in any consecutive 21 days even if more than one approval has been given for that area. This paragraph would assume that two approvals were given for the one working area. That could be awkward for neighbours and so it was viewed that if we had two contractors, let's call them A and B working on the one site and over the first 21 day period A worked for three days and B worked for 4 days, that totaled seven days operation and they could not work again until the 21 days was up when A could then finish it's 4 days and B could finish it's three days operation making another seven days in the next 21 days. It means that you can only have seven days out of six0 that once the seven days is reached, that's it. The permit expires. The last paragraph spoke of a severe penalty provision to ensure compliance with the conditions and that penalty is severe. It's 1000 penalty points. A penalty point is \$100 so failure to comply with the conditions of the approval is \$100,000. A question arose yesterday afternoon by a fellow Member, Mr Sheridan, over concerns that an approval granted could actually allow for more than one person to apply to use the same piece of plant and equipment. I would like to point out and assure Mr Sheridan that in clause 4(5) of the Bill which states the executive Member may impose such further or other conditions upon an approval given under subsection one as he or she or the Legislative Assembly consider appropriate or necessary in the public interest. It is my intent that a plant can only be used once during this period. That once the plant is used there will be no more seven day approvals given for some other Member of a company or a group or a set of directors to put in another approval or application seeking approval to have a further seven days. It is because of this that there was a change done and it had been noted that if this motion gets up that the approval to move and treat extracted material, the permit comes as approved by the Legislative Assembly on 10th November 2004 and to ensure that clause 4(5) is adhered to, an extra line was put in at (2) which says, to perform the work, utilizing the plant and equipment described in the grantees application for this approval, the plant and (six) reads that the plant must not be used by any person under the grantee under this or any other approval. It was never the intention and I would like to make that clear, that it is not the intention of this Minister to allow misuse of the provisions that this Bill is bringing in. it is being brought in, in the interest of public need, public interest, it is a short term Bill and it is not meant to be abused in any

way and I hope I have answered Mr Sheridan's queries on that matter but I would just like now to leave debate open for other Members Mr Speaker, thank you

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I support the Bill because we need rock and as was stated before the last election that something would be done about it and I quite agree with the proposal that's put in place. I think it's fair and we'll have an achievable outcome

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I forgot to table the explanatory memorandum and I would like to take the time to do it now thank you

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I too support the provisions of this legislation and commend Mrs Jack for bringing it so quickly to the House in the early days of the 11th Legislative Assembly. Certainly the concerns that were raised with Mrs Jack have too been raised with me about the ability of more than one person related to a crushing plant to make application because it clearly does say that a number of people can make application. They all have to be treated fairly, but clearly the intent of the Bill and certainly the intent of the Membership of the Legislative Assembly as far as I am aware is to ensure that each plant will only be operated once for the purpose, in other words, in the public interest, and Mrs Jack is quite correct in identifying subsection 5 of clause 4 where she will be empowered to impose very strict conditions on it and those conditions Mr Speaker I think it's important to point out will need to include conditions that make it very clear, and certainly I will be encouraging the Minister to include them in whatever permit or authority is given that it is not the intent to allow successive seven day crushing periods with one plant, other than if there is a demand or a need for further specific material. That was an issue that I discussed with Mr Nobbs earlier, in relation to his requirements for the road programme that there was probably a fear that we might crush for the seven days and end up with 1000 tonnes of builders mix somewhere but no road chip. The purpose of this legislation is in the absence of any planning type arrangement being in place and one of the crushing operators being able to operate is to allow the roads program to continue and therefore to allow subject to the appropriate application and certification and issue of a permit or authority by the executive Member to be able to crush that material specifically for a programme such as that. Of course the duration, the type of material and all those things, are well within the scope of the executive Members responsibilities under the legislation to apply as conditions of any approval that may be given. It is also important to point out that the executive Member is empowered with the very broad ranging powers as far as the authorities are concerned, to ensure that as far as practicable, that issues such as dust, and noise and all those other sorts of issues are responsibly dealt with and I trust that the executive Member will certainly bear all of those matters in mind when giving the appropriate authority. It needs to be done responsibly, it needs to be done appropriately, I wholeheartedly support the intent of the legislation and will certainly support its passage through this House today

MRS BOUDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Thank you Vicky for your work. You've moved quickly and efficiently. I can only support this Bill in the best interest of the community as a matter of urgency and understanding it is of short term. I do support it

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker thank you. Let me start of by saying that I will support it. I just have one query with respect to clause 4(3) where it says that all will be treated equally as reasonably possible. I just wonder whether that means that whoever puts in for approval, if everyone will be given permission to crush or if it will be done on some sort of checklist with all pros and cons considered

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, could I just ask Mr Tim Brown to highlight some of those problems, the pros and cons that he has. I mean when an applicant applies to me for an approval, I just don't go right, you've got it. I make sure that where they are going to crush has the correct approval, if it's on somebody's land, if

it is on somebody's else's land not only the person has the approval but other factors are met as well. It's just not a carte blanche exercise so if Mr Brown could just highlight some of his concerns I might be able to answer the specifics

MR T BROWN Mr Speaker my only concerns are that say one has already put in an application for the planning approvals and one hasn't, that would be taken into account. It makes no real difference to me whether it is; it's just something that I'm interested in

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I think for the sake of this exercise, in some areas there will be trade offs. For example one person may be well established on site and another person may not but then pieces of equipment may be shared or changed, access to stockpiles by any means, but it's seen as a sharing of the stockpiles. I can just assure him that the fairness will be there as I see it

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I too would like to lend my support. I think this is a very good move in the short term and I reiterate in the short term to provide material that's required by the building industry, roads program, urgently and in that respect it will be supporting the Bill. I'm glad the Minister has allayed my fears with regard to more than one person working the same piece of equipment and I'm sure the Minister has everything in hand to ensure that nobody perverts the system you may say, and I believe that the operators that do apply, and I must reiterate they have to apply, and have to comply by these conditions, if they abide by the spirit of this Bill I believe that in the short term it will be a very good stop gap measure for the island and get the roads back up to a better level of usability, materials out to the building industry and I believe it will satisfy everybody in the short term. It's not a long term fix but in the short term, yes I would support this

MRS JACK Mr Speaker thank you. Crushing capabilities of plant is approximately for the best most reasonable calculations, approximately 50 tonnes per hour. Now lets assume that everything goes fine and dandy and maybe you can have six or seven hours of crushing in a day so you are looking at 300 to 350 tonnes of rock and lets assume that two crushers operate so that's about six00 to seven00 tonnes of rock per day, gravel or builders mix comes through. So you are looking at between 4200 and 4900 tonnes of finished product. This island needs far more than that, but this as the Bill suggests, is an interim measure, to allow businesses to work again, people to work, plant to operate and I can only stress that it is not usurping anything else it is purely in here as a matter of public interest, thank you

SPEAKER Further debate? Mrs Jack can I refer you to item 4 of the Bill and just ask whether your particular presentation at the conclusion of that paragraph is complete

MRS JACK That's the presentation of the form? No.

SPEAKER If you'll just read the very last line on that form and let me know whether you consider that to be complete

MRS JACK .. and may include approval to load and take treated material... No Mr Speaker

SPEAKER I have asked the Clerk if she would make some enquiries whilst the debate has been continuing, but if in fact we are now at the stage of finalizing the matter I think we need to have some substantive information in terms of that particular clause

MRS JACK How is the best way for me to approach this?

SPEAKER It may be appropriate for me to suspend that matter for a moment or two whilst you attend to that and then we move on to the next two items in which you are going to seek leave to address

MRS JACK Shall I go down to my office to get one of the original drafts Mr Speaker?

SPEAKER The Clerk is actually seeking some additional material at this moment. She may be talking to the draftsman and that may be a source of information in terms of that. If you feel it is not an appropriate course well you might identify that to me and we can make adjustments. We have a number of options. If you feel that this is readily find outable, say in the next five or ten minutes, then I suggest that we move on to the next two motions which you have not given notice of but we will seek leave of the House to progress with and whilst that's happening there may be an answer to this. If in fact it will take longer than that, it may be well for us to suspend for lunch and come back with it more tidy after that. What is your preference Mrs Jack

MRS JACK My preference is for correct and proper procedure Mr Speaker!

SPEAKER In lieu of us just prolonging the matter I'll take a decision that we suspend for lunch so that it will give you some time without the threat of time to make it a more timely examination. Honourable Members ...

MRS JACK Mr Speaker I appear to have found the missing words. Would I put these in as a detail stage amendment to the..

SPEAKER If you would just let me know what the words are

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, after the final word "approved", there are four words "place to another place"

SPEAKER Honourable Members, could I ask each of you to refer to your draft of the Bill and we are now looking at clause 4(4) which has a paragraph of four lines and it ends "approved". In other words the last line says this "may include approval to load and take treated material from the approved" and there is a blank after that. Have we all located that bit. Would you please place these words after it "place to another place" so that the line reads may include approval to load and take treated material from the approved place to another place". I just need to know that Members are quite clear because we are talking about adding those words to a piece of proposed legislation. Okay around the table. And that's the context of the Bill which we are now considering and we've reached the stage of final deliberation and I'm asking if there's any further debate in terms of this matter, which is the Bill with those adjusted words and the question before us is that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Any questions or questions. Then I put the question to you Honourable Members

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The Bill is agreed to in principle and it includes those four words that we have just adjusted. That being the case we move to the detail stage. Is it the wish of the House to dispense with the detail stage. We dispense with the detail stage. Therefore I seek a final motion Mrs Jack about this Bill which is that the Bill be agreed to

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill be agreed to

SPEAKER Thank you. Is there any final debate Honourable Members. The question before us is that the Bill be agreed to. This is the final stage

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The Bill is agreed to

LEAVE TO INTRODUCE TWO MOTIONS

Honourable Members, there has been informal discussion amongst Members about two motions that arise from some of those provisions of the Bill. They have not been given notice of because they were not in a stage for that to happen but it was foreshadowed that it would be brought forward to us so I seek your leave in terms of both of these motions coming forward now. One will be a motion pursuant to provision 4(2) of the Bill that we have just addressed and the other will be under provision 4(3)(a) of the Bill that we have just addressed. Is leave granted for those two motions to come forward. Leave is granted thank you. Mrs Jack I will now turn to you to make your proposals in terms of the first one please

QUARRYING AND RELATED PUBLIC WORKS BILL 2004 – APPROVAL OF FORM

MRS JACK Mr Speaker thank you. Mr Speaker I seek leave to (1) table the form of approval in accordance with section 4 of the Quarrying and Related Public Works Bill 2004; approved by the Legislative Assembly on 10th November 2004 and (2) to move a motion of approval of the form of subsection 4(2) of the Bill

SPEAKER Thank you and leave is granted Mrs Jack

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I table the form of approval in accordance with section 4 of the Quarrying and Related Public Works Bill 2004 and move that in accordance with subsection 4(2) of the Quarrying and Related Public Works Bill 2004 this House agrees to and approves the form of approval tabled entitled "Approval to Move and Treat Extractive Material" approved by the Legislative Assembly 10th November 2004 setting out Conditions of Approval and on its reverse setting out Conditions of Sale. Thank you Mr Speaker, I think it stands alone. We've discussed this as you mentioned earlier, it's the form that people apply that if they are granted to ability to crush and to take rock the form that I will be using. It states quite clearly the conditions of approval, fines, the conditions of sale and I would like to move the approval form thank you

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker in supporting the form of the approval I think it also important again in the public interest that, that form be made available, either published in the Gazette or through planning or whatever area is seen as being appropriate, but certainly when approvals are given and signed off, I would appreciate the assistance of the executive Member to ensure that those approvals when given are published, certainly in the Norfolk Island Government Gazette and also through the paper and even though there is no legislative requirement that I see certainly the assistance of the executive Member to ensure that at a meeting of this House immediately following the giving of those approvals that they be tabled in this House. I would certainly look to the executive Member for ensuring that, that happens

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I have no problem in consenting to the wishes of the Chief Minister

SPEAKER Honourable Members is there further debate? If there isn't any further debate then I will put the question to you that this motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The motion is agreed to

QUARRYING AND RELATED PUBLIC WORKS BILL 2004 – WORK TO BE IN PUBLIC INTEREST

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I move in accordance with paragraph 4(3)(a) of the Quarrying and Related Public Works Bill 2004 the executive member and this House are of the opinion it is in the public interest that work be done in accordance with the Act and an approval granted under subsection 4(1)

SPEAKER Thank you. Leave is granted for that Mrs Jack

MRS JACK Mr Speaker it is just to stress to the community that the reason this Bill has come forward is in the public interest. We have businesses that cannot operate, people losing work, people contemplating leaving Norfolk because of that, roads in a poor state of repair because of a lack of a product and this matter cannot be allowed to continue. It is not the be all and end all solution. It is an interim solution but it is a solution in the public interest and I move this motion before the House thank you

SPEAKER Honourable Members is there any further debate. Then I put the question to you which is that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That is agreed to

We have concluded that package of quarry arrangements Honourable Members and concluded our substantive business for the day so we are looking to our next sitting day.

(Mr John Brown and Mr Neville Christian rejoined the meeting)

FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY

MRS BOUDAN Mr Speaker I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 15 December 2004 at 10 am

SPEAKER Honourable Members is there any debate. No, then I put that question that the motion be agreed to and I note that Mr Brown and Mr Christian have returned to the Chamber

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

We move to adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

MR CHRISTIAN
adjourn

Mr Speaker, I move that the House do now

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the House do now adjourn. Is there any debate

MRS JACK Mr Speaker thank you. I would just like to congratulate the new members of the House for their presence and their debate and well done, thank you

SPEAKER Honourable Members I put the question that the House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT
QUESTION AGREED

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday the 15th of December 2004 at 10.00am

