



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
12<sup>TH</sup> NILA HANSARD – 16 MAY 2007**

**INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

MADAM CLERK Please be seated. Your Honour the Administrator, Mrs Tambling, Honourable Members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon. This meeting, the first of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island is convened pursuant to the following notice, which appeared in the Norfolk Island Government Gazette dated 26 March 2007.

"I, Grant Ernest John Tambling, Administrator of Norfolk Island, under section 40 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979*, do by this notice, convene the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island after a general election of that Assembly, to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers, Kingston, at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 28 March 2007 and that message was dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007 and signed Grant Tambling, Administrator

**PRAYER**

I now invite all present to be upstanding, while Reverend Oldfield reads Prayers please.

REV OLDFIELD Let Us Pray. Almighty God we pause at the beginning of the life of this new Government to acknowledge that you alone are the source of all power and authority and that it was you oh Lord who created this Island and caused it to be populated. We give you thanks for your generous provisions in our island home's natural beauty and resources. We thank you Heavenly Father for the stable and peaceful Government this Island has always known, for those who have served in previous Governments, we give you thanks. We pray now especially for this the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, elected by the people of Norfolk to serve them and lead them. May each Members quickly understand the issues that will face them. Grant them wisdom, courage and patience. Grant them the skills to govern fairly with justice and honour. Give special wisdom and insight to the Executive Members. Direct their work and influence their decisions so that this island might enjoy safety, peace, happiness and true prosperity in the coming years. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen

**RETURN TO WRIT FOR ELECTION**

MADAM CLERK Thank you Reverend Oldfield. Please be seated. I have received a Return to the Writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007. By the endorsement on the Writ it is certified that the following Members have been elected:

- Andre Neville Nobbs
- Christopher Adam Christian Magri
- Brendon Alec Christian
- Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack
- Neville Charles Christian
- Ian Ross Mackenzie Anderson



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MR ANDERSON I, Ian Ross MacKenzie Anderson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Ian Ross MacKenzie Anderson, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

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

MR MAGRI I, Christopher Adam Christian Magri, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law. So Help Me God!

I, Christopher Adam Christian Magri, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So Help Me God!

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

#### **ATTESTATION BY ADMINISTRATOR**

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

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

### **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

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

MR GARDNER Thank you Madam clerk. I move that Lisle Denis Snell be elected Speaker of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and do now take the Chair as Speaker

MADAM CLERK Thank you Mr Gardner. Mr Snell, do you accept nomination.

MR SNELL I accept nomination Madam Clerk

MADAM CLERK Are there any further proposals? There being no further proposals the time for proposals has expired and I declare that Lisle Denis Snell has been elected Speaker and would ask Mr Snell to now take the Chair

### **ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

SPEAKER Thank you. The next business is election of a Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and I ask are there any nominations please

MR B CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker I move that Mr Timothy John Sheridan be elected as Deputy Speaker

SPEAKER Mr Sheridan, do you accept nomination.

MR SHERIDAN I accept nomination Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals Honourable Members? There are no further proposals. The time for proposals has expired and therefore I declare that Timothy John Sheridan has been elected Deputy Speaker of this 12<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and offer congratulations to him on such an election

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S ADDRESS**

SPEAKER Honourable Members, I now invite His Honour the Administrator to address the Legislative Assembly

ADMINISTRATOR Mr Speaker, and members of the 12th Legislative Assembly, - It is a pleasure to join you this afternoon and to congratulate each of you on your election to this parliament. I acknowledge the commitment and responsibility each of you have now made in accepting positions of public office on behalf of the Norfolk Island community. This is the second occasion on which I have had the privilege of addressing the Assembly as Administrator. On the 27th October 2004 it was my honour to address the 11th Assembly at its inauguration. Many of the issues facing the community at that time and which I referred to on that occasion were advanced or addressed during the Gardner and Buffett government administrations. Inevitably, a number of issues remain unresolved. These are now matters for you to address. I am also confident that new

challenges will arise in the course of the next three years. I wish you well in your legislative deliberations and the government initiatives to be introduced by your new Chief Minister and his Ministers. For all of us here today the Norfolk Island Act of the Australian Federal Parliament underpins each of our duties and actions. My responsibilities as Administrator are defined and prescribed by that Act. This Assembly is established under its aegis. The Act sets out how Norfolk Island laws are to be made and assented to – either by me as Administrator on the advice of Norfolk Island's Executive Council or on the instruction of the Federal Territories Minister as appropriate, or on certain matters by the Governor-General of Australia acting on the advice of the Federal Executive Council. My Office will always be pleased to assist you with advice and encouragement, including on the important conventions and practices of Parliamentary democracy and responsible government. The Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, the Hon Jim Lloyd MP, has asked me to pass on his hopes and best wishes for your future deliberations for this parliamentary term of the 12th Assembly. Minister Lloyd and his department remain ready to respond to requests for advice and assistance and will continue to act as the point of contact and co-ordination agencies for other Australian Government Ministers and Departments. Parks Australia and the Bureau of Meteorology provide other services on Norfolk Island through the Department of Environment and Water Resources. Intergovernmental agreements between the Australian and the Norfolk Island Governments already establish close working and funding arrangements in areas such as education, policing and legal aid and in the management of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Heritage Area. In 2005 and 2006 both the Norfolk Island and Australian Governments commissioned a number of major inquiries and consultancies which reviewed in particular the economic viability of Norfolk Island's commercial and public administration sectors. Minister Lloyd wrote to the then Chief Minister in January this year on matters arising from these reports and the most recent Australian Government cabinet decision. I am aware that Minister Lloyd will be looking to the Assembly and the new Norfolk Island Government for future advice, initiatives and responses. As you are aware the Federal Parliament of Australia takes a keen and specific interest in all the Australian Territories, particularly through its various Parliamentary Committees, such as the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories, and the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services. I have no doubt that the Twelfth Legislative Assembly will continue to engage with these important committees in the next few years, especially on matters of governance, accountability, revenue raising, and Norfolk Island's infrastructure and transport requirements. Parliamentary democracy is precious and fragile throughout the world and provides important protections and insurance for us all where-ever we chose to live. All Australian states and territories strive to maintain our democratic rights and principles based on the Westminster parliamentary system as it has evolved. The challenging relationships between elected Members who comprise Executive Government; the adversarial role of proper opposition by other members of the Assembly to government initiated legislation and actions; and the scrutiny through question time and the critical examination of government accounts are important tasks for you all. Other small jurisdictions, particularly the Australian Capital Territory, the Northern Territory and the state of Tasmania share your difficulties as a small parliament with limited resources. Similarly, in a small population environment - such as Norfolk Island - public sector reform, contracting and efficiency requires a special strategic partnership between the Assembly and the Administration. Modern management-type arrangements and technological changes are being implemented throughout various public service delivery agencies in Australia, they can provide examples of leadership and change to your newly appointed Chief Executive Officer and the new Ministry to be selected today. It is very obvious from the changes to Assembly membership implemented at the ballot box last week that the community is looking for change and new directions. The common themes that you each highlighted in your policy and media statements throughout the election reflect a range of community concerns and priorities that now require your attention. The issues that you identified and which the community responded to by electing you include: - The urgent need to

develop long-term strategies for financial planning and sustainability; - The maintenance of living and environment standards for the island community; - Improved service delivery by government as well as accountability and equity in how government is delivered to the community; - Improved transport, infrastructure and resource management; - Population growth and immigration reform; - Tourism development; - The need to ensure an equitable and fair system of healthcare, welfare and seniors support; and - A more cooperative and productive relationship with the Federal Government. It is my duty as Administrator to remind you of the important responsibilities that you now each carry in responding to these community expectations and needs. The decisions you each make – or choose not to make – as Assembly members can affect the employment and business prospects and quality of life of every person on Norfolk Island. This important responsibility must be exercised prudently, carefully and in a considered manner. Each of the issues I mentioned, and the many more that will no doubt arise, will require full and open debate in the Assembly and in the wider community. I wish you well in your endeavours which you must face with enthusiasm, and without either the discipline or distractions of party politics. I have been pleased to meet with Mr André Nobbs in recent days, and note his proposals to form a government from amongst your membership later in this Assembly session. I will be pleased to swear into office tomorrow at Government House any leadership and executive members endorsed by you today. I look forward to continue working with you all as Government Ministers and Assembly Members for the benefit of Norfolk Island. Norfolk Island's natural beauty, its history, and the important traditions and aspirations of the Norfolk Island community provide an inspiration and challenge for you to build upon. I sincerely believe the future of Norfolk Island will be an exciting opportunity if complemented by your efforts to create an enviable lifestyle for all in our community. In concluding, I think it is important to echo the sentiments expressed by Her Majesty The Queen in her recent Commonwealth day message on 12 March. These appear apt in the current circumstances (and I quote):  
“.....we are a thriving community; we value our past; we make the most of our present; and we are working together to build our future. By respecting difference and promoting understanding, that future will be a better one for us all”.

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

**SPEAKER** Your Honour We of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island warmly welcome you and Mrs Tambling to this Chamber. We appreciate this is not the first occasion that you have been formally present at an Opening Sitting of this Legislature; however I believe it is to be your last, as you have indicated you and Mrs Tambling will be leaving Norfolk Island in August of this year. Please accept the good wishes of this House and the people of Norfolk Island in your return to Australia. We offer compliments on your statutory swearing in of all Members and do appreciate your kind greeting, words of congratulations and encouragement, and the recognition of issues as we commence our duties and responsibilities today. On behalf of Members I also acknowledge the generous words from the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, the Honourable Jim Lloyd MP. We appreciate the continuity of contact with the Australian Government and ask that you convey our thanks, and equally warm wishes to him, upon the commencement of this Assembly. The Norfolk Island Act of 1979 commenced our present parliamentary government, and provided for our substance here today as Members, and for yours, as Administrator, Your Honour. The Act sets out at length in its Preamble a recognition of Norfolk Island's unique historical sequence; and a visionary future in self-government. We have now concluded Eleven Assemblies under these arrangements and today commence the Twelfth. We have spanned a quarter of a century and those who have served as Members have honoured our heritage and advanced our vision. At this time it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge two past members who cumulatively have served this House and the people of Norfolk Island for over fifty years – those Members are Mr David Buffett AM and Mr John Brown. They particularly have respected our heritage and advanced our vision and on behalf of this House and the people of Norfolk Island we salute them and

wish them both well. We who are members of the Twelfth Assembly, wish to continue to promote the vision of self-government, and to do so with a passion and commitment on behalf of the Norfolk Island community. Thank you for your Address Your Honour. In conclusion I would like to present you with a copy of this Reply and a small token of appreciation from the House

## **SUSPENSION**

Honourable Members the House will now briefly suspend. I would ask that members and guests stand while His Honour the Administrator and his party depart from the Chamber. Thank you

## **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

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

I table the following disallowable instruments: Goods and Service Tax Regulations 2007 and the Road Traffic (General) Amendments Regulations 2007

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

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members, I have received the following Message from the Office of the Administrator and it is Message No 1 which reads that on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007, pursuant to section 21 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I declared my assent to the following Goods and Service Tax Act 2007 (Act No 4 of 2007) and Road Traffic Amendment Act 2007 (Act No 5 of 2007) and that message was dated the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 and signed Grant Tambling, Administrator.

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICES**

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

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

Chief Minister  
Minister for Tourism and Health  
Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare  
Minister for Finance; and  
Minister for Commerce and Industry

Mr Speaker I commend the motion to the House

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

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it, that motion is agreed thank you

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

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

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I move that Andre Neville Nobbs be chosen to be Chief Minister and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Nobbs, do you accept nomination

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I accept the nomination

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

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you, Mr Nobbs is Chief Minister

#### **APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND HEALTH**

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

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker I move that Geoffrey Robert Gardner be chosen to be Minister for Tourism and Health and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Mr Gardner do you accept nomination

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I accept nomination thank you

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

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you that motion is agreed to

#### **APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

SPEAKER: I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare. Mr Nobbs

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker, I move that Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack be chosen to be Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Mrs Jack, do you accept nomination

MRS JACK I accept nomination Mr Speaker



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

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

That motion is agreed.

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

SPEAKER I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Finance. Mr Brendon Christian

MR B CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker, I move that Neville Charles Christian be chosen to be Minister for Finance and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Christian, do you accept nomination

MR CHRISTIAN Yes Mr Speaker I accept nomination

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

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

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

#### **APPOINTMENT TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

SPEAKER: I now call now for nominations for the position of Minister for Commerce and Industry. Mr Anderson

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker, I move that Christopher Adam Christian Magri be chosen to be Minister for Commerce and Industry and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

SPEAKER Mr Magri, do you accept nomination

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker I accept nomination

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

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

That motion is agreed. Congratulations to you Mr Magri

#### **FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DATE**

Honourable Members, we move to fixing our next sitting day

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 18 April 2007, at 10.00 am.

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

QUESTION PUT  
QUESTION AGREED

The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

SPEAKER Thank you. Any further debate? There being no further debate I put the question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Wednesday 18 April 2007, at 10.00 am.

