



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
11<sup>TH</sup> NILA HANSARD – 18 APRIL 2007**

**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

**SPEAKER** Honourable Members if anyone would like to remove their jackets, please do so

**CONDOLENCES**

Honourable Members I call on condolences, are there any condolences this morning?  
Mr Tim Sheridan

**MR SHERIDAN** Mr Speaker it is with deep regret that this House records the passing of Thaddeus Stanley Lisner and Colin Lindsay Buffett

Thaddeus Stanley Lisner passed away at his home on Norfolk Island on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and in attendance with his wishes was cremated at a private ceremony in Wellington, New Zealand on 5<sup>th</sup> March. A gathering of family and friends was at the Golf Club to commemorate his life on Norfolk Island. To his wife Johanna and his many friends this House extends its deepest sympathy. Mr Speaker may he rest in peace

Colin Lindsay 'Boonie' Buffett was born on Norfolk Island on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1926 the youngest son of John (Funnybill) and Mary (Locket) Buffett. He had one brother, Charles Aldin, who predeceased him. Boonie was educated in Norfolk Island and left to join the Royal Australian Air force when he was 17. Whilst undergoing training as a member of the Air force he contracted rheumatic fever which was to have a lifetime affect on his health. After discharge, due to ill health, he trained in Sydney as a Plumber and Gas Fitter under the Post-war Training Scheme and became a Master Plumber. Whilst there he met the love of his life, Heather Kidd, and they were married in 1946. Two years later Boonie brought her back to his beloved Norfolk Island and they lived in the family home that Boonie built for them in Cascade. Boonie and Heather had three daughters, Colleen, Coral and Alma. Heather predeceased Boonie in 1984 and he never really recovered from her loss. Boonie worked as a plumber in Norfolk for many years and worked at the whaling station before joining the Works Depot in 1962. He held a variety of positions including Works Supervisor and Lighterage Manager. He was highly regarded by successive Administrators and School Principals for his no nonsense approach and the capable assistance he gave them. He finished his working career as Senior Works Supervisor and retired due to ill health in 1986. After retirement, Boonie missed the camaraderie of the men at the Works Depot and for many years he would find any excuse to visit the Depot and talk with the men especially Bruno, Jap and Junny. A great story teller, Boonie kept the people of Norfolk from his past alive by retelling tales of them and the practical jokes played. He considered the people in Cascade as his extended family and he rejoiced in their successes and enjoyed hearing about them. Although Boonie was not a great party man he allowed the celebration of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and enjoyed being surrounded by those in Cascade, his family and friends. Boonie was a good sportsman and loved to play golf and tennis – the first record on the hole-in-one board at the Golf Club records his name. When he could no longer play sport himself he became an avid watcher and listener of all sports and was a

great armchair expert. Boonie was a highly intelligent and practical man, who in addition to plumbing built a number of outboard boats. He was a very keen fisherman and early morning trips to check the sea were a weekend ritual. Boonie taught himself to do wood turning and got great pleasure in making pieces for family and friends and teaching others his skills. His pens have been distributed far and wide. Boonie was a gentle, loving man who cared deeply for his family. A wonderful father, father-in-law, grandfather to Darren, David, Megan, Michael, Shiralee, John and Simon and Greatgrandfather to Tariah, Nash, Kayla, Emma, Cody, Azhure, Kye, Ryan and Makenna he enjoyed family gatherings and was passionate in his love for Norfolk Island. To Boonie's family and many friends, on and off island, this House extends its deepest sympathy. Mr Speaker may he rest in peace

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Sheridan. 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.

### **PETITIONS**

We move to the matter of petitions. Are there any petitions this morning?.

### **GIVING OF NOTICES**

Are there any notices?

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Are there any questions without notice?

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I have a few questions. Firstly for the Chief Minister. So that the community knows what Minister has responsibility for what areas, when do you intend to publish to the community the executive Ministers full areas of responsibility

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker thank you and thank you Mr Sheridan. Today I will be tabling the Administrative Arrangements Orders which specifically lays out portfolios and the elements contained therein. I would imagine that would then be gazetted and available for the public. Thank you

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a question for the Minister responsible for the airline. Minister it's now been some six weeks since the interim airline manager has been appointed for what I believe is a period of approximately three months. Minister when do you intend to advertise the position for the airline General Manager and also the Airline Administrative Officer

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I expect that positions will be advertised in the not too distant future. Job descriptions have been worked out and what I intend at this stage is that we will recruit three positions, or three persons to run the airline. They will consist of a General Manager, a Yield Controller and Accounts Administrator. We may find ourselves in a situation on an interim basis that people from within the Administration fill those roles on a temporary basis, and that's exactly what's happening now, up until such times as we are able to advertise the positions and fill them with contract employees for a period not exceeding five years. Thank you

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker not really a supplementary but to do with the airline, Minister considering that the Ozjet aircraft is based on Norfolk Island can you advise what the required mechanical servicing periods for that aircraft is and when was the last full service of the aircraft

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I can't answer that Mr Speaker, not from a point of not wishing to answer it, but purely from a point of not being able to answer it but I can say that the aircraft went into engineering services a couple of weeks ago I think for what I understand was a air check, the aircraft is now back in service and I'm not aware of any major forthcoming maintenance, but as soon as I become aware I'll let Mr Sheridan know

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker the last one around the airline area, but it's a double headed one you might say Minister, it regards the airline and GST, Minister considering that the GST has been launched since the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the airline operation has recently been signed to a five year contract, can you advise as to when the community can expect an office up town as previously stated for the GST and airline operations to be opened

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you for that question Mr Sheridan. Things are progressing as planned in that area. I expect that the airline and GST will be in their new premises in Burnt Pine, next door to Norfolk Telecom hopefully in about four weeks time

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker just a supplementary on that please. Minister considering the moneys to be saved if the Government owned their own premises instead of renting, has the Government considered building their own offices up town or modifying existing buildings say somewhere around the Bicentenary Complex to house these offices

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, in the short term no I haven't given consideration to building an new office complex in the Bicentennial area. No doubt over the next few months as Assembly Members decide the long term future of GBE's in that area like the Liquor Bond and Post Office, things may eventuate from that, but I needed premises fairly quickly, there were new premises being built in Burnt Pine, I was offered attractive rental rates to occupy two of the offices and I exercised an option on two of them, but it's worth noting that even if the Administration owned the building themselves, we don't in fact provide rent free accommodation. Historically when we have building assets within the Administration they are owned by the revenue fund and in situations where GBE's occupy those buildings they actually do pay rental to the revenue fund so whether the premises are privately or publicly owned the airline or the GST office would still be paying some form of rent

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I have a question for the Minister for the Environment, Minister is there any advise as to how many accommodation places have not met the requirements of the water resources DCP No 2, dated February 2004 where it states in paragraph 7 (4) that each dwelling unit within three years of the commencement of this DCP will have the specific rain water storage as determined within the DCP

MRS JACK Mr Speaker the DCP in question has been since my taking over the ministerial responsibility in the last Legislative Assembly been under continual review over concerns by the Administration to actually enforce parts of that development control plan. It is under review now and in particular the section that Mr Sheridan is referring to and the Research Assistant to Government is trying to find out exactly where that specific section is and why the hold up is there. The section of the DCP was referred to in briefings and the concerns shown by Members and the community has been noted and in fact I shared them myself. As to how many the number, as to how many have failed to meet the requirements I don't have that information on hand Mr Speaker, but I'm more than willing to have Members of the service go out and investigate. I know that there are some that more than comply with requirements. Should that DCP be fully activated but as I say, it is under review because parts of the service feel that that action is being retrospective and my view is different but I'm trying to seek clarification but I have no problem in finding out and making those

figures available, not only to Members of this Legislative Assembly but to the broader community Mr Speaker

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a supplementary please. Minister also in the DCP the water resources DCP No 2, there is a requirement for the measuring of water used by residents accommodation units throughout Norfolk Island and they are supposed to supply to the Administration every six months, their usage. They have to report this. Would you be able to supply figures that have been supplied to the Administration over the past three years since the DCP has come into force

MRS JACK Mr Speaker I can supply to Mr Sheridan figures that I currently have. As I say, sections of that were never enforced, because we were having problems with the actual supplying. It was never made clear who was to supply the meters, who was to pay for the meters, and who was to recalibrate the meters should those currently using the device have faulty meters, so there were a whole lot of unanswered areas within that section that also need clarification but I can certainly supply such information that is available to me

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker just a couple of queries for the Minister for Health. Minister can you advise what the current opening and closing times are for the dental clinic and are these hours are flexible due to the workload or are the standard opening hours at the dental clinic

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker at this stage I haven't had direct advise from the dental clinic or the Director of the Hospital Enterprise in relation to the opening hours of the dental clinic. I'm happy to find out that information for you and distribute it to Members. I would be dismayed I guess would be the appropriate word, if dental services were being restricted in their delivery to Norfolk Island by I guess restricted hours of opening but it's something that obviously I'm keen to ensure is addressed and I will set my mind to that

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a question along the same lines. Could you advise what is the status of the employment contract for doctors, dentists, and the dental nurses. Are they current, expired or up for renewal in the short term

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker my understanding from the briefings that I've had to date is that they are all current. There are in the short term a couple that are due for renewal and the director is going through the process at the moment of negotiating with the various personnel about continuance or otherwise of those. If the people in those positions aren't currently in a position to continue then the Director has a programme for advertising those positions

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a further supplementary please. Minister just with the contract of the Hospital Director himself, I believe it is nearly up for renewal, will the position be advertised, or does the Hospital director have the option to extend

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker from the advise that I've received to date, the Hospital Director's contract I understand expires in 2008. the option to extend I believe is contained within the current contractual arrangements, and obviously the Hospital Advisory Board will need to consider and in due course advise me appropriately as to their preference to continue that contract or to advertise it

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a question for the Minister responsible for car registration. Minister with the commencement of third party requirements prior to registration, of which I applaud the previous Government for introducing, with the community's safety in mind, can you advise what you plans are to curtail the number of unregistered vehicles that currently exist and the enforcement for these vehicles to actually register and take out third party insurance

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker I thank Mr Sheridan for that question. Currently I'm still new to the job and in formulating a good grasp on exactly what is happening with car registrations. I appreciate that that is an issue and I'm taking advise from the Members of the community and the Public Service on that and I will definitely be making a full report to the House

MRS JACK Mr Speaker could I just note that that was the Minister's first words given in the House and it's almost his maiden speech, a response to a question

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Jack and we acknowledge that Mr Magri has spoken for the first time in the House and duly recorded but there is some conflict that that question posed by Mr Sheridan may have been also a responsibility of the Minister for Finance. Is there any other Member of the House who would wish to make a comment on that, even though the question cannot be debated. Mr Christian, do you wish to say something

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I think the responsibility is Mr Magri's. he's addressed it and I have nothing further to add

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker a final question or the day. To the Minister for Finance, Minister during the last few days of the last Government you made a statement that you had engaged Patterson Britton to provide a brief on the possibility of constructing a wharf and a breakwater down in the Cascade area. Can you advise when this report will be available for public consultation and for that matter the Government's consultation, and secondly, can you advise us as to how much this brief is costing the public purse

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, yes in fact a brief was given to Patterson Britton to look at port facilities in Cascade Bay. I expected to be able to receive a report within eight weeks of commissioning them. I would expect somewhere in the next six weeks we should have a report back. I have however, had a request from other Members to extend the scope of the brief to include Ball Bay and Headstone and I have made preliminary approaches to Patterson Britton about what the likely costs of that would be and at this stage they've indicated that it would be another \$39,000 for each of those additional pieces of information. I'm not convinced at this stage that I need to spend that sort of money, but what I will probably do is get them to look at Headstone and to review the Norfolk Port's Corporation proposal in Ball Bay and hopefully that will be a lesser amount, but the brief as it stands at the moment, will cost \$39,200 I think from memory and I have charged that against the Lighterage Undertaking

SPEAKER Thank you. Honourable Members, any further Questions this morning. Honourable Members for the benefit of the people of Norfolk Island who are listening to this Legislative Assembly meeting I would like to at this stage mention that Questions Without Notice, whilst it is quite rightly so that we can present that to the House, if in future that advise or assistance can be made to each Executive Members by members who ask Questions if they can give some warning on what is to be asked at any time it may help in replies. We conclude Questions Without Notice and we move on

## **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

Are there any Papers for presentation this morning

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, table the financial indicators for February and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, at the end of February 2007 revenue fund income was 107% of the revised budget and expenditure was running at 96% of the revised budget. On an eight month pro rata basis at the end of February 2007 I forecast that the revenue fund would be in deficit by \$469,000. The actual position is an estimated surplus of \$383,000 which is a turnaround of \$852,000. The revised budget provided for capital expenditure totally \$83,000 and to date the actual amount spent or committed stands at \$21,400. The revenue funds current asset at the end of February 2007 totalled \$2,547,400 against current liabilities totalling \$2,332,200 resulting in a reserve of \$214,200. Cash at bank in non trust accounts total \$10.7m inclusive of \$2.3m held in prepaid ticket sails on behalf of Norfolk Air. After deducting the prepaid ticket sale amount, the balance of cash held is \$8.3m which is consistent with the long term average. February has been a good month for the airline. Sales totalling \$1.2m were achieved and this delivered a surplus of \$162,400. On a financial year to date basis, the airline has achieved sales totalling \$9.8m and delivered a bottom line surplus of \$470,000. Mr Speaker I am pleased to inform you that \$348,000 of the profit has been reinvested in Norfolk Island by way of additional advertising and promotion. Thank you

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted. Any further debate. I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I would like to table the Administrative Arrangements Order and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker many people will already be aware, however, the Administrative Arrangements Order lays out the five Executive Membership of this the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly and it also shows a focus towards our targeting of economic monitoring growth with an emphasis on transparency and communication of purpose. Thank you

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, section 2(b)(2) 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. Mr Speaker the duty waived is as follows, the sum of \$67.20 in respect of inflatable automatic life jackets for St Johns Ambulance the sum of \$185.55 being waived duty on the importation of Christmas Cakes for the Lions Club, the sum of \$195.69 on the importation of goods for St Johns Ambulance, and the sum of \$8.25 on the importation of heart start pads for St Johns

Ambulance, and the sum of \$110.45 on the importation of winches and ropes for the Norfolk Island Volunteer Rescue Association and Mr Speaker I so table those exemptions

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I table the inbound passenger statistics for March and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker it is pleasing to note that we are making progress or headway in improving visitor numbers to Norfolk Island. It does give one a degree of excitement to know that we are heading in the right direction, but I am cautious. There are a lot of influences out in the market place that can dramatically affect our fortunes as far as tourist numbers are concerned and it is vitally important, imperative, that we ensure that we are able to maintain our support to our tourism marketing arm both locally, Australia and in New Zealand and in regard to that I just wanted to mention that the support so far from the business houses within the island has been heartening for the contribution to the regional partnerships programme. We are about one fifth of the way as far as the contribution from the Regional partnerships programme. We are about one fifth of the way as far as the contribution from the business community are concerned, and I would urge all business houses to get in behind the Tourist Bureau and their efforts to continue to market to Norfolk Island to a degree that is going to maintain our momentum. Mr Speaker in relation to the inbound passenger statistics and tourism in general I think it is also important to acknowledge the efforts of the Tourist Bureau manager and staff and also to pay some acknowledgement to the Members of the Tourist Bureau who's efforts are commendable certainly over the last twelve months that has seen a marked increase in our fortunes with the industry. Just in relation to that matter, as many around the table would be aware, some if not the majority of the positions on the Tourist Bureau are due to expire over the next couple of months I am keen to discuss with the current Board those Members continuation but certainly if there are other Members in the community that have a keen interest in being involved in the Tourist Bureau I would certainly look forward to them submitting an expression of interest either directly to myself or to our staff here in the compound. Mr Speaker as I said I'm pleased with the progress, there's a lot of work to do, but it is imperative that the business community get in behind the efforts that are being made by the Tourist Bureau particularly, in relation to the Regional Partnerships programme and we need about another \$80,000 as the business sectors contribution, to the Regional Partnerships Programme to make it a success and I look forward to the continuing flow of support that we've experienced to date. Thank you

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I table the financial indicators for the month of March 2007 and move that the paper be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, at the end of March 2007 the revised revenue fund income was 100% of the revised budget and expenditure was contained at 95% of budget. On a pro rata basis at the end of March 2007 it was expected that the revenue fund would be in deficit by \$306,000. The actual position is a more pleasing surplus of \$179,000 which is a turnaround of \$485,000. Mr Speaker it is worth noting that the corresponding period in the previous financial year, the actual, not estimated deficit was \$912,000. That turnaround totalling \$1.1m has indeed been remarkable. The revised budget provided for capital expenditure totally \$83,000 and to date we have spent or committed to spend \$39,300. The revenue funds current assets total \$2,496,900 against current known liabilities totalling \$2,602,700 resulting in a negative reserve of \$105,800. Not all of the liabilities that are listed actually required payment in March 2007 and therefore in cash low terms I can easily cope with the small deficit. Cash at bank in non trust accounts at the end of March 2007 total \$12.1m inclusive of over \$3m held in prepaid ticket sales on behalf of Norfolk Air. After deducting the prepaid ticket sale amount, and a \$607,000 overpayment from Qantas the balance of cash held at bank is \$8.5m, which is ahead of the monthly long term average of \$8.3m. Mr Speaker I have not yet received the monthly financials in respect of Norfolk Air so they are not attached to the March financial indicators but they will be circulated and distributed when they become available. Mr Speaker it is worth mentioned that over the next twelve months I expect the airlines to achieve gross revenues totalling a shade over \$20m and it is quite comforting to already have \$3m or that \$20m in kitty. Thank you

SPEAKER Thank you Minister. Honourable Members the question is that the paper be noted and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further Papers this morning. Are there any further Papers this morning No. We move on

## STATEMENTS

Are there any Statements this morning Honourable Members

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker just a brief statement if I may in relation to the opening hours of the dental clinic. I have been advised just in the last few minutes by the Director of the Hospital Enterprise that the opening hours for the dental clinic are 8.30 to 4.30. there has been a downturn due in part and aligned with the economic downturn in the island experienced over the last twelve months, which has reduced at times, the demand on those services and occasionally the dental clinic does shut earlier than that, being conscious of the fact that the staff and the dentist work through their lunch hours, however on occasions when the clinic does shut earlier, I am informed that the dentist does regularly check in case there are any emergency treatments that are required so I hope that that assists in providing some further information and explanation to Mr Sheridan in relation to the question that he asked earlier in the day

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Gardner. Are there any further statements Honourable Members

MRS JACK Mr Speaker I would like to give a report on the meeting I attended, with my colleague the Hon. Geoff Gardner, in Hobart at the end of



last week. The meeting was a regularly scheduled one, at this point in time it is held every two months, for the CNSC - the Convict Nomination Steering Committee. This committee heads the nomination for the World Heritage Listing and it is the 11 convict sites from Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales and Norfolk that comprise the nomination. The serial nomination is being sought by the Australian Government. The nomination was supported by the previous government and that support continues today with this government. The site being nominated on Norfolk Island is the KAVHA area. The 11 sites show the best and worst features of convictism and each site is used at least once as an example in the nomination process. In order for this nomination to progress each site must be listed firstly on the relevant state or territory heritage register, it must then become listed on the National Heritage Register and have a CMP, a Conservation Management Plan. The KAVHA site is already listed on the Norfolk Island Heritage Register. Discussions last week centred mainly on the preamble to the nomination however each state or territory working group did give an update as to what stage each site was up to in preparation for the nomination. Norfolk Island needs to complete its CMP. Let me note here Mr Speaker that KAVHA has already in place a CMP. It is viewed by all parties however that it is a somewhat dated plan and needs reworking. The listing is forcing a needed review. Each listing site is to have its own stand alone CMP. There has been some slippage on timelines with our own but in talking with one of the consultants on Monday I am hoping that has been addressed. The draft CMP when completed must first be passed by the KAVHA Board as it will be the working document of the area. The draft CMP will then be put out to public scrutiny. Statutory requirements cover the public viewing times, its availability plus the methods and means the document is displayed. For example there is a 4 week public exposure time, the CMP must be available on line as well as hard copy, notice of its readiness must be placed in a national mainland paper and I am expecting hard copies to be in place at such centres as the public library, the post office and the school. Other places to view the document will be published. With regards to the National Heritage Register nomination for KAVHA I am expecting an announcement over this status in the next few weeks. This will be made by the Federal Minister for Environment and Water Resources the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull. Mr Speaker attached to this nomination previous Ministers with responsibility for KAVHA, the Hon Geoff Gardner and the previous Chief Minister, David Buffett thought it necessary to commence and support a local working group, a consultative committee, to support the World Heritage listing. I share their views and so on Monday I met with the committee and it was decided that the committee would recommence a process of putting information and positive discussion out into the community. I am hoping that the process will begin over the next few days. The steering committee will be meeting again in June, the 13 to 15th and the venue will be Norfolk Island. For some of the members it will be their first trip to Norfolk and all are looking forward to viewing the KAVHA area and then branching out and discovering what Norfolk Island has to offer. Mr Speaker it is my intention to keep a running brief over this process. I gave a brief overview on the radio yesterday and will continue with that process. Thank you

MR MAGRI

Mr Speaker for the benefit of the community I would like to just explain some of the responsibilities I have in my capacity as Minister for Commerce and Industry. I have responsibility over economic policy; commerce and industry; fishing; industry initiatives; civil works; an island superannuation scheme and roads. I will also be expected to participate in the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee; the Road Safety Committee; the Healthcare Claims Committee and the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee. Amongst other things this portfolio and its responsibilities allow me to review the Administration's general financial structures systems and processes, with a view to supporting sound economic policy. These structures systems and processes will then better achieve transparency and accountability. Economic and financial sustainability is a priority of the current Norfolk Island Government and the Administration. Mr Speaker, this I believe, will help to restore 'investment confidence' back into the business and commercial sectors of our Community. Restoring and maintaining 'investment and commercial confidence' along

with 'administrative financial sustainability' will remain my highest priority throughout my term as Minister. Other strategies I have considered deserve the highest priority are, supporting the new C.E.O. to achieve the highest level of performance in the public service; Formalising our fisheries management systems with AFMA, the community and the Norfolk Island Fishing club; Liaison between business and Government; Developing a plan to provide, within 10yrs, appropriate roads for Norfolk's needs; Ensuring an effective "public finance & estimates committee" and "impact of bills and subordinate legislation committee" and following up on my election commitments to advance the commercial prospects of our fishing and farm produce sectors, and defending the interests of the KAVHA land holders during the Australian Governments process to include KAVHA for the serial nomination for World Heritage. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER I would like to draw Members attention to Mr Magri's maiden speech in this House and I would like on behalf of the House to offer congratulations to him and I'm sure that is joined by all Members here

MEMBERS Here, here

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker could I move that the Statement be noted

SPEAKER Honourable Members the question is that the statement be noted

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I would like to see that Statement noted and printed as to enable wider access

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I would like to compliment Mr Magri on his address to the House. He has clearly laid out his plan of attack for the duration of the life of this Legislative Assembly. I am sure that each of us who hold ministerial positions, executive positions within the Norfolk Island Government will endeavour to support Mr Magri in his efforts as I hope that, that support will be reciprocated which I'm sure it will be, and I look forward to providing whatever input I can to assist Mr Magri in the delivery of his portfolio responsibilities over the next three years

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Gardner. Honourable Members the question is that the statement be noted and printed and I put that question

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

SPEAKER Thank you the ayes have it. Are there any further statements this morning

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to set out an overview and the subsequent strategies that I hope will form the strategic plan of this the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The platforms that formed the candidacy of all the members of this Assembly, included the optimisation of communication within and outside of Norfolk Island, therefore although many aspects of this statement will be in brief, I would hope that all members of the Legislative Assembly will engage in discussion and provision of their views as we commence this government. Mr Speaker, although many of the points associated with this priority plan will be in brief, I would like to reiterate that consultation is paramount to all aspects, of not only the growth and achievement of this Assembly, but the planning and implementation of Norfolk Island's future. Work has begun on preparing a detailed strategic plan. Over the next month, I will be conducting intensive discussion with the community, the Administration, my ministerial colleagues and Members of the Assembly. I expect to table a comprehensive strategic plan at the May sitting of the Assembly. The structure of the new government highlights the great

importance I personally place on improving our planning and performance in relation to the "big picture" of the economic and social wellbeing of Norfolk Island and its people. We have created a new ministry of commerce and industry, with major responsibility for economic planning based on sound research and comprehensive consultation. We have in Norfolk Island tremendous resources of intellectual ability, innovation and adaptation to changing commercial situations, and we intend to harness these and to meld them with specialist advice to ensure that government policies and programmes are directed toward sustainable economic growth, balanced with protection and enhancement of our unique and valuable environment. We have also created specific ministerial responsibilities in areas including new technology assessment, strategic planning and industrial initiatives. We intend to be a government which does not lose focus on big picture issues, while still striving for excellence in service delivery. The challenge to Norfolk Island's constitutional position during the life of the last Assembly leaves me in no doubt Mr Speaker that the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly should address our relationship with the Commonwealth of Australia. Our objective should be to develop closer communications with the Minister for Territories and DOTARS with a view toward mutually respectful regular consultation. We should further enhance our relationships with other relevant agencies, such as treasury, environment, immigration, agriculture and fisheries agencies. I have already written to the Minister for Territories proposing an early meeting to explore ways to enhance our mutual relationship and to ensure that we have regular and meaningful discussions. At our first meeting, I will outline the Norfolk Island Government strategic plan and our forward financial planning and seek details of the Commonwealth's future intentions for its relationship with Norfolk Island. Our self government now, to a greater extent than ever before, depends on the ability of the 12th Assembly to direct and facilitate sustainable economic growth. We must ensure that population policies and strategies are relevant and effective, through review and research to learn from the experience of other jurisdictions. We must assess and modify legislative and regulatory barriers that may affect, hinder or attract investment in Norfolk Island. We must find ways to encourage innovation and provide practical support to new and enhanced businesses. Mr Speaker, our management of budgets, our efficiency in management of services to the community and sustainable forward financial planning will be the measure of this assembly. Review and implementation of key strategies from the asset management plan, development of a three year forward plan for recurrent and capital revenue and expenditure, as well as monitoring and where necessary refining of the GST system will I think set Norfolk Island's future on solid ground and reintroduce long term confidence into the commercial sector. Mr Speaker, as Members of the 12th Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly we are faced with big challenges but also with great opportunities to facilitate the growth of our economy and thus improve the living standards of all who live here and the services we can provide. I am tremendously encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by all Members in the short time since we were elected and truly believe that we will rise to the challenges before us. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Chief Executive Officer and the public service for the briefings associated with all areas, particularly in view of the new membership of this the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**SPEAKER** Thank you Chief Minister. I would draw Members attention to Mr Nobbs first speech and offer congratulations to him on behalf of the House

**MEMBERS** Hear, hear

**MR MAGRI** Mr Speaker I would just like to make a brief statement in regards to shipping. This is a prepared Statement provided to me by the Norfolk Island Shipping Enterprise Line. The Norfolk Guardian is currently in dry dock undergoing its special survey and scheduled maintenance work. Norfolk Island Shipping Enterprise Line is endeavouring to maintain the Guardian to top class standards to ensure efficient operations and smooth sailing for the next ten years. Unfortunately the survey and associated maintenance work on the Norfolk Guardian will not be completed

in time to make the scheduled sailing in May for voyage 53. Norfolk Island Shipping Enterprise Line therefore advises that for one sailing Yamba Norfolk Auckland Norfolk Yamba, their alternative vessel Sitka will sail in place of the Norfolk Guardian. The scheduled sailing date for the Sitka will remain the same as was scheduled for the Norfolk Guardian's voyage 53. Yamba estimated time of departure the 25<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately the Sitka has a much smaller cargo capacity of approximately 400 tones and therefore cargo bookings will therefore necessarily be limited to essential items only for this voyage. The Norfolk Island Shipping Enterprise Line regrets that they will be unable to accommodate all importers on this sailing and apologises for any inconvenience caused. Norfolk Guardian will resume normal services on the scheduled sailing date for voyage 54 which is currently scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you Minister for Commerce and Industry Mr Magri

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I would just to move that the Statement I made earlier be noted and printed

SPEAKER The question is that the Statement be noted and printed

QUESTION PUT

SPEAKER Thank you. Is there further debate at this time? . Honourable Members, then I put the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The ayes have it. The Bill is agreed to in principle

Is it the wish of the House to dispense with the detail stage? Thank you. Could I therefore have a final motion please Mr Nobbs

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker, I move that the Bill be agreed to

SPEAKER Is there debate? Then I put the question that the Bill be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

The Motion is agreed to. Thank you Honourable Members

We now move to Notices Honourable Members

#### **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name on the Notice Paper in the amended form foreshadowed by today's programme

SPEAKER Is leave granted Honourable Members. Leave is granted

MR MAGRI Mr Speaker I move that this House, pursuant to standing order 17, in addition to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, appoints Andre Neville

Nobbs; Geoffrey Robert Gardner; and Brendon Alec Christian to be Members of the Standing Orders Committee. Mr Speaker Members have discussed these appointments to the House committees and I seek Members support to my motion

SPEAKER Thank you. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES**

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name on the Notice Paper in the amended form foreshadowed by todays programme

SPEAKER Is leave granted Honourable Members. Leave is granted

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I move that this House, pursuant to standing order 18, appoints Geoffrey Robert Gardner; Brendon Alec Christian; and Ian Ross Mackenzie Anderson as permanent Members of a Committee of Privileges and Christopher Adam Christian Magri as the alternate Member to act when a permanent Member is unavailable due to illness, is off island or nominates to be absent due to a conflict of interest or some other reason

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Sheridan. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE**

MR ANDERSON Mr Speaker I move that this House, pursuant to standing order 19, in addition to the Speaker, appoints Geoffrey Robert Gardner; and Brendon Alec Christian; to be Members of the House Committee

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Anderson. I would like to draw Members attention to Mr Anderson's first speech and offer congratulations to him on behalf of the House.

MEMBERS Hear, Hear

SPEAKER Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

**APPOINTMENT OF A BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

MR B CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that this House pursuant to standing order 20 in addition to the Speaker appoints Andre Neville Nobbs; and Stephanie Victoria Anne Jack, to be Members of the Business Committee

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. I would like to draw Members attention to Mr Christian's first speech and offer congratulations to him on behalf of the House.

MEMBERS Hear, Hear

SPEAKER Thank you. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

**APPOINTMENT OF A IMPACT OF BILLS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name on the Notice Paper in the amended form foreshadowed by todays programme

SPEAKER Is leave granted Honourable Members. Leave is granted

MR SHERIDAN Mr Speaker I move that this House pursuant to standing order 20A in addition to the Speaker appoints Christopher Adam Christian Magri; Brendon Alec Christian; and Ian Ross Mackenzie Anderson as Members of the Impact of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee and appoints Neville Charles Christian as the alternate member to act when a permanent member is unavailable due to illness; is off Island; or nominates to be absent due to a conflict of interest or some other reason

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Sheridan. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

**APPOINTMENT OF A PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

MR CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name on the Notice Paper in the amended form foreshadowed by todays programme

SPEAKER Is leave granted Honourable Members. Leave is granted

MR CHRISTIAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I move that this House pursuant to standing order 20A in addition to the Speaker appoints Christopher Adam Christian Magri; Ian Ross Mackenzie Anderson; and Brendon Alec Christian as Members of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

**NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU ACT 1980 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF THE NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU**

MR GARDNER Thank you Mr Speaker I move that this House in accordance with subsection 4(2) of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Act 1980 recommends to the executive member that he appoint Ian Ross Mackenzie Anderson as a member of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau. Mr Speaker there have been various views over the years over whether or not the Legislative Assembly should be represented on the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau. In my previous role as Minister I was pleased that Mr Tim Sheridan was able to take on that role. I saw it as being an important conduit between the Legislative Assembly and the operations of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau and also an important opportunity to be able to provide maybe an alternative take on the direction that the Tourist Bureau might be taking and in that regard I commend the motion to the House

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Gardner. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

**IMMIGRATION ACT 1980 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO THE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE**

MR NOBBS Mr Speaker I move for the purposes of section 6(2) and 6(4) of the Immigration Act 1980, this House recommends to the executive member that Timothy John Sheridan, being a member of the Legislative Assembly, be re-appointed as a member of the Immigration Committee. Mr Speaker I've been fortunate to have participated with Mr Sheridan within the Immigration Committee and that was during the life of the last committee. His well considered input was most appreciated and I thank him for continuing in this role

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.





SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Jack. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

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

MR GARDNER Mr Speaker I move that for the purposes of section 22(2) of the Healthcare Act 1989, this House resolves to choose Christopher Adam Christian Magri to be a Member of the Claims Committee. Thank you Mr Speaker with the appointment of Mr Magri to this committee it does allow the appeals mechanisms established under the Healthcare Act to be properly considered and to be fully implemented. There has historically not been a great deal of business that this committee has had to give consideration to over the years, however it does provide an important appeals function under the Act and is a necessary appointment to be made and I look forward to working closely with Mr Magri on that committee. Thank you

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Gardner. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

#### **SEA INSTALLATIONS ACT 1987 (CLWTH) – NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO BE REPRESENTATIVE**

MRS JACK Thank you Speaker that for the purposes of paragraph (d) of the definition of “representative” in section 4(1), of the Sea Installations Act 1987 of the Commonwealth, this House nominates Neville Charles Christian to represent Norfolk Island for the purposes of the Act. Mr Speaker I would like to explain what this appointment is all about. The appointment under Commonwealth legislation provides a mechanism for a representative of a state or territory, in this case Norfolk Island, an 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. This mechanism does not apply to things such as oil rigs. It is more in relation to environmental and scientific research and the structures that are associated with those types of activities. It may be helpful to outline the objects of the Act as to the reasons for this appointment and I suppose the role when it comes to the consultation process that would take place between the Commonwealth and the Norfolk Island representative. Those objectives 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 Neville Christian’s nomination as the Norfolk Island representative to be able to undertake any necessary discussions or consultations with the Commonwealth should there be occasion to position such installation in the waters around Norfolk Island. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Jack. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

#### **MOTION BY LEAVE - MUSEUM TRUST ACT 1987 - APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES**

MRS JACK Mr Speaker, I seek leave to move the motion standing in my name on the programme

SPEAKER Is leave granted Honourable Members. Leave is granted. Mrs Jack

MRS JACK Thank you Mr Speaker I move that for the purposes of subsection 5(1) of the Museums Trust Act 1987 this House resolves that Ian Hamilton McCowan; Margaret Rosemary Jowett; and Arthur Lawrence Bigg, be appointed as trustees under the Act for the period from 20 April 2007 to 19 April 2009. Mr Speaker the Museum Trust is an advisory Board consisting of seven members and four trustees constitute a quorum. The function of the Trust is to acquire possession of heritage objects for the purposes, in relation to objects so acquired, of ensuring the safe custody of the objects; preventing physical damage to, or decay of, the objects; preparing a catalogue of the objects; obtaining and recording information about the objects; and preparing the objects for display in a museum approved by the executive member. Mr Speaker trustees are assisted in their role by the museum director. This position is currently filled by Mr Brian Hubber. At this point Mr Speaker I wish to thank Mr Ian McCowan and Mrs Morgie Jowett for agreeing to be re-appointed to the Trust and to Mr Archie Biggs in agreeing to be appointed. Mr Speaker at this point I wish to acknowledge and give thanks to the volunteers that sit on the statutory Boards and Trusts that service the Norfolk Island community. I am sure that all who sit around this table appreciate the time and effort given so readily by this group of people in the service of their community. Mr Speaker I commend Mr McCowan, Mrs Jowett and Mr Biggs nomination to be members of the Museum Trust.

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Jack. Is there further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

I think the Ayes have it. The motion is agreed.

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

Thank you Honourable Members that concludes the Notices of our paper today and I look now to Mr Brendon Christian for a motion in terms of our next sitting day

MR B CHRISTIAN Mr Speaker I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 16 May 2007, at 10.00 am.

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Christian. Is there any debate. The question is that the Motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT

AGREED

The motion is agreed; we've fixed our next sitting day

**ADJOURNMENT**

MR ANDERSON  
adjourn

Thank you Mr Speaker I move that the House do now

SPEAKER  
Thank you Mr Anderson. Is there any further participation in adjournment debate Honourable Members. There being no debate I put the question that the House do now adjourn

QUESTION PUT  
AGREED

Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Wednesday 16 May 2007, at 10.00 am

