



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
13TH NILA HANSARD – 20 JUNE 2012**

SPEAKER Good morning Honourable Members, we commence with the Prayer of the Legislative Assembly.

PRAYER

MEMBERS 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 Gentlemen feel free to remove your coats if you desire and make sure your phones are disconnected, wael se tan et orf. Honourable Members we are anticipating a short programme this morning and I look to you Chief Minister please for the first step of the programme.

MR BUFFETT Yes, thank you Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker I move that so much of Standing Orders be suspended as to provide only those matters appearing on today's programme to be dealt with at this Sitting, which is the normal course of process with our budgetary session, thank you.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, is there any debate Honourable Members before I put that question? Being no debate, I put the question.

**QUESTION PUT
AGREED**

SPEAKER Standing Orders are so suspended to allow us to only deal with the matters that are on today's programme, thank you.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

SPEAKER I now call on leave of absence, Chief Minister.

MR BUFFETT Yes, thank you Madam Speaker, I do seek leave of the House for Mr Michael King, Mr Craig Anderson and Mr Lisle Snell.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, is leave granted Honourable Members?

**QUESTION PUT
AGREED**

Leave is so granted. We move now to Giving of Notices.

GIVING OF NOTICES

SPEAKER Are there any Notices to be given this morning?
Chief Minister.

MR BUFFETT Yes, thank you Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker I foreshadowed at the May Sitting a motion or motions on progression of reforms to achieve long term sustainability for Norfolk Island and I foreshadowed a motion that will provide opportunity for the Islands Parliament to speak with a strong voice about achieving this long term sustainability, and I now give notice of this motion. Madam Speaker the motion is that consequent upon the following examinations, studies and other measures undertaken in accordance with the Roadmap and respective inter-governmental agreements, and there is a list of those, a) the Deloitte Access Economics Wellbeing Report – Norfolk Island dated the 27th April in 2011, b) the Commonwealth Grants Commission Update of the Financial Capacity of Norfolk Island 2011, dated the 2nd December 2011 and c) the Australian Continuous Improvement Group Norfolk Island Public Service Review, d) the ACIL-Tasman Norfolk Island Economic Development Report, e) the Revenue Measure Options for the Norfolk Island Government discussion paper, f) the Policies to Promote Competition and Investment in Norfolk Island policy paper and g) the Norfolk Island Government's Preferred Model for Territory Self Governance. The motion continues, and having regard to their respective outcomes, this House resolves to, and there is a) to f) - a) Endorse the Norfolk Island Government's commitment to participation in the Australian taxation and social security systems to deliver a net benefit to its community and to express a preference for the earliest introduction of these systems, and b) Affirm the inclusion of the island into the Australian GST and transfer payment system, c) Reaffirm a preferred model for future self-governance as set out in the motion of the Legislative Assembly dated 3rd August 2011, and d) Commit to return to core functions of Government through staged divestment of commercial enterprises using the Competition Principles Agreement 1995 as a policy framework and e) Prepare and commit to an itemised timetable for the reduction and/or removal of barriers to investment and competition, reflecting a reasonable and balanced approach to individual areas, and f) Commit to supporting amendments to the Norfolk Island Act 1979 necessary to achieve the outcomes set out in this motion. Madam Speaker you will know that that has been circulated to all Members and I just make additional mention that this motion is therefore now public, will be published and given impetus in that context, the community will have an opportunity to discuss it with their elected Members and it will come forward for substantive discussions at the next Sitting of this Assembly which is scheduled for the 11th of July in 2012.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, notice is so received and will be entered accordingly on the Notice Paper for next Sitting, thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

SPEAKER Moving along now to Orders of the Day number one, Supply Bill 2012, thank you, and we are in your hands Chief Minister, resumption of debate on the motion that the Bill be agreed to in principle, Chief Minister.

MR BUFFETT Yes, thank you Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker I'd like to reinforce some vital facts, in the continuance of this debate about a Supply Bill in Norfolk Island for the next six months. Firstly, we all know now that Norfolk Island's small numerical size is unable to financially support the Islands needs in respect of services and infrastructure. Examples of the Hospital, medical services, welfare services, education arrangements, and the rising costs have moved beyond our means, and it's exacerbated of course by the global financial crisis which has diminished our principle industry of tourism. And given that, we are of necessity, gravitating from our smaller Norfolk Island financial pool, to a larger pool, that is the Australian fiscal pool. Which does include taxation, Australian welfare scheme, GST scheme and the like. The motion, I'm not trying to pre-empt the motion that I've earlier mentioned, but some things are mentioned there, and given all of that we have erected a Roadmap to travel this path to make this significant transition. And the destination of course, as we all know, is long term sustainability for Norfolk Island, and whilst we have made significant advancement

along this road, for example, support of the Territories Law Reform legislation, which is about transparency, accountability and the like, we have shed an airline, another has been erected, locally made legislative reforms have been made, changes in policies, but not withstanding that, the Roadmap remains lengthy and the terrain is significantly difficult. On the 8th of May in 2012, thank you, the Commonwealth announced in its budgetary processes, thank you, the allocation of something like 2.88 million dollars to fund elements of that Roadmap. Let me just point to a couple of them, the provisions there, a total of 2.88, the first thing that must be said of course in terms of that 2.88 is that over half a million dollars of it is absorbed in the Department of Regional Australia in administrative costs, but in terms of those things that might apply in Norfolk Island, they have identified the Pest and Diseases Survey 0.9 million in this year, and 0.5 million in next year, these are round figures, Economic Development study \$300,000, the Hospital review \$100,000, Community Strategic Plan \$100,000, KAVHA interpretation \$100,000, Waste Management \$200,000, a total there of \$1.7 million dollars. Budget released on the 8th of May. This allocation of course is essential to advance elements of the Roadmap, but it does need to be clearly explained that that allocation, that allocation, to the Roadmap doesn't mean allocation of funds to Norfolk Island's control, or supervision. This amount of money is in the hands of the Department of Regional Australia and they administer its programmes and accord the priorities that they have set, set out in that particular example, you will see that these reforms are costly, and this is part of the process. But can I restate this Madam Speaker, the Roadmap is a long term sustainability strategy and that's its package and sub packages within it. But until we reach that stage of long term sustainability we do need to survive, and that survival package is a separate package, so two strands, long term sustainability and the other is survive today. Now can I come to the detail of this Supply Bill which is in front of us, we may think that that is irrelevant, of what I have said earlier, but it isn't. Because we need to see the Supply Bill in its context today. So this Supply Bill which is on the table today is in the survive today package, allow me to lead you now through the processes taken to come to the figures in this Bill, that is for the year 2012/2013. We firstly calculated what I would term a normal budget, providing for community needs, health, social welfare, education, roads, maintenance of assets, capital funds, principle industry promotion of tourism, and we provided all of that to the Commonwealth, such a budget estimated a deficit of something like \$9 million, round figures, deficit of \$9 million. Now obviously not affordable for the Norfolk Island Government, but nor realistic to seek that level of funding from the Commonwealth, because they too have constraints for the 2012-2013 financial year. So, we have cut that budget significantly and let me example to you some of the sacrifices that were made in the pulling back of that budgetary arrangement, let me just dwell upon three areas for a moment, or maybe four, significant reduction in salaries and wages, in recurrent expenditure, it has meant that we have not provided carers and child care allowances that were proposed, nor community health program, the first of those was something like \$540,000, community health programme \$155,000, in terms of advertising in our principle industry, which needs advertising in the Australia scene, we had a bid for \$500,000, and that has been taken out of the budget, additional KAVHA works, the World Heritage area, that has opportunity to give us a further profile with visitors, that was a figure of \$450,000, emergency management \$170,000, but that is just in recurring expenditure. In terms of capital expenditure that was sacrificed to reduce, for example, road reconstruction \$1 million, power house plant and equipment \$290,000, again I'm rounding these figures Madam Speaker, electricity mains upgrade \$500,000, telecommunication plant and equipment, airport drainage, you can see that they are significant matters that have been taken out of the budget, that we obviously are not able to do, and that in terms of some items that would have addressed economic development, ligherage, cranes and barges \$600,000, a new fire panel for the Island wide services \$70,000, rearrangement of quarry rock \$120,000, they're examples only Madam Speaker to just illustrate the point that I am endeavouring to make, there have been significant cuts, community cuts to bring the budget to where it is at this moment. And so from that process we resulted with a budget deficit of something like \$3.4 million. Which delivered only a bare bones budget, which delivered only essential services to the community. And

in January of this year, we sought Commonwealth assistance to survive financially in the year 2012-13. Because lack of Commonwealth assistance will place us in a far worse position in the Island as a whole, and far worse than we experience today, notwithstanding the difficulties that we all know exist today. We've received no formal response Madam Speaker from the Commonwealth at this time, but there have been significant officer discussions about that budget proposal, but notwithstanding no response, I am of course compelled to present a Supply Bill to commence the year, that will be in a very short number of days. And at the commencement of the year, that is at the end of the financial year that we are in at this moment, we project that we will have something like \$3.4 million in hand. Therefore we can continue to provide services for a period. A period, and this Supply Bill projects our way for six months, obviously in three months and indeed on a progressive basis as we walk through, but certainly in three months, we will need to recognise and examine with a reassessment of where we stand, you can see that the Commonwealth response will determine our next steps. At our last Sitting Madam Speaker I went through this budget, I don't propose to do that again, it's being repetitive, but I pointed out the amount for this particular six monthly period, the basic proposals were there in terms of essential services within the Island and now bringing this for its final stage for discussion amongst members, when we get to the detail stage Madam Speaker, I will make an amendment in terms of the Schedule itself, I've already discussed and circulated that there are a couple of items that need some adjustment, one relates to telecommunication for example, we have now paid off the New Zealand Telecommunication outstanding account, and that actually was in our budget, so we need to remove that, so it is a reduction of expenditure, no increase in expenditure which will be sought in those adjustments, Madam Speaker thank you.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, Honourable Members the question before the House is that the Bill be agreed to in principle, is there any further debate? Minister Sheridan followed by Mrs Ward.

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Madam Speaker, I would just like to silent my phone that keeps ringing in my pocket. Madam Speaker, I would just like to make a few more comments in response to queries from the last Sitting. At the last Sitting I believe that I covered the areas within my portfolios that were receiving funding, or not, in this budget, currently on the table. I also voiced my frustrations as to the pickle that we are in at the moment, and whilst I fully appreciate the assistance from the Commonwealth, that they have provided over the last couple of years, the position has become more frustrating and precarious over this period. Madam Speaker I believe that this Government has clearly outlined its position in regard to future Government arrangements that it would like to see, and also its position in regards to the fiscal relationship with Australia, particularly in regard to the participation in the Australian and the GST Systems and the reintroduction of Medicare and social security programs. These issues are of vital importance and need urgent attention re their introduction, attention from both Governments to implement, these matters are continuing and unfortunately can not be salami sliced off and apportioned to Norfolk Island, these matters have to be considered in full, with the ramifications fully understood prior to implementing, and therefore the need for a detailed time line with regard to fiscal arrangements. Madam Speaker it is my hope that a huge effort will be made in the next 12 months to facilitate this. Madam Speaker on the other side of the coin, it is a matter of this, the Norfolk Island Government reducing its costs and therefore the need to raise monies to equate to the expenditure. A lot of items have been suggested that Norfolk Island could implement straight away, such as moving out of some areas that are currently provide services for, which the private sector could pick up. Some of these are the Liquor Bond, postal services, telecommunications, grounds maintenance, building maintenance and the downsizing of the general service in general. Madam Speaker I am fully supportive of the Norfolk Island Government moving away from some of these areas but it has to be done in a considered fashion. Not just having a fire sale and hope for the best. I'm not supportive of reducing functions or personnel in the public service until the full

ramifications are known and the full costs identified, it is as sure as hell, that if these services are reduced or ceased then there will be cost to ensure that the function is maintained. Whether or not it is done by the private sector or by contract, and if reduced, then service delivery will be vastly impacted to the detriment of the community. Unfortunately it is a time consuming process, one that is not agreeable to all, and some believe that the Government is not doing enough to cut its expenditure. Madam Speaker ultimately this will have to come to pass, because if after a few months and it becomes apparent that there will not be funds to fully cover the 12 months of expenditure, then I can assure you that some very hard decisions will have to be made. Decisions that will impact on the whole community and the Norfolk Island economy, this is why this budget is only for six months, the period that the Norfolk Island Government can be certain that it can cover, at the moment our funding is a moveable item and one that has to be reviewed on a regular basis. Madam Speaker it is very important that our fiscal relationship with Australia and in particular the Commonwealth is sorted out as soon as possible because it is very apparent that to provide all the services that the community has become accustomed to, something has to change. The Norfolk Island GST alone can not fully fund our obligations and we need alternate areas of revenue to fully fund all areas. Areas such as assistance towards health provision or which some \$2.126 million is allocated in this next financial year, healthcare assistance \$166,000, workers compensation scheme \$110,000, our social welfare obligations of some \$2,118,000, education commitments of some \$3.5 million, and policing of just over three quarters of a million dollars. This in itself is a cost of some \$8,750,000 and climbing and very obviously unsustainable in its present format. Madam Speaker the benefits that the participation in the Australia taxation system and social security systems bring have been actively lobbied by members of this community and it is only this morning that another email was received encouraging this forum to act as a whole for the benefit of the community. This community is feeling the pinch of being in a depressed state for a long period. Lower incomes, less disposable income, difficulty in paying mortgages, medical expenses and even putting food on the table, this has proven to be even more difficult because this Government is not in a position to be able to provide stimulus packages and is finding it tough to provide for basic services, services which a community is entitled to have provided. Madam Speaker the areas identified in the Grants Commission update on the financial capacity of Norfolk Island are that of land taxes and rates, amongst others. Of which it is considered that some \$2.4 million could be raised, \$942,000 in land tax and some \$1.4 million in rates, its interesting when reading this report that not every Australian State or Territory applies this land tax and that the average per capita is \$269 this equates to some \$488,773 for Norfolk Island, but the report suggests that \$942,000 could be raised. Madam Speaker I have completed some homework on land rates for Norfolk Island and based on sales for the past five/six years on vacant properties in all zones, I came up with a figure of around \$588,000, based on a small percentage of value. This is without any exemptions and a lot more work would have to be required prior to any consideration of this type of tax for Norfolk. Legislation would have to be enacted to enable valuations to be completed, of course at this time Norfolk Island can only assess absentee land owners properties and can not utilise this information for other purposes, nor value occupied premises. As for municipal rates, the Grants Commission Report suggests that \$1.4 million can be raised based on the King Island average per capita of \$789 with an all Australian average of only \$526 per capita. Based on this average Norfolk Island would raise only \$956,000 in both of these areas the Grants Commission suggests that Norfolk Island can afford to pay way above the Australian average, the Grants Commission also suggests that Norfolk Island could be provided support from Australia of some \$5 to \$7 million per year. These are the very reasons why the fiscal arrangements with Australia to provide assistance in funding have to be examined carefully. Another area that it is believed that relief could be provided to the community, is that of the extension of Medicare and the PBS arrangements, currently the health care scheme and the hospital enterprise need assistance so that these services can be provided to the community within a reasonable cost. These in itself are not simple measures as they are both tied into the Australian Taxation System, but efforts are being made to introduce them into Norfolk Island as soon

as it can be arranged. It is interesting to note that whilst it is felt that the extension of Medicare and PBS arrangements will benefit the Norfolk Island community in the main, because of the perceived costs of the health care scheme to its members, and Madam Speaker in the main it should, across the board. It's also been mentioned that some \$3,280 need to be expended prior to any benefits being extended to an eligible person, under healthcare, this is due to the levy of \$780 per person and the current benefit ceiling of \$2,500, which has just recently been reduced to \$2000 for a single person. Madam Speaker what must be taken into account is the nature of the scheme and that of Medicare and the intent for the healthcare scheme to cover the majority of costs over and above this figure. It was interesting to read the Hansard on the introduction of the healthcare scheme back in 1989 and the intent and the realisation of why the scheme has faltered. The intent was so that major illnesses would be catered for without a person having to sell the farm to pay for such an illness, the benefit ceiling was made because at the time of introduction out patient fees, in patient fees, first \$120 per admittance, all prescription medication and travel costs for referrals were not to be covered, but with 100% of other costs covered by the scheme. Madam Speaker a decision was made back then on advice from an actuarial that it would be better to cover these items, but to place a ceiling, a benefit ceiling, that a person must reach prior to being eligible and therefore the result of the ceiling. A major item that has been removed in recent years and a major cause of its financial difficulties is that of re-insurance, of which it is intended to have in place for this coming year. Madam Speaker this scheme was put in place when the Medicare system was withdrawn from Norfolk Island back in 1989 due to legislation eligibility changes in Australia and has served Norfolk Island well until this time. Unfortunately the increase costs of medical treatment has meant that the levies have not kept up with the costs and therefore the fund needs supplementing, it is important that this scheme keeps operating as at the moment, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain private insurance for cover on Norfolk Island. Madam Speaker but when considering the intent and the costs compared to the costs of provision of medical cover in Australia it is not too bad a scheme. In Australia one must pay the Medicare levy, in which the financial year 10/11 was some \$365 per capita, the interesting thing is that some 51% of the Australian population aged 15 years and over had some type of private insurance, with 73% of the population covered by private insurance or a Government health card, this private insurance cost for a single person is up to \$1,570 for basic cover and up to \$2650 for top cover, for a family, basic cover would cost up to \$2,930 and top cover of up to \$6,980, private insurance schemes which are not able to be provided to Norfolk Island at present. Madam Speaker these figures are comparative to those of the Norfolk Island Health Care Scheme costs per person. That's enough on those schemes there Madam Speaker and I just wanted to make those points because this is the area that we are delving into with the Commonwealth in regards to some relief of our fiscal problems that we do have, we are looking at Australian taxation, which implies the extension of Medicare and social services benefits, so just trying to put a little bit of context into that discussion. But just getting back to the main item on the table of which is the Bill that is before us and at the last months Sitting some queries were made by Mrs Ward and I would just like to provide some responses to the queries in my portfolio areas; Mrs Ward at the last Sitting asked to provide some following comments on why the forestry wages were increased by some \$30,000, Madam Speaker the actual budget for the financial year 10/11 is currently under budget by approximately \$10,000 with actual expenditure to be approximately \$168,000 and is currently budgeted for just over \$158,000, the actual increase for the financial year 11/12 will be some \$24,000 which has allowed for the positions currently filled. The Forestry section in financial years 08/09 and 09/10 had a budget of some \$210,000, over the past few years a number of positions at forestry, of which there are eight, which have not been filled or partially filled and therefore a reduced requirement in this area. Currently there are three positions vacant, with another on extended sick leave, this \$190,000 is required for these five positions, this includes over time, long service leave, gratuity and provident b payments. Building Maintenance wages increased by \$30,000, the actual increase is only some \$15,100, which would allow for the five positions at the building maintenance section, the total amount payable for these

five positions include long service leave, provident b and a gratuity is \$188,544, the budget areas now include these provisions of which were not provided separately in each area in prior budgets. Building total expenditure up by \$70,000, Madam Speaker the actual increase in this area is some \$40,230, the difference between the financial year 11/12 and financial year 12/13, this is due to an increase in wages of \$15,100 as explained, recurrent expenditure, a decrease of \$7,670 and an increase in capital works of \$32,800 for a total of \$54,800. This is explained by the budget provision of some \$26,000 to refurbish the Principals residence internally, some \$21,000 for building upgrades to house properties and with the remainder budgeted for replacement of roofs on garages on houses within DCA circle and plant and equipment expenditure. Another query Madam Speaker, Grounds Maintenance total up by \$20,000, the actual increase in this area is only \$3,500, from \$228,700 to \$232,200 in next years budget. This is created by a variety of small adjustments in line items such as sport oval maintenance increase by \$10,000, a decrease of \$9,700 in minor building repair and other small increases and decreases. Roads, a position filled with some OH&S excuse, at the time of a recruitment freeze, Madam Speaker this position had just been currently filled to ensure that when the workers are road patching that it can be done in a safe operation, this job requires three operators so that the work can be done safely and expeditiously, one driver, one spraying tar and the other spreading metal, this filled position will also mean that throughout the financial year 12/13 a full roads program can be carried out as budgeted. Another query on the Waste Management Centre, recurrent expenditure increase by \$38,000, Madam Speaker actually the difference in this area is a reduction of \$21,300, with a total reduction to the total budget of Waste Management of \$124,400. And the last one from Mrs Ward was the Child Welfare wage increase without justification, Madam Speaker this position commenced in September 2010 and has been filled by extension of contract since that date, during this period the position has been assessed and with the responsibilities of the position becoming more complex in nature and a need to be more proactive in the issues and the community at large, there are numerous areas that could be enhanced such as community awareness, school educations for things such as awareness campaigns for the prevention of substance abuse, the upskilling of workers and their responsibilities, this is in an area that is of vital importance for the welfare of our children and monies have been allocated to enable this position to be considered for a full time Child Welfare Officer. The requirements will be addressed early in the financial year with the position being advertised with a detailed job description, this position will be a vital link with FACSHIA of whom it is proposed that assistance will be sought in some areas as ongoing discussions with the Commonwealth continue. And just finally Mr King also had a query there Madam Speaker, Mr King raised concerns regarding the reduction to the Water Assurance Scheme in mains maintenance of some \$90,000, the Water Assurance budget has increased by some \$70,000 with an expected position to be full time at the Water Assurance Scheme instead of being shared with the Health, Building and Quarantine area, there is also some \$31,500 for water quality monitoring, an increase of \$25,000 so that the quality of the Scheme can be assured and testing of ground water, and so that decisions can be made in an attempt to keep our ground water clean. There has been \$50,000 allocated for maintenance and the Government is aware that some parts of the Water Assurance Scheme will need replacing shortly and a full proposal will be put together during the next financial year for funding in 13/14. This \$50,000 allocation will provide for the requirements over the next 12 months. Madam Speaker I support the six month budget as tabled as it is funded by reserves held by the Administration, but in saying that, the first six months of 2013 will be interesting, thank you.

MRS WARD

Thank you Madam Speaker, and thank you particularly to Minister Sheridan who has obviously taken the time to address the issues that I raised at the last Sitting. What Minister Sheridan has based his differences on are the actuals, Minister Sheridan knows that I based my comparisons from the Deloitte's checked 11/12 budget, which is the current year, against the Commonwealth Finance Officer checked current budget, but that's what Minister Sheridan has done, and he has gone back to the actuals, that's budgeting in some areas, we have line items where there

is 0% expenditure which is interesting after 12 months of a budget year, and I think there's questioning as well. What Minister Sheridan is basically doing is demonstrating that there have already been cuts made over the years, and in the Forestry Section I certainly appreciate that, it does drive home the fact that we are down to the bone in many many areas, and we are providing a maintenance budget, where it is of concern is when you get to the point, and I think Minister Nobbs will address this, is when you are covering areas which are basically covering OH&S, Occupational, Health & Safety, issues within the Administrative area. But I am heartened by Minister Sheridan's acknowledgement of our situation and his recognition that some really tough decisions are going to have to be made. So I thank him, the Chief Minister has equally demonstrated where sacrifices have been made in the area of wages and salaries and overall there appears to have been a reduction in salaries and wages of \$200,000, there is a slight increase on Capital Items, but that includes RESA, as Minister Sheridan has already said, whether that needs to be deferred straight away to start with will be a case for the Government and Administration to look at. I have to be very blunt Madam Speaker in my opinion, this is still a very high risk budget, and although those issues have been, the issues that I raised have been covered, it still sends, I think, a message to Canberra that we are still not doing enough, because it does nothing to demonstrate that we are prepared to make any attempt to change the way we operate, and I don't see there are real efficiency dividends, except for the non-recruitment in some areas, I don't see an attempt to re-prioritise spending in a serious way, I don't see an attempt to reduce non-essential service, I don't see an attempt to stream line the use of resource, and there certainly hasn't been an attempt to outsource trade functions, but I acknowledge Minister Sheridan's words on that subject. The Government has adopted a position where it genuinely believes that it is maintaining a basic standard of service, well I will continue to argue that it's not essential for the Government to run the visitors information centre, and I'll make that clear, I'm not talking about the Tourist Bureau, I'm not talking about the promotional side of the Tourist Bureau, because it is broken into two organisational sections, there is a promotions side, and what I call the Visitor's Information Centre. And I don't think that \$75,000 worth of casual broadcasting staff at the Hospital, sorry, at the Radio Station, is an essential service, at the same time, when a budget has difficulty, as I said, in covering the basic maintenance and OH&S requirements, then we have a problem, and we know that. The other thing to remember is that the Norfolk Island Government still owes the Commonwealth \$11.4 million for the Runway Loan. Now I don't see a sign of that as a liability in this budget, if it's there, I would like that pointed out to me, but if it is not here, pretending that it doesn't exist isn't going to make it go away. What this Government is doing is really providing job security. And that is very difficult to argue against in a depressed economy, but the reality is, if the money isn't coming through to the Revenue Fund to start with, then there's going to be nothing to spend. I haven't been provided with information to support the visitor number projection of 25,500, which is what this budget is based on, to date we have had the Minister's word, which is in slight conflict with the Tourist Bureau Manager coming down and saying to us that we have really bad forward projections until November, and then he saw some improvement, so you are sort of five months behind to start with, yet you are projecting a 6% increase in tourism numbers, I have expressed my concern to my colleagues very seriously about the continuation of the flow of money from regional to Norfolk Island for basically recurrent expenditure and I've based my concerns on two very clear messages that I've picked up on, and one I said at the last Sitting, was the Senate Estimates Budget Hearing, where a Senior Officer said, and I'll quote, "Norfolk Island will need to take up measures to reduce its budget gap, it will need to fill at least half its budget gap itself", that was followed the evening of the Sitting of that House, by the Federal Minister, Simon Crean, on the 7.30 Report, where he said, and I'll quote again, "it can't work if demands are simply on the Commonwealth", unquote, and then new quote, "Norfolk Island can no longer defer tough decisions and rely on the Commonwealth for bailouts". Well for me, those are two undeniably clear messages coming from Canberra, and it is why I want to see a plan developed urgently, by my Government, based on the worst case scenario, that Minister Sheridan has shown me that he is very aware of. Because I don't want to see us hit the

crisis point where the first move is to cut the working hours of the public service, because a reduced working week, would hit the low income side of the service, not the high side, and it would do nothing to improve productivity, or force the structural changes which are so urgently needed. And I think the other thing that we need to be mindful of, as we look at the wider picture, when we are asking the Commonwealth to subsidise our service delivery, we need to understand that every Commonwealth Department has been forced to produce an efficiency dividend as a result of the Federal budget. They have been forced to cut expenditure, as we know the regional department, by 25%, so they have had to make some really tough decisions, and I think unless we do the same, there is not going to be any inclination on their behalf to continue to support us, and quite frankly, why would they? When we appear to do so little to change the way we operate, but I am going to support this Supply Bill, I'm going to support it, because the thing I care about the most is the community as a whole, and I appreciate that any moves to further cut public spending will cause the economy to further contract, and that's what I'm really mindful of. The motion which the Chief Minister has given notice of today, is about creating long term sustainability, and unfortunately we do have a little way to go on that, perhaps we have a long way to go, and that is going to need leadership and direction, and certainly the support of this House and the wider community. But today this about getting through the next six months, the Chief Minister believes the full deficit funding will come from the Regional Department, and I don't, I guess it is as simple as that. I will close by acknowledging the efforts of the public service Managers and the Finance Manager, the CEO's Office Staff and the Commonwealth Finance Officer, for the first time in our history has had input into this budgetary process. That's all I have got to say at this stage thank you Madam Speaker.

MR NOBBS

Thank you Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker I need to start by saying that, as the Chief Minister has pointed out, in his capacity as Finance Minister, we are commencing budget proposal for normal operation of the service and of the provision of essential services for Norfolk Island to cater for the provision of those services, OH&S issues, essential capital replacement and the like was \$9 million, to sit around this table and say that we have not had to make significant reductions and significant sacrifice in areas of some of those service delivery areas, as well as capital replacement, as well impacts on the administration and management, is not correct, you do not remove \$6 million from your budget for those delivery of services without implication. Madam Speaker I commenced at the last Assembly meeting where by we placed the Appropriation Bill on the table by pointing out the frustration that I have, as well as the community has, in terms of working to a subsistence budget. We have members of the community in the gallery with us today, they have been part of the trek, the challenging path that Norfolk Island has had to work, for a number of years, since many of the GFC implications and other expected obligation costs as Minister Sheridan detailed earlier with regard to health issues, as those costs have increased, as our incoming revenues have decreased we have all had to tread a very careful difficult path, for many in the community it is just, there hasn't been a light at the end of the tunnel for us, it hasn't been for lack of initiative and commitment in private or public sector, but I will just reiterate that a subsistence budget forestalls further issues for us, it certainly keeps the wheels turning, however it reduces, or curtails capital upgrade and replacement, ultimately it reduces money circulating in the economy, it reduces stimulus opportunity through Government capital works that can then go out to the private sector, difficult scenario. I will just provide a quick response to the query by Mrs Ward regarding the arrival passenger numbers configured into the budget, that was on the advice of the Tourist Bureau and the GM, it is not a figure concocted out of the air. Madam Speaker we have talked about the Commonwealth Finance Officers involvement with our own management level in the configuration of this budget, and I certainly appreciate that as well as the now commitment for the Australia National Audit office to be part of our audit processes externally. Something that we have pushed for for a number of years, and on that note I would point out that Norfolk Island made a commitment to contribute its GST, its Norfolk Island GST to the Australian Taxation System, around about five years, that was a

commitment put on the table, as a result of Norfolk being specifically excluded from GFC related assistance and stimulus at the time, so the discussion of whether or it is just a recent activity of whether to discuss taxation commitment and contribution to the Australian system it's been an ongoing discussion for some time. However Madam Speaker the return to the Appropriation Bill, we are talking about a six month appropriation, within that the Tourism Marketing commitments are maintained at \$805,700, it is worth talking in a policy sense about some of the areas that although under constrained fiscal arrangements are still committing to some development and strong policy implementation, tourism being one of them. There is a reconfiguration of our branding already well commenced and going through a display and familiarisation program to the community, there's television advertising program that encompasses that brand that has already commenced for New Zealand, it is worth pointing out that a lot of these new elements and the policy through the Tourism Bureau, specifically the GM is to engage as much local content as possible, and I certainly welcome that on a number of levels, the strategic plan, development and finalisation is certainly taking great steps through the GM and the Bureau the optimisation of industry representation again being addressed, as well as social media opportunities to promote Norfolk Island and better the destination profile. The established collaboration between the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau and Air New Zealand as that continues we hope that that will further enhance and there will be a similar availability of information to help us all gauge how we are moving forward, and that in turn helps the private sector. There are industry education programs and awareness programs proposed, and within this we also cross over into the economic development aspects that are proposed in the coming financial year, we have already had discussion about the immigration changes aimed at enabling investment and population growth, under current consideration is lighterage changes with regards to legislation, the accommodation industry legislation that deals with some of the issues such as compulsory grading, management, non-resident ownership, quota and licences, difficult legislation in difficult times, however aimed at as many productive outcomes and opportunities for investment and growth as possible. We have certainly commenced a number of discussions on divestments processes, we have the EDR report, officer level discussion already in those areas to analyse the best way forward, however, as we have discussed at the time of tabling the EDR Report, the financial framework at the time of considering those divestments is essential that it is known and it is stable to provide the best outcomes to the broader community. Madam Speaker the Chief Minister has already pointed out that we have finalised the Telecom New Zealand debt, we have some established revenues for Telecom through the mobile phone roaming revenues and the like, and there is some productive initiatives there. Mrs Ward alluded to some of the issues that I've raised earlier regarding OH&S for both Norfolk Island Energy which is the fuel arrangement through the Government and for the Electricity undertaking, there are OH&S provisions within this six month budget to sort out some handling and some management and isolation issues for electricity and also for the bulk storage for the fuel. Madam Speaker we have spoken briefly here today about the Airport Runway End Safety Area amount of \$280,000, Madam Speaker the Runway End Safety Area is already considerably behind schedule, and it was certainly a key criteria with CASA that these safety areas, within all areas, within all airports should I say, in the Australian region were brought up to that end safety area standard. We are certainly doing our best to meet that obligation, obviously for us, we need to maintain our airport operational, which brings me to a further issue that was raised with regard to the runway loan, the runway loan is actually acknowledged within the Roadmap Madam Speaker in the dual Government commitments, so it hasn't been left hanging in the wind, it is something that is under consideration by the Commonwealth in their commitments in the Roadmap. Okay, Madam Speaker within perhaps the last eight months, there has been discussion in Australia and implementation in the Carbon Pricing Initiative and Scheme and I would just like to bring this into the conversation as it impacts potentially on budget, and also, in my view imminent impacts for the cost of living for Norfolk Island, I wrote to the Minister in August, at the start of August last year, I've since had a response in November of last year, to acknowledge that there may be an issue, but there doesn't appear to be a

solution or an acknowledgement of how we address that issue for Norfolk Island. That is a concern, I have recently discussed that further with the Administrator, so there are a number of other implications that also sit outside of our current budget. Madam Speaker we've touched on reduction on services, we have touched on reduction of employees through the public service, certainly within the Government's considerations we've evaluated many of these areas, the downside is that the reduction of staffing or resourcing for these areas does impact on the delivery of those services, and in effect more importantly, it immediately impacts on the money circulating in our economy. So Madam Speaker there are a number of factors in the consideration there. The Chief Minister also earlier mentioned the previous additional \$500,000 sought through the Tourism area, that was to further promote the destination through a co-ordinated campaign, improve visitor numbers, as the Chief Minister has already provided the information, that did not get up, however as I've pointed out, we still retain the \$1.6 million annual budget which is now split in half for the \$805,000 that we will now have in this budget. Quite rightly Madam Speaker we are reviewing each step of this budget, not just at the three month mark, we will be continuing the review through the Budget Review Committee, which provides an additional step for analysis of essential spending through the Administration. Madam Speaker just in finishing, I will just touch on perhaps one of the, perhaps a lighter note within the budget, and that is our commitment to NICHE, the Norfolk Island Carbon Health Evaluation, which has enabled us a communication link to various other grant and eco environment bodies, given us certainly some Norfolk Island profile and ability to get the message out about Norfolk Island internationally, it has a health and financial benefit for Norfolk Island as well as the employment of two officers who are Norfolk Island community members Madam Speaker, so it is a slight branch away from the normal discussions on the budget, but I just re-endorse that that is a commitment that this Government made, and that is around \$25,000 per annum with a significant return both financially as well as accessibility profile wise. Thank you Madam Speaker.

MRS GRIFFITHS Thank you Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker I appreciate the difficult position that the Government is in, I understand Minister Sheridan's and this community's frustration, I sympathise with the Chief Minister when he says that we can no longer afford the expectations we have, although I have to ask do we really know what this community's expectations are and are these expectations appropriate for this place? Like Mr King I have formed opinions on how we come to be in this situation, I agree with him that most of it is in our planning and processes, and rest assured I still think most of it is our own fault. Last year I made substantial comments on our budgeting processes, and I would bet that not one issue I raised has been dealt with yet, I would guarantee that the format of the budget submissions hasn't been addressed to better guide our public service activities for the next 6-12 months, I would guarantee that we are no closer to completely understanding what the different public service departments priorities and challenges are, and I don't been anecdotally by conversations with Managers or our own experiences, I mean fully understanding the challenges and priorities as they relate to where we want to go. I would guarantee that there are still no links between our budgeting processes and legislative policy program, in fact, at the last meeting the Chief Minister said that we can no longer afford to develop and pursue policy initiatives, I absolutely disagree, to me that was tantamount to saying we can no longer afford to make any effort what so ever, and I know that's not true. It seems to me that there is no understanding of policy development and processes in this Government it doesn't have to cost a fortune to develop policy, this Government and most previous Government's have spent all their time drafting and enacting legislation without realising that legislation is drafted to enforce those policy parts that need enforcement. Madam Speaker if we took this approach we might actually see a more focussed legislative program than we have today. For years we have taken adhoc approach to the introduction of regulations and legislations, it is one of the reasons for the mess we are in. I remember when all we heard about for the public service was performance budgeting and performance based contracts, it's a shame that this complex but relatively

inexpensive process of results based management has not seen its full potential, even if we haven't got spare cash, we might have a better understanding of where we are going today. The recommendations of the public service review are no excuse, no impediment, nor are they mutually exclusive to moving forward. Madam Speaker at the last meeting, both Mr King and Mrs Ward mentioned abolishing the funds set aside for our CPA membership, I do not agree, our CPA membership is vitally important to us, our last discussions with the CPA secretariat was particularly fruitful, for example, we are now currently pursuing a review of our IT systems down here in this parliament, we are pursuing induction training for our new parliamentarians, we are pursuing training in other areas such as improving parliamentary scrutiny of Bills and making a standing on select committees more effective. If we want to be a truly effective parliament, such training is vital in improving our performance. Particularly if we want to maintain our Territory form of governance, in all honestly Madam Speaker we should have been taken more advantage of this relationship a long time ago, then we may see the importance. The reality is that the most successful education that our past Assemblies have received is perfecting the art of rhetoric, having said that Madam Speaker I am not going to stand in the way of this budget, I only wish this Government would take note of some of the suggestions that I have put forward. Thank you Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Griffiths, I have now offered everybody the opportunity to debate, Chief Minister were you wishing to summarise before I put the question?

MR BUFFETT Yes, if I could have the opportunity to say some final words Madam Speaker, may I thank all the contributions that have been made in terms of this difficult Supply Bill that we have in front of us Madam Speaker. I would just like to pick up a couple of points, they have been covered in the main, but I think they are important to just give the emphasis too. They are the visitor projection which with the Minister who has responsibility for Tourism has explained as to why the projection figure is 25,500, and the advice that he has received and which we endorse in terms of compiling our figures. The RESA was a factor that I wanted to emphasise also, the RESA program is in the budget, it is seen as a safety factor in terms of the Airport, and therefore funds continue to be provided in that safety factor context, a query was raised about the Commonwealth loans, Mrs Ward raised that, \$11 million, there are basically two loans that are with the Commonwealth at this moment, one is the Cascade Cliff loan, the other is the Airport loan. The Cascade Cliff loan is paid on the basis of rock sale which has come with that particular project, so that is ongoing, the Airport loan, we have sought a pause in terms of repayment of that loan, and that is a continuing arrangement, therefore that is not in the budget as we have at this moment. Madam Speaker in a final sense I would just like to say this, I've endeavoured to demonstrate a normal budget, I have endeavoured to demonstrate those things that we have cut from a normal budget, to bring us to where we are. But notwithstanding that, there is still a gap to be filled, \$3.4 million, the reality is whether we do a little, or whether we do a lot, and there are obviously views around the table about that particular matter, but even if we do a lot, we are not able to meet the full \$3.4 million gap, and that is something that I think we all acknowledge. Unless of course we create huge further difficulties, further than the difficulties that are upon us today, further difficulties, and I say to the House that we have an obligation to endeavour to lessen that impact upon the Norfolk Island community, hence our going to the Commonwealth endeavouring to fill that part of the gap that we consider we are not able to do today, and may I additionally say this, we can not go elsewhere, the Norfolk Island Act of 1979 says to us that we are not able to go elsewhere than the Commonwealth, unless the Commonwealth gives approval. Our earlier approaches to the Commonwealth to go elsewhere have been declined, hence that's where we go, there is rationale in making those approaches, and that's where we are today. Now whether we gain something out of it, or whether we don't, which is the question that Mrs Ward has mentioned, I'm not trying to answer that at this moment, I'm

trying to say that we are trying to lessen the impact upon the Norfolk Island community on the huge difficulties that we face today, that is what this Bill is about.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, further debate Honourable Members? I believe we have exhausted debate. I will now put the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

I believe the aye's have it, the Bill is so agreed in principle. We move now to the detail stage Honourable Members, Chief Minister I look to you.

MR BUFFETT Madam Speaker, thank you. I foreshadowed an adjustment, and I will move it this way, I move that the Schedule dated the 5th of June 2012 to the Supply Bill 2012, which was presented when we came together on the 6th of June, be deleted and a new Schedule dated 18th of June 2012 be inserted, and I table this Schedule. Madam Speaker I have earlier provided that to the Clerk, so that you will know what all of that is, it has equally been provided to Members in terms of that. But just to give some explanation, it really just covers two areas that needed adjustment in terms of the Bill itself that is on the table. One, I referred to this earlier, it included the earlier document, a repayment amount for the New Zealand Telecom loan, we have now paid that off, so therefore we do not need to have it there further, and there was an interest component relating to that as well. And the other was a duplication of some wage arrangement. So they are the two arrangements that are sought to be adjusted Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER The new Schedule Chief Minister dated 18 June is so tabled, debate Honourable Members on the question that the amendment be agreed too. Chief Minister.

MR BUFFETT Yes, I have nothing to add, I have given the explanation of it Madam Speaker, I am happy that we vote on that now.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, is there any further debate around the table on the amendment? Therefore I put that question, that the amendment be agreed too. Are we quite clear on what, thank you. The question before us is that the amendment be agreed.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

I believe the aye's have it. The next question before us is that the remainder of the Bill be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

I believe the aye's have it, Chief Minister I look to you for a final motion.

MR BUFFETT In a final sense Madam Speaker I move that the Bill as amended be agreed to.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, any debate Honourable Members on that question? I therefore put the question.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

I believe the aye's have it, the Bill as amended is so agreed to, thank you Honourable Members. The concludes the substantive matters on the Notice Paper on the Programme today and I look now to Mrs Griffiths please.

FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DAY

MRS GRIFFITHS Madam Speaker I move that this House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday 11th of July 2012 at 10.00am. Any debate Honourable Members, Mrs Ward?

MRS WARD Yes, thank you Madam Speaker, I can't not highlight that the Chief Minister has given notice of a substantive motion which he's read in the House, I would ask the Chief Minister whether that was going to go to Norfolk online, we don't have to wait until Saturday... I'm sorry...

SPEAKER I'm sorry Mrs Ward, not a problem, we've got the motion before us that at our rising we adjourn, we are still in fixing of the next day, any further debate Honourable Members on that question, I believe that we have all agreed on that issue.

MRS WARD Sorry!

SPEAKER QUESTION PUT
AGREED

I believe the aye's have it, that motion is so agreed, thank you Honourable Members, we move now to adjournment, Mrs Ward.

ADJOURNMENT

MRS WARD Thank you Madam Speaker, my apologies, I move that the House do now adjourn.

SPEAKER Thank you Mrs Ward, any debate Honourable Members, Mrs Ward.

MRS WARD Now that I've provided provision for debate, I'll carry on, eager to get out of here Madam Speaker, I jest of course. I can't go without making mention of the substantive motion which the Chief Minister has given notice of, and as I said requesting that that go to Norfolk Online which is an immediate provision of the written form of this motion to be provided to the community. It is a culmination of the past 18 months of work that has been done, there will be many many people in the community who will welcome this motion and full debate, so thank you. I think that Minister Nobbs is going to mention the Tourism Awards so I'm not trying to pip him on that point, but I was also able to attend the Tourism Awards function last night and I was sat at a table, I was privileged to sit at the table with one of the winners, one of the recipients of the Gold Award for the Hotel section, which was the Paradise Hotel, so that is a congratulations to them, but I was privileged to sit with a group of people who were a team, who provided service to the Tourism Industry, and at that table was a lady who held a Temporary Entry Permit, and I'm just going to raise this very briefly, as I want the community to also know as part of moving forward that Immigration is an area that we will be looking at, she is a lady who has been resident for four years on the Island and she has a child born on the Island and she owns a house on the Island and her husband is employed, and she said to me, do you think that the time will ever come when you will stop treating us as second class citizens, and that really hit me, I understood exactly what she meant, under our Immigration legislation, she is a temporary entry permit holder, she is an Australian citizen, she is subjected to a health check every 12 months, that is our law, so I think in

terms of dealing with how we deal with GEP's and the Minister referred to our policy for population growth and investment, we need to look right across our Immigration and bring it back to the Temporary Holder Permit holders as well, the people who, when I sit in that large group of people, many many would have been, or are still perhaps holders of Temporary Entry Permits, they provide great value to our industry, and I would like to see us really address the serious issues which they feel are restricting their free flow to and from the Island. And that's what we need to address if we are serious about welcoming people to the Island in the future, many of us will need to open our minds further and the time has come to stop treating Australian citizens as foreign nationals, so I am going to put that on the record, thank you Madam Speaker.

MR NOBBS

Thank you Madam Speaker, Mrs Ward has already alluded to the Tourism Awards, and I certainly welcome her comments on how we process, particularly our Temporary Entry Workers as well as our GEP's, they are certainly, through the private sector, there would perhaps be some more welcome flexibility through those arrangements, but we will be working through those as we progress. With regard to the Tourism Awards last night though Madam Speaker, the purpose of the Tourism Awards is to encourage and acknowledge improvements in our sector for tourism, it enables a degree of profile building for Norfolk Island, a degree of enabling destination preference through some of the agencies that provide passengers to Norfolk Island and visitors to Norfolk Island and therefore moves towards improving visitor numbers as a whole to Norfolk, as well as the satisfaction of those visitors with the visitor experience. Madam Speaker with regard to the Tourism Awards last night, I would just like to acknowledge the Awards Committee, the process seems to have gone like clock work, there has been a significant amount of data collected and analysed to ensure that there is a good process and good feedback to those entrants, whether they were a winner or not on the winning dais at the end, they still get productive feedback in the process and it also helps in much the same way as quality assurance and accreditation does in providing a vehicle to analyse your business model and how you intend to implement your initiatives and the like, so I thoroughly endorse it. I would certainly like to acknowledge not only the Awards Committee, but also the people that were entrants, the various businesses that took the time out to put their business through the rigours of the evaluation for the tourism awards, the various sponsors that enable these arrangements to move ahead, as well as the attendees who were there last night as well. And for many people I think the importance of these events is sometimes missed, and the importance of the event itself is taking the opportunity to celebrate and recognise those areas of where we are achieving, and endorsing them, supporting them, providing feedback on them to all areas across the industry. There were some simple message by some of the recipients of awards last night Madam Speaker and I'll just go through three of them, for the gentlemen who won the service delivery award, his simple message was, treat everyone who is a customer exactly how you would like to be treated, quite simple, for the Accommodation Industry, winners at different times, they specifically spoke about the team work, about the shared vision and shared effort. And lastly Madam Speaker, for one of the recipients their motto was, you get out what you put in. Madam Speaker I just highlight that the Tourism Awards, the Tourism Awards process was a great success and I commend all involved.

MR SHERIDAN

Thank you Madam Speaker I just make a brief comment to the House, and it really is to speak on Mrs Wards comments in relation to Immigration. Immigration on Norfolk Island will be a very touchy subject and one that will be debated long and hard amongst the permanent residents here and of course, as Mrs Ward has rightly said, the temporary entry workers and of course the general entry permit holders, who contribute a lot to Norfolk Island. Madam Speaker I think I am on the record as saying that we do need an increased population base to sustain ourselves here on Norfolk Island, as the Chief Minister has said, our small population here of some, it is most probably under 1800, we just can not provide enough income to provide for the services that we must deliver, but in saying that, it has to be done in a careful manner. Whilst I encourage Australians, I encourage all nationalities to come here, I don't hold any

difference or sway towards any nationality, I see that as good for a community, I think that we have a lot of nationalities here on Norfolk Island and it enhances what we do around Norfolk Island, Madam Speaker we must be careful, we must remember although Norfolk Island is an external territory of Australia and therefore in the view of, particularly Australian Parliamentarians, they view that travel for Australians should be unfettered, that may necessarily be so, I can agree to a certain degree, I can agree that Australian citizens should be able to come and go from Norfolk Island because it is primarily an Australian Territory, but we must remember Madam Speaker, that Norfolk Island is the home of the descendants of the mutiny on the Bounty, from Pitcairn Island, and that I would hate to see that those descendants, that locals, long term residents are displaced in their own home land. I would hate to hear that, it is a very touchy subject, whilst I encourage some population growth, not to the detriment of those long standing inhabitants of Norfolk Island.

MR BUFFETT Madam Speaker I just wanted to hart back to an earlier stage, I have some accompanying documents, and I would like the opportunity to table them, so that they may be seen as part of the presentation that I made in terms of the budget. There is a requirement that in terms of the Territory Authorities, and I'm now speaking of the Hospital, the Tourist Bureau and the Museum, for their budgets to also be tabled, and I do so now with their strategic priorities listed. They are encompassed in the budgetary documents in terms of allocations to them, but these are documents from themselves which accord with the statutory requirements, and I so table those Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, those are...

MR BUFFETT If we might have them slotted appropriately when we do our record taking.

SPEAKER Thank you Chief Minister, those documents are so tabled. Further adjournment debate around the table, I think we have exhausted debate, which brings us to that point in the proceedings that I put the question that the motion be agreed to.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

This House stands adjourned until 11 July 2012 at 10am. Thank you.

