



**NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
14TH NILA HANSARD – 14 AUGUST 2013**

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

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PRAYER

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

CONDOLENCES

SPEAKER

Honourable Members Are I firstly ask if there are any condolences today. Mr Evans

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MR EVANS

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It is with regret that this House records the passing of **Lynette May Sheridan** affectionately known as Bub. Born in March 1965 and raised on Norfolk Island, she was the daughter of Christine and Warren Sheridan. Lynette was the youngest of five children, sister to Deb, Tim, Martyn and Sam. As a child she was close to her older brothers and considered herself a tom boy, playing outside in their playground of Ball Bay, having adventures with their cousins and the animals and spending summers at the beach. Lynette loved horses and as a child she learned to ride well. She loved spending time with her dad and was happiest when feeding the animals. Lynette did well at school and enjoyed competing on Sports Day for her Norfolk House. By 1978 most of the older children had moved out of home and Lynette moved to Sydney with her Mother. They settled in the eastern suburbs and Lynette attended Randwick Girls High where she quickly made friends and developed her own independence. Lynette loved the fast life in Sydney but her heart brought her home many times. She had four children and they made her extremely happy. Ngaire first in 1982 then Jesse ten years later. He formed a close relationship with his Mother and became her rock. During one of her trips back to Norfolk she rekindled a childhood romance and was married and had her third child Jenna. This was one of the happiest times of her life. Finally Jonah came along with his kind eyes and big heart just like his Mother. Lynette was a wonderful aunty to seventeen nieces and nephews. She was generous and would give even, when she herself had little. In the course of her life Lynette had many jobs including working at the post office, cooking with her Mother and cooking at the hospital. Lynette battled many challenging life experiences. In 2001 she enrolled in TAFE to use her own experience to help others and became a drug and alcohol worker. She worked successfully in her career for many years and helped many people who suffered from similar problems as her. This is when her kind and compassionate nature was at its best. Lynette had a fun loving nature and she enjoyed spending the day at the beach and then going home to enjoy an evening with her many friends just as she also enjoyed having a good chat over a cuppa and many nights were spent with a pot luck dinner. Lynette always saw the best in people and formed many friendships over the years. She will be remembered as being young at heart, a caring, free spirited and loving daughter, sister, aunty, friend and mother. To

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Ngaire, Jesse, Jenna, Jonah, Christine, Deb, Tim and Sam and their families, and to her many friends, this House extends its deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace.

It is with regret that this House records the passing of **Joan Irwin**, a lady who has loved the Island since she and her late husband, Commander Peter Irwin, RN, Retired, came to live here in 1980. She was farewelled following a Requiem Mass conducted by Father Paul Hilder at the St. Philip Howard Catholic Church where Joan's three sons - Mark Whitmore and his wife Mary, David Whitmore with partner Jane, and Stephen Whitmore with partner Natasha, gathered with many friends. Joan was born in May, 1933 in Darlinghurst. She was the first born to Maghnus and Mabel Rankin and the elder sister to Clyde. She grew up in the family home in Earlwood, Sydney and attended St. Bridget's school in Marrickville. Joan was a blond bombshell and one of her claims to fame was that she was in the first intake of female lifesavers in Australia, based at Maroubra Beach. She loved dancing, and was a proficient ice-skater. She married Graham Whitmore in 1955, and they had three boys. As the wife of a builder, the family moved many times. Joan was always an active member of the community, beginning with the school tuck-shop, and was heavily involved in the church youth group. Joan had a great interest in reading, and used her immense trivia knowledge to win a prize in the TV show, BP Pick-A-Box. She had a wonderful sense of humour and was not averse to pulling pranks. Joan and Graham separated and two years later she met and married Peter, a retired Commander in the Royal Navy. Peter introduced Joan to Norfolk. He was an avid lover of the island and Joan quickly shared his passion. They enjoyed a number of holidays here before finally relocating in 1980, to own and operate 'Impulse', a boutique in Burnt Pine. They gained permanent resident status as soon as they were eligible and built their dream house overlooking Ball Bay using a single Norfolk Pine from the property. It allowed Joan and Peter to indulge in their hobby for shell collecting and gardening and it provided plenty of room for their two dogs. The Island welcomed them and Joan often talked of their love for Norfolk and their new friends. Joan enjoyed gardening (they won a competition); cards (Bridge and Jarro); cooking and entertaining, reading and music. Their house was always full of music, be it from one of their organs or a musical soundtrack turned up loud. They were founders of the Norfolk Island Organ Society. She continued her life-long love of volunteering for the community, becoming involved with White Oaks and the Church Council. Joan loved her family and would take every opportunity to visit them in Sydney, travelling at least once a year. She was a gadget collector and was always on the lookout for the latest invention, be it an egg slicer, a mango corer or an avocado keeper, she just 'had to have it!' Joan is survived by her three sons Mark, David and Stephen, three grandsons, — Christopher, Scott and Matthew and an unborn great-grandchild due in January. To her family and her many friends, this House extends its deepest sympathy. May she rest in peace.

SPEAKER Thank you Mr Evans, Honourable Members as a mark of respect I ask that all Members stand for a period of silence in their places.

PETITIONS

Thank you Honourable Members. Petitions, are there any Petitions this morning.

NOTICES

Notices, are there any Notices.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Are there any Questions Without Notice this morning.

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker given that the Minister has publicly stated that the Norfolk Island Government would be working closely with the immigration development working group, would the Minister give an overview of the role to be played by this group and what the Acting CEO has delivered in terms of finding a

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way for the Public Service, to partner with the group to take forward the new immigration regime

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you Mrs Ward. A member of the Administration, Mr Jason Adams, has been provided to me and I thank the CEO for giving me that assistance, as the intermediary between the private sector, the IDWG and the Government of Norfolk Island and the Administration, as recently as last Friday I think if not Monday of this week, Mr. Adams communicated by email with the Chairman of the IDWG just checking how they were going, keeping them abreast of what we're doing and continuing to foster a working partnership. I think it would be very helpful as soon as possible that the IDWG came together personally with me so that they can have first hand exactly what we're doing and I hope that helps. Certainly there's a wish and a want, I've made quite clear that this is a team effort between the Norfolk Island community and the Norfolk Island Government to do the very best we can to bring investment into Norfolk Island

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, and again to Minister Adams, f

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Following a meeting of MLAs with the Immigration manager yesterday, - is it a fact that Australian and New Zealand NZ citizens who have cash bonds being held by the Administration can immediately apply to have their money refunded?

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, I'll take that on notice to make absolutely sure that the answer I give is correct, but I take the point that you're making. It's certainly been a matter of discussion and I'm sure that the outcome will be an appropriate one in these circumstances. Thank you Mrs Ward for the question and the reminder

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, and again to Minister Adams,

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Is there an administrative process in place for Australian and NZ citizens to follow in order to get back confidential information that was used to support their original GEP applications under the old immigration regime? If there is no procedure in place, would the Minister ask for a procedure of this kind to be developed so that people can have their private information returned to them?

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you Mrs Ward. It is an issue that has been raised. I have seen communication go by and my understanding is that whilst the original documentation is part of a from of process and will be retained, there is absolutely no reason why people can't have copies of those documents. That's my advise at this time. If you would like me to pursue that further I'm happy to do so but that's my clear understanding that that's the process

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, and again to Minister Adams,

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Given that the Minister has removed the Immigration Policy and Guidelines motion from the Notice Paper and that she stated last month in the House and I will quote that - "the more we look the more we find the more change we need", would the Minister spell out exactly what she thinks needs to be changed in either the act or the policy?

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you Mrs Ward. It was always understood that there might be a need to continue the review of the Policy and Guidelines that were put in place to meet the milestone. How can I put this? I'm not saying that there will be any change other than style in the document, and that's being worked on now. It went through a process but it's principally a style that's being worked on at this time. We have a meeting to continue this process at 11 am this Friday morning at Customs with Acting Crown Counsel, myself, the Immigration Officers, Acting Chief of Staff, where we are continuing to look at issues that are before us. I haven't brought them all to Members because they're numerous including the need for

consequential amendments to legislation flowing out of the Immigration (Amendment No 2) Bill and I thought that I would bring them back to you in smaller blocks. Some of the issues are visitor permits (I'm just flipping through some documentation that I've got here) Section 33a, the fees that are being charged, the need for some interpretation around the current schedule 2, some other consequential issues that are needing to be worked through and I'll just mention again, we've drilled down around the legislation that's requiring consequential amendment and the particular pieces of legislation include the Absentee Landowners Levy Act, the Business Transactions Administration Act 2006, the Employment Act, the Healthcare Levy Act, the Legal Profession Act, Social Services Act and they are issues that once I have sufficient documentation behind the need within those pieces of legislation this will be a matter for us as a Parliament to sit down, back of House, work through how we would like to deal with the legislation amendments going forward. I'm just seeking clarity to make sure that the final document that we've got has clarity around it for everybody, policy, law etc

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, I just seek a clarification from the Minister that she is in no way attempting to rescind the legislation Act or make amendments to the regulations that would form grounds for the termination of the Funding Agreement

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Of course that wouldn't be my aim Mrs Ward, certainly not to put the Funding Agreement etc in any jeopardy, however, if there is anomalies within the legislation that would be in the interest of all parties, Norfolk Island and the Commonwealth I think it would be responsible to bring that to the attention of the Commonwealth and to take appropriate action in this Parliament. Nothing hidden. Open process. That's pretty normal with reviews of legislation

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, again to Minister Adams. Given that by the 1st August the Minister is required to review Healthcare and medical evacuation levies will there be an increase on the 1st September and if so, how much will it be?

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. As members are aware, at the last sitting I indicated that there was a review of health services, certainly the review will be going on as part of the legislative requirement by 1 September but certainly at this point in time I have no intention before me, no paperwork before me that says that, that should be happening at this time. That the fees will go up. If it means that the fees don't go up at that point in time I'll make that statement in the House at the appropriate time but I hear what you're saying

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker a supplementary if I may, just for clarity because there is an impression by some members of the community that the fee is about to increase for the healthcare levy and the medical evacuation, so if the Minister could just confirm or deny that, that will be the case. I guess very simply the question is, at this stage will there be an increase to the levy on the 1st September

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MS ADAMS No. that is the best that I can give you at this point in time. As the review progresses it's a much bigger process than what I thought it was going to be at the very beginning, I can only say at this point in time, no. If that changes, it will change. But at this point, no

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MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker. A question to the Minister with responsibility for roads. Can the Minister inform the community if there is a possibility that the dirt roads of Prince Phillip Drive and Bumboras may be graded and tidied up to make travelling on these roads safer for visitors and the local public

MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Evans for that question. Section of Prince Philip Drive are in need of attention. I can confirm this road is on the maintenance crews list for attention. The steep section of Bumbora Road

through the Reserve is also in need of work and is also on their schedule. Some of the machinery for the work has been tied up with the RESA project and that project has now been completed. Material is in stock at the Works Depot and the crew will be proceeding with that work as soon as the stockpiles dry out to a workable moisture content. With all the wet weather that we've experienced over the last few weeks there's also a lot of road patching to be carried to be carried out across the Island and the bridge to be rebuilt at Headstone.

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker just a supplementary. Could you give us any further update on the bridge over Headstone

MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker yes the tenders for that work have closed and there've been assessed by the Administration. My understanding is that the bids they've had are substantially more then they were expecting the work to cost and they are working through various options as to how they will progress that work

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker another supplementary. The Prince Philip Drive road is almost impossible for two vehicles to pass, like car and bus, which could cause one vehicle to move in an incorrect way and in fact roll off very steep hills to the bottom of Cockpit or Cascades Black Bank. The supplementary question is, when can we see safety barriers or crash barriers installed to alleviate potential accidents.

MR WARD As I recall there is a reasonable road bank along the outer edge of Prince Philip Drive. That bank would prevent vehicles from leaving the road, but there are some open sections that could potentially let the vehicles through, as you're describing. I could take on board to ask the CEO and the Administration's Risk Manager to assess if there's any remedial work they'd recommend and if they perceive a risk in that area

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker it appears J E Road and Red Road have unfinished roadwork's. Can the Minister advise when the completion of these works may be completed. It appears the material left at these sites have been there for quite some time and could be termed as traffic hazards, so is there a time frame on the completion of these roads as well as tidying up Prince Philip Drive and Bumboras Road

MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, I don't know what materials may have been left there after the previous maintenance work but I will undertake to find out and draw that to the Works Supervisor's attention as necessary. The Roads crew are working with extreme constraints in terms of manpower and materials and they are aware of the many priorities before them, including the two roads Mr Evans is referring to

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you to the Minister. This question is directed to the Minister for Health. How many medivac flights have we had from the 1st January 2013 to the 31st July 2013

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Evans. Careflight Medivacs for the period January 2013 to the 31 July 2013 is seven which includes one Social Services recipient. Regular passenger transport, RPT Medivacs which is stretcher or sitting with a nurse, is three.

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker yes ongoing to that one. Could the Minister advise the cost of each individual Medivac flights, as there is some conception within the community that each one costs \$30,000. Is this correct and if the Minister could confirm if we have had seven flights if there is an individual cost to these flights

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Evans. Let me say I thank Mr Evans for giving me advance notice of these questions so that I could get the information to the House today and I also thank the Healthcare Department for their very prompt assistance. Careflight, healthcare member No 1 to Sydney, \$32,304; healthcare member No 2 Sydney to Queensland \$50,906.25; healthcare member No 3 Sydney Queensland Careflight \$38,635.30, I'm happy to table this information as well if its any help to you, Social Services recipient Sydney Queensland Careflight \$38,099.50; healthcare member No 4 Sydney NSW Careflight \$33,194; healthcare member No 5 Sydney NSW Careflight \$33,194; healthcare member No 6 Sydney NSW Careflight \$33,194; moving to the regular passenger transport RPT flights healthcare member No 7 Brisbane Queensland commercial flight non stretcher \$1,346.06, healthcare member No 8 Sydney NSW commercial flight stretcher \$6,278.17 and healthcare member No 9 Sydney NSW commercial flight stretcher \$9,297.89 giving a total of \$276,449.17. thank you

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker, if the Minister could advise the dollar figure in the Medivac vote

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and Mr Evans. I'm advised that Medivac levies collected during the financial year, 2011/2012 was \$181,468.87. The Medivac levies collected during the financial year, 2012/2013 was \$169,430.19. Mr Speaker I table those figures so that other Members can have a look

SPEAKER Thank you Minister. Those figures are so tabled.

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker another supplementary. Has everyone that has been Medivac'd off the island to date, been up to date with their healthcare payments

MS ADAMS Thank you. The answer provided for me is this. Subsection 9(3) of the Healthcare Act 1989 provides "money in the medical evacuation fund may be withdrawn by health fund management for the purposes of making payment for the evacuation costs in respect of an eligible person". Subsection 9(4)(a) of the Healthcare Act provides, "for subsection 3 (that's the previous one that I just read) ...an eligible person means a person who is liable for payment of the medial evacuation levy under the Healthcare Levy Act and is not in default of payment for more than one levy period, the Healthcare Manager confirmed that all healthcare members who required medical evacuation off Norfolk Island were up to date with their healthcare levies and medivac levies in accordance with subsection 9(4)(a) of the Act". I hope that helps

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker a supplementary on that. Because ~~Paper tabled; Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams~~ ~~Medivac Flights during January to 31 July 2013~~ seeking clarity it's just I've noticed that the fees collected on the medicare levies which sort of relates back to my previous question, is in round figures \$180,000 for the year, yet the expense to date is a little bit hypothetical worst case scenario, if we have a continued number of Medivacs going out that would blow out. The expenses would be in round figures, \$550,000 so is my calculation correct? That's a major blowout

MS ADAMS It is a major blowout and funds have recently been transferred across to top up the fund however, let me make it quite clear again here in response to your earlier question was, will the fees go up on the 1st September. My answer was categorically no at this point in time, but that may change. We have a review taking place and at this point in time, we have not arrived at a conclusion, but be quite clear, that may happen but at this point in time, I can't give you a categorical answer that it will. I hope that helps. But certainly it is a matter of extreme concern

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker if I may ask a question of the Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan, is the Minister able to inform the House where the virement of that amount of funding came from

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker, and Mrs Ward for the question. Yes in the last financial year, I think in the budget there was some additional funds set aside for healthcare and medivac evacuations as separate line items. There was a subsidy under I think cost centre 290 but don't quote me on that number, but those funds that we allocated did not cover the full amount so we had to further apportion some funds from the general revenue fund. We had to find some funds and we had to ... I could find out the details of where those actual funds came from but moneys were found to cover the expenses of those flights in the last financial year.

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MS ADAMS And if I may Mr Speaker in further answer to that question, I'm more than happy to provide you with that information which came to me the other day

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MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker, I have a question to the Minister for the Environment, we have recently discussed the viability and/or commercial report by Dr Neil Byron in March 2012 who has provided the professional opinion that the forests are not viable and have no great potential for return on investment in the foreseeable future, can the Minister advise if he has any additional information that will give us the opportunity to view this matter differently

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Porter for that question. The issue of the Forestry Zone and the future is an ongoing one at the moment. I have been reluctant to follow the concept that has been put to us by National Parks. The National Parks have basically put a proposal to us that would see the Forestry Zone on the western side of the park substantially reduced. The Neil Byron report that you referred to covers the economic side of it to some extent but there are a lot of other aspects that need to be considered as well as the economic side of it. Part of the proposal that National Parks have put to us is to remove the eucalypt forest at the rate of a hectare per year which would be a fairly heavy demand upon our resources to do that and this island would be hard pressed to use that amount of material effectively at that rate. I believe the concept is contravention of the arrangements that were put in place when the Forestry Zone was established and have indicated that to the National Park management but it is an ongoing issue

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MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker if I could ask a supplementary to that, if we could derive a commercial return from this resource, how do you propose to fund this given our current and near future capacity to do so

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MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, and thank you Mr Porter. If there was an identified commercial value identified there from a form of heavy or intensive usage of the forest then we would have to look at the rates of return from that and base the operation on that whether that was done by private enterprise under some sort of leasing arrangement or whether it's done by the Forestry Department would really come down to the basics of that commercial proposal

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MR PORTER Thank you Mr Speaker if I could ask just one further supplementary question, given that answer, would the Minister make available to this House any costed plans for the commercial exploitation of the forest if that were the case prior to any activity taking place

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MR WARD I would be happy to bring any material forward that would be of use to members

MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker this is back to immigration. Couple of editions ago in the Norfolk Islander we had a list of the new Norfolk Island

residents. I believe that a certain person may have even left the Island before they received this certificate. Are we now giving residency status to people who are not residing on the island, and perhaps in this instance, it may have been better to delay the process and wait until maybe they return to the Island

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker, thank you Mr Evans. Yes I did make that statement in the paper. However, at the time, when you look at section 28(a), it requires" a person who is the holder of an unrestricted entry permit , intends if declared to be a resident, to reside ordinarily in Norfolk Island in respect of whom prescribed arrangements have been made regarding the cost of provision of medical services in Norfolk Island to the person and who being over the age of 18 years produces evidence of good character may make an application to be declared a resident of Norfolk Island and the Minister shall if satisfied as to the matters (that I've just referred to) grant the application sought or refuse to grant the declaration. However the point remains that if one is not aware that the person is intending to leave, it's very difficult to say no, and certainly that was the case. OK. Certainly we are not giving residency to people who are not residing on the island. The issue is, they declare that they intend to be ordinarily resident in Norfolk Island. Declaration made. Legislation met. End of story.

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker, just for clarity. The following questions are all to the Chief Minister. Given that the Chief Minister CM has said that the Chief of Staff position is something of an ongoing consideration would the Chief Minister CM advise the House whether or not he has made a decision as to whether or not there- will there be a Chief of Staff wCofS- within this compound and if so, when will the position be advertised?

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. The recruitment of this position is in hand. There will be a Chief of Staff. Obviously the position description is being reviewed by my myself and my ministerial colleagues. Once that is finalised we will have a relevant contract prepared, the position will be advertised on a contract basis, it will be a political appointment as this position was excluded from the Public Service in accordance with section 35 of the Public Sector Management Act, but will be recruited in accordance with merit principles. This position of course was budgeted for and money is allocated in this financial year's budget. In addition Mr Speaker for interests sake, I also advise that the following key vacant positions within the Public Service are currently being reviewed, following which recruitment will commence and that is for the Crown Counsel position, the Deputy Crown Counsel, Financial Manger, Internal Auditor, Information Technology Manager, Land Use and Environment Manager and Planning Officer. Thank you Mr Speaker

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MRS WARD Would the Chief Minister CM provide to the House his understanding of how Norfolk IslandNI is affected by the Federal Government moving into caretaker mode?

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MR SNELL Mr Speaker. There are certain conditions which now apply for the caretaker mode that's been introduced obviously in Australia. The recruitment of public positions though are consistent with the Funding Agreement, clause 11 in schedule 2, namely, the Norfolk Island Government agrees to contain staff budgets to current numbers and funding. The recruitment freeze that has been previously mentioned on any new appointments are subject to a business case and new staff aren't to be engaged in unfunded positions unless there is Commonwealth approval, but these are funded positions. If that is the answer to your question

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker a supplementary. My question really related to legislation. What may or may not be upheld or have been assented to and particularly the Cascade Pier Project. How the caretaker mode may be affecting both projects and areas

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker I'll just refer to some documentation I may or may not have brought with me regarding this matter. It has been under discussion with the Administrator. He has shown obviously some concern with areas of this nature, particularly with the funding of the jetty. It is my understanding that due to the caretaker period the RDAF4 signing of the agreement for that will not be able to be done during the caretaker period, but the intention is to have it close to finalisation so that once the caretaker period ends, it can be finalised. Other funding agreements will be assented to I believe today. I'll leave that hopefully for advise from the Administrator

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SPEAKER I'll just let you know Chief Minister I don't have any messages from His Honour the Administrator for this s Sitting

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. Given that the Chief Minister CM responded to my Question On Notice about his government's vision, plan and legislative program, by saying that the document is not yet ready to be released however he looked forward to providing it to Members and the community, is the Chief Minister CM able to provide that to Members today?

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. The original question reads of course, is it a fact that the Norfolk Island Government has committed to developing an open economy that embraces competition productivity improvements and micro economic reform and if so would the Chief Minister outline his vision, his prioritized implementation plan and corresponding legislation programme for the next three years. As mentioned at the last sitting we were in the process of developing the Government's strategic direction with corresponding legislation programme for our term of Government. This document is getting close to finalization, however, it is not quite there yet. As work progresses on the document I look forward to providing it to members when it is completed. I do not have a date of when that would be however, we want it to be finalized obviously as quickly as possible. However, I stress that this document will be subject to ongoing review having regard to our financial circumstances and any decisions made in relation to Norfolk Island's model of governance

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. Given that the Chief Minister CM committed to seek assistance from the office of the Administrator to help make a list of the Commonwealth's ~~Cwith~~s support to the island since the signing of the Road Map and the dollar value, is the Chief Minister CM now able to do that?

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. No. I can't give a dollar value. I hope to be able to take all of that list at the September Sitting of the House. I confirm that I have sought the assistance of the Commonwealth through the Office of the Administrator to en sure that I do not inadvertently omit, understate or overstate any item of assistance or support and their monetary value. Mr speaker I did make mention on a radio broadcast some time ago about the lack of certainty in the Commonwealth not moving forward on recommendations proposed under the Roadmap and to the consequent agreements. I think I used the term at that time that nothing – or words to that effect – was being done in response to a question from Mr Smith, however, may I mention that major funding had been provided by the Commonwealth in areas such as the airline bailout of the contract with Air Nauru of around \$ 11m, the assistance with the high temperature incinerator, the promise of funding for improved wharf facilities which we've mentioned earlier of \$30m and funds for community assistance and apprenticeship training schemes. Mr Speaker all of this assistance are greatly appreciated by this Government and we acknowledge it and we certainly appreciate it on behalf to the community as well

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Island's governance arrangements and financial management framework results in a net benefit for the Norfolk Island Government and its community having due regard to local circumstances to ensure Norfolk Island residents are not displaced and the proposals put forward by the Oceania Economic Development Committee seeks that co-operation that private partnership plans for a number of businesses here on Norfolk Island and we certainly, or I certainly welcomed their participation with the members of the Legislative Assembly and certainly their participation with the community Mr Speaker.

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker and a supplementary to that as the Chief Minister has mentioned reaffirming the motion that was taken. There was also a motion taken at the same time in May to endorse the Norfolk Island Government's commitment to participate in the Australian taxation and social security systems to deliver a net benefit to its community and to express a preference for earliest introduction of those systems. Would the Minister reaffirm that commitment as well please

MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. Yes the Government is still committed to that

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. Given that a preferred applicant for the Administration CEO Position has been chosen, would the Chief Minister CM inform the House of his expectations of the new CEO?

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. The new CEO has been appointed subject to I beg your pardon. The position of the CEO has been determined but not yet appointed. Mr Speaker it's a little inappropriate for me to discuss the situation of the CEO simply because it's still undergoing but to give a little bit of clarification, it is the usual practice that key performance indicators will be developed between the Minister with responsibility for the Public Service and the Chief Executive Officer following their appointment and within three months of that appointment. The Contract of Employment for the incoming CEO is yet to be negotiated and I advise that it will have a clause relating to a performance plan and job specific performance indicators. I would see no difficulty with copying members the agreed performance agreement and objectives

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MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. The question relates to the time it is taking for the Norfolk Island Administration the NIA to comply with the Funding Agreement milestones. Is it a fact that the Regional Department has given the Norfolk Island Administration NIA an extension of time to comply with May milestones, and if so, what is the deadline and what are the consequences if they fail to comply?

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mrs Ward for the question. In addition to my answer we have been advised today that the \$700,000 as part payment of the May milestones has been paid. We continue to address and provide the evidence required by the Department to complete the non compliance May milestones to receive the outstanding \$300,000 payment. As Members would be aware the June payment has no milestones attached to it and we anticipate that \$1m will be received shortly. There are in the areas of promoting immigration, they would like to see details of the promotion strategies that is currently being implemented. The Department also wants to see further evidence of the Draft Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual and Chief Executive Directions, and the final milestone that they would like to see further evidence provided is to do with the sustainable growth strategy. They have advised that actions contained within the strategy cannot be contingent upon the Commonwealth providing further funding. The Public Service will complete these outstanding milestones requirements by the 26th August

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MR EVANS Thank you Mr Speaker. This one has probably just come about by just listening to some of the cost cuts that the Tourist Bureau has gone through and they did state that there was a 100% in the reduction in the costs of the Tourism Awards. Why this may sadly be the case, the Tourism Awards did actually come out as a profit which just brings me to this question, I did ask the Minister for Tourism this some time ago, I did ask about the resumption of the Tourism Awards and I don't think in this House that has been recorded as an answer and I do think there is an answer to that if the Minister could advise when the Tourism Awards may be resumed

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MR SNELL Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Mr Evans for the question. It is my understanding that Tourism Awards will be for the 2014/2015 financial year. It won't be conducted this year.

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SPEAKER Any further Questions without Notice. We have concluded Question without Notice Honourable Members and thank you for your participation there. There are no Questions on Notice and w

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We move to Papers Honourable Members

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. Section 29(2) of the Customs Act 1913 makes provision for the Minister to exempt goods from duty where the duty payable is less than \$200. Section 2(b)(5) of the Act provides that where the Minister has exercised this power he shall lay a copy of the exemption on the table of the Legislative Assembly. Mr Speaker I so table this exemption. This

Customs Duty Exemptions and there's only one, for \$98.40 on the importation of "Daffodil Day" Cancer Council projects for fundraising for the Cancer Council by the objects by Quota for \$98.40 Club of Norfolk Island

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Later this morning in statements I will be providing the House with an update on health community and hospital initiatives. However in papers I now table the Report titled **The Review of existing child and family support services dated September 2012** which was published online on 22 July 2013 by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and local Government (DRALGAS). We continue to wait for a pdf version of paper so that it can be placed on the Administration website in a community friendly manner. This Report which was prepared by Gillian Calvert AO and Marie Connolly Phd stemmed from a requirement at item 18 of the September 2011 Funding Agreement for Norfolk Island to work in partnership with the Commonwealth to further build its capability to provide children and family support services on Norfolk Island. The report now tabled is the outcome of the study undertaken to achieve this goal. Mr Speaker I move that the paper be noted.

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SPEAKER The question is that the paper be noted

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, the terms of reference for the review were to Examine the current framework for family support and child protection services on Norfolk Island; Identify barriers and issues associated with the provision of effective children and family support services; Consider practices, procedures and resources within the Norfolk Island Government with direct responsibilities in this area, and also consider how the government and non-government organisation agencies might contribute to a more effective protection and support network; and Consider how the Norfolk Island Government can help to support children and young people to reach their potential and assist individuals and families who are at risk or in crisis. In considering the service needs of children and families living on Norfolk Island the consultants took the following approach in undertaking the review. A desk

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review of available documents relating to the demographics of the Norfolk Island community, service statistics, earlier reviews and reports relating to the provision of Norfolk Island services. Secondly, a series of community meetings that included a public meeting and meetings with specific interest groups; Thirdly, meetings with Ministers in the Norfolk Island Government and the staff of the Norfolk Island Administration; Fourthly, meetings with service providers across the sector; and Individual meetings with young people and families.

The review speaks of the challenges facing Norfolk Island in providing a continuum of services which in turn have implications for children, young people and families, for professionals, and for the community more broadly. The report is framed to address these three domains, namely, (1) Children, Young people and families; Strengthening the safety net; (2) The Professionals: Strengthening services for children and families with focus on the Norfolk Island Hospital services; Norfolk Island Support Services; and Coordinating and supporting services by establishing a "community services Hub"; and (3) The Community: Mobilising for change including Maintaining Positive Pathways for Norfolk Island Young People; and Developing a community safety and support plan. Mr Speaker, the review brings to the table for consideration seven recommendations. Recommendations which require serious consideration in a consultative fashion between all stakeholders with the prime objective of achieving long term social wellbeing for this community. Of particular interest to me is recommendation No. 5 which proposes that a community services centre be established as the "Hub" from which to provide a coordinated service system for Norfolk Island's children and families. The Report proposes that it be the Norfolk Island Government that facilitates the establishment of the Hub and goes on to detail how the Hub should be structured. I support the concept of the Hub in principle but acknowledge the concept cannot be considered in isolation of the Five year Health Services Plan currently being prepared by Nexus Consultants along with the Health legislation review being undertaken by Dr Tim Smyth. These initiatives are being undertaken in consultation with the Norfolk Island Hospital, South East Sydney Local Health District and the Commonwealth Government which has provided funding for these tasks. We are currently waiting to be provided as I mentioned earlier, by the Commonwealth with a PDF version of the report which can be posted on Administration websites for ease of access by the community. In arriving at a conclusion in the report the consultants concede, and I quote, "Norfolk Island is a small community. The actual number of children, young people and families needing support is also small and that this means that the financial impact of recommendations is, overall, minimal. The scale of the challenges now is also amenable to resolution", end quote. At the same time the consultants acknowledge that there have been many reviews of Norfolk Island and that not always have the reviews resulted in anticipated change. The initiatives currently being undertaken in the health services areas at government, hospital and community level are positives with potential for good outcomes that will benefit the whole community. But as I said earlier, this is a consultative process across the whole of this community, going forward. It is not just a decision by the Norfolk Island Government and I will speak further on these initiatives in statements. To conclude Mr Speaker, in tabling the Report today I thank the Commonwealth Government and the consultants Ms Gillian Calvert and Ms Marie Connolly for providing Norfolk Island with a valuable tool to assist the Norfolk Island Government, the Hospital and the community in taking decisions going forward for the overall betterment of our community's health services. Thank you Mr Speaker. I so table that paper

SPEAKER Minister could I just seek clarification. The report that you have just tabled, has that been earlier before presentation today, been provided to members?

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker only, as far as I'm aware, all Members received a link which is all that is available at this time, a link on the Commonwealth's website and that is why we're requesting, continuing to request a pdf version so that we have a document like this, and we have

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SPEAKER And that is that you have tagbled just now

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes. And once the pdf arrives, well I'm happy to replace that,

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. Just for clarity, it's my understanding that all members were circulated with the link from the Minister so I thank her for drawing that to our attention. I would like to say a few words because this is a long awaited report for the community and it does flow from the Roadmap and the Funding Agreement as the Minister has stated. Review of existing child and family support services on Norfolk Island — This report came about as a result of the Road Map and funding agreements. If we think back as far as to 1979 the forming of the Norfolk Island Act there was an understanding or an expectation that the Norfolk Island Government would provide a comparable standard of services to its community as mainland Australia, a. — And as recently as six weeks ago, the Norfolk Island Government re-affirmed its commitment to provide mainland standard services particularly in Education and Health if we refer back to the Funding Agreement. I think that we all understand that (new FAG). The reality is that the Norfolk Island Government the NIG does not and can not deliver to its community the standard of services that are required to be delivered by any other Australian State and or Territory governments and we all know that and understand why that. — It's obviously was as a result of such those types of issues that led to the previous government sat sitting down and tackling these issues head on. The Report, if I could just pick up on a few things that they do say, really so that the community can know that they have been heard. Obviously people can access the report themselves but an overview is that the authors, as the Minister has said, Gillian Calvert and Maria Connelly, they refer to many challenges that the people are facing and one of them that was mentioned to them, was worked out a plan with the Cwlth on a revised way fwd for NI. The authors Marie Connelly and Gillian Calvert referred to people having multiple jobs and the effect that has on parenting. There is a reference to families where someone had a disability or a mental illness, or where they were parenting alone and the challenges that they faced and they were noted. They'd also been told by that women who had spoken to them of returning to work as soon as one week after giving birth and that made one of their recommendations, or one of their recommendations as a result was the parental leave scheme which is available in mainland Australia but not here. They noted the p- Perverse effects of the health insurance scheme which we have, our (healthcare system that does not take into account someone's ability to pay, and recommendations were made accordingly which I will summarise at the end.) — The authors noted that they — We have found the breadth, design and operation of the safety net and mutual obligation expressed through Norfolk Island's income support, taxation, health, and employment legislation and systems to be extremely limited by comparison to mainland Australia. This inadequate safety net is critically significant when it is seen in combination with the island's concentrated wage structure, high cost of living, increasing job insecurity, the absence of any social housing and the notably the older age profile of Norfolk Island than that of the rest of Australia. Indeed they pick up on a wellbeing point which is that the median age on Norfolk Island is 46, as compared to 37 in the rest of Australia. They did also at the same time, note "the strong community ties and the said — It was clear to us that Norfolk Island has a strong community spirit..." and that when people come together there is a force for positive change and we've seen that action recently. Obviously as one would expect there were several recommendations were made ... There were expected references to the unhealthy levels of alcohol consumption and, domestic violence and risky behaviour. They and what I noted was that during their time on Norfolk Island they heard of many instances of people feeling unsafe when they openly challenged issues and a. — As a consequence they believed that we believe that informal hierarchies of power exist on the island that support cultures of intimidation and violence and that there is an atmosphere of fear that disables criticism. Unfortunately, that is something that I have encountered on a regular basis and when I encourage people to stand up and say something — they will not, because of the they fear of retribution and I think that's why. — That is why it is so important for the Government and

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the Administration to have certainly their Government policies and procedures so clearly identified and articulated— so that there's no is not question of us and them or allegations being thrown at the Department or the Government in turn. I— it is is that it is one rule for all and everyone everybody understands what those rules are. I also noted from reading the Report that a few people on the island expressed their doubts that families were in fact confronting real hardship and in the report we can— We can also read that a few people have expressed a view that introducing a stronger safety net for families could undermine the strengths of self-reliance and the strong work ethic that underpins many of the values of the Norfolk Island life. In fact we've We have heard those views expressed by one of our colleagues express a similar view. But I would however like to say now that I'm with with the majority of people who expressed and I believe everybody in this House is, that they are with the majority of people who expressed to the author to Marie and Gillian the need to protect the more vulnerable members of the Norfolk Island community in ways that are respectful of diverse needs, for example, ensuring humane responses when people lose their jobs, and when they are affected by mental illness, or when they require specialist care. The Minister has noted that there are seven are 7 recommendations but I will read pick up on No 1 - Recommendation 1 and that is that "Norfolk Island residents should within three years, become part of the same income security, employment, taxation, child support scheme and benefit systems as other Australian residents including eligibility requirements, processes and support and participation requirements and w— We recognise — the Author's stating - a staged implementation may be needed in some areas", for example, and they cite early childhood education and care." As the Minister also said again, they've noted that many reviews have already been done into Norfolk Island and I guess in summarising Mr Speaker, that's my point, and we hear the words of Minister Adams in that this is another review, it will be considered in partnership with the Federal Government but the case or the point has to be pushed that dDelaying corrective action is likely to cause an exacerbation of the problems and will only be made making them more difficult, and more expensive for both Governments in the long term if they are not dealt with as soon as possible. I could talk to solve in the future I do not intend to talk about the break down of what has or hasn't happened. We all understand that both Governments has had this report for twelve months. I can see what occurred so far as a result of the recommendations. What I will do is acknowledge the work of the Office of the Administrator's Office has and the work that they have done, and I'm not referring to the new Ministers or members, but certainly the previous Government had a draft of this report as I understand it and we understand that the Norfolk Island Government is very limited financially in its ability to move forward with some of the recommendations but His Honour the Administrator Neil Pope, certainly has, and we can see that by Minister King announcing the reform package and the money now coming through into the with local community service groups and I think that they are the unsung — The local community service group members and helpers are the unsung hero's in all of this. They are the people who to date have assisted the most vulnerable. They work tirelessly and sometimes very quietly what has been achieved to date in the area of social welfare, they sometimes very quietly to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in our community and we should all remember that our fate can change at any time and acknowledge those people. I think it's also i who are there to assist. In closing Mr. Speaker, I think that it is an opportune time to thank the soon to be retired from Federal politics, the Hon. Simon Crean our previous Minster responsible for Territories. I thank him for his efforts and his acceptance that the NI community and its welfare is ultimately the responsibility of the Federal Government and while t— There have been many reports, and surly this one must surely ensure will insight change and that will result in a more secure future for Norfolk Island. Thank you ?

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker, I would just like to respond in a couple of areas there, and in particular, some of the statements that Mrs. Ward has made. I understand this report was recently put up on the web, some months ago, and it is very different to the draft that we received as the last Government some twelve months ago to respond to and the Government of the day did. That report was some 78 pages long if I remember correctly. This report is some dozen pages or 20 pages long.

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It's not very long at all and it seems to be a précis of the original report. I believe that there is a fuller report somewhere sitting in Canberra that hasn't been released onto the net. This is very short. There is no explanation of why they came to these conclusions where in the original draft it did. Maybe this is why it took the Department some twelve months or fifteen months, to finally release the report after the proposed release date. I think this Government will have to consider this report and its ramifications of where the Government will move forward in social welfare, and the community welfare but some of the assertions in that report are not correct and I don't support them, and these issues will be worked through. Mrs Ward referred to the documents stating that our inadequate healthcare or the funding is disproportionate and doesn't cater for low income earners. Well that is totally incorrect, because our healthcare system does cater for the low income earners where if you earn less than \$6,500 in the previous six months you do not pay the healthcare levy, so it does in actual fact, does take those low income earners into consideration so at first glance it may seem to be all embracing, but you really need to dig down and find out what the report really means. We provide very good health services here on Norfolk Island equivalent to many remote areas in Australia and yet they say that we don't. Yes we do. We have access to offshore services which we can't handle here on the island. I'm sure many remote areas in Australia can't provide the same services that we do here, so there's little things in the report that maybe do not stand up under scrutiny but I hope that this Government does and will consider this report in its fullest and come up with a plan of action to move forward with some of the recommendations, but time will tell where this leads

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker and thank you Minister Sheridan. I quite agree with you. An interesting, I had on taking up the ministry, been provided with the first draft of the Report and the five page response that was provided by the Norfolk Island Government in the 13th Legislative Assembly, to that report and certainly as Minister, Sheridan has pointed out, this document is very much smaller so maybe there is a fuller version that might be coming. What is interesting to note is that this document bears the date, final of September 2012 which has only just arrived for us. A comment made to me by a member of the community at the opening of the DCA8 house was, that we've been waiting, we've been waiting, we've been waiting and we continue to wait. I agree with you. It's a Government issue but it can't be dealt with by the Government in isolation of the community, of the hospital, of the other reports that we are awaiting on being provided with which I expect to come through very quickly now, by September I think was the deadline for the Nexus Consultancy. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate. No. I put the question that the Paper be noted

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. That Paper is so noted. Are there any other Papers for presentation this morning

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. Very briefly. Mrs Ward as we all know has a procedural motion on the Notice Paper today at Notice No 4 the noting of the answer to Question on Notice No 19 at the previous meeting of the House and in discussion with Mrs Ward yesterday I undertook to table the discussion paper I put to Members yesterday on the subject matter of airline ticket policy which Mrs. Ward wishes to address. This offer was made because of a restriction under Standing Order 196 that Papers are presented by the Speaker or a Minister. I so table the discussion paper together with a copy of the Hansard debate at page 204 of the July 2013 Sitting of the House which includes my response to Question on Notice No 19 which will be discussed in Notice No 4. I'll say nothing further on this at this time because...

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SPEAKER Is this in any way pre-empting the matter on the Notice Paper, item No. 4

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker as I was just going to say, I do not intend to say anything further at this time on the discussion paper as to do so would be to call into question Standing Order 54 the anticipation rule. I don't propose to say anything more. I was facilitating the paperwork coming into the House as discussed with Mrs Ward so that she has the full documentation in the House. That's all and it was in discussion with Mrs Ward

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker I have a couple of short ones here. Under the **Bookmakers and Betting Exchange Act 1998 – Report on statutory default** under sections 48(1) and 46(1) of the Act the Authority is required to report to the Minister and I'm required to table in the House and it is in particular regard to statutory defaults or any disciplinary action taken by the Authority in the previous six months. These two small reports indicate that there's been no statutory defaults occurring during the reporting period and there's been no disciplinary action taken by the Authority so those two short reports are so tabled Mr Speaker – **Report on statutory default**

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MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker also as required under section 15 of the **Gaming Act 1998** I table the following – **Licence for Interactive Gaming Entertainment Pty Ltd** and Mr Speaker, Interactive Gaming Entertainment Pty Ltd sought and received approval for a gaming licence to operate an online casino. The principles are well known and based in Brisbane. They are fully aware of the requirements of the Interactive Gaming Act and their market is a number of European and south American companies. They've established a highly qualified team and are looking to launch in September in 2013 and a visit to meet with the Government is expected later this month, so I table that licence Mr Speaker.

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MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker **Immigration – Revocation of Policy**

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MR SPEAKER Thank you. Further papers Honourable Members. No We move to Statements this morning.

STATEMENTS

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker. As indicated earlier this is a statement on **Health, hospital and community initiatives, and the opening of DCA Safe House on 3 August 2013**. Earlier this morning I tabled the Report resulting from the review of existing child and family support services on Norfolk Island and of course this report cannot be considered in isolation of the Island's 5 year Health Services Plan currently being crafted and referred to further on in this statement.

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Members will recall that at the July 2013 sitting of the House I advised that a review had been commenced within the Administration on the provision of health and related services. The review was raised as a point of interest at the July meeting of the Hospital Advisory Board with my giving an undertaking that the review would not be undertaken in isolation of the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise which is the Island's healthcare facility. The Hospital Enterprise is a corporate entity in its own right with its Vision being, and I quote –

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“to work in partnership with the government and community of Norfolk Island to provide continuing improvement in the health of the community and the provision of sustainable, efficient and affordable health care”.

The Hospital Enterprise has as its Mission Statement: –

“to promote, improve and care for the health of the Norfolk Island community including its residents and visitors”.

In my statement today Honourable Members I will endeavour to give a brief overview of key activities that are being undertaken by or on behalf of the Hospital Enterprise in partnership with both the Norfolk Island Government and the Commonwealth Government in order to achieve the aims set out in its Vision and Mission Statement.

In the December 2012 Funding Agreement the Hospital was required to meet a number of milestones which include -

- a) Commencing working towards a level of "Marked Achievement" in at least the '15 mandatory criteria of the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS);
- b) Norfolk Island Government collecting health statistics and publish quarterly, commencing June 2013, using formats and standards of other Australian health statistics, as set out by the Department and informed by Indian Ocean Territories Health Service.
- c) Preparing a report that further examines what additional measures (legislative or operational procedures) might be Implemented to enhance the efficient and effective delivery of health services on island, and
- e) Norfolk Island Government publishing for the first time, health statistics, using formats and standards of other Australian health statistics, as set out by the Department and informed by the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service.

In March this year the Commonwealth Government provided \$100,000 to the Hospital Enterprise which entered into a Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth to achieve the following:

1. Delivery of the Island's five year Health Services Plan;
2. — Advancement of the critical pathway towards accreditation of Island Health Services; and
3. Complementary adjustment to Norfolk Island Health legislation to achieve accreditation.

The Hospital Director has briefed me on how these projects are progressing.

Accreditation of Island Health Services

In December 2012 Ms Maria Christian RN, Quality Improvement Co-ordinator for the Hospital Enterprise conducted an Assessment of how the Hospital Enterprise currently measured against the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS). The Hospital Advisory Board has received a report from ACHS on the results of the Self-Assessment NIHE conducted last December and work to attain the status of "marked achievement" in at least the '15 mandatory criteria of the ACHS are ongoing.

An educator with the ACHS visited between 8 and 12 July to conduct sessions with hospital staff on all the standards required in order to achieve a level of accreditation as required under the Funding Agreement. Support continues to be given weekly by the Clinical Governance Unit of South East Sydney Local Health District or SESLHD via teleconferences and emails.

A visit has been arranged through the Clinical Governance Unit of the SESLHD for a Clinical Nurse Consultant to visit for one to two weeks, possibly in September, to train clinical staff in aseptic techniques. This training is part of the process for meeting the mandatory criteria of the ACHS.

Health Service Plan for the Norfolk Island Hospital and Health Service.

With the assistance of the SESLHD Planning & Population Health Unit a firm, Nexus Management Consulting, was engaged to develop the Health Services Plan and I mentioned this earlier in my debate around the Children's Review. I had the opportunity to meet with the Nexus Consultants, Greg Masters and Jill Hardwick, at the end of their visit in the week 29 July to 2 August. During their visit they had broad ranging discussions with key personnel in the health service area on the Island across both government and community organisations. It is intended that the report furnished by Nexus Consultants will include a description of current services; detail of health services utilisation; list of issues affecting future health service delivery; recommendations for

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provision of services and a proposed plan for health services. I was heartened that in discussions with Greg Masters that this issue of a Hub is something that they equally are considering and so we can see that there's a picture emerging here with all these various consultancies that are taking place, it will then be up to all of us to see where we want to take them. The next one.

Complementary adjustment to Norfolk Island Health legislation to achieve accreditation. Following discussions between the Hospital Enterprise, SESLHD and the Department of Regional Australia and Local Government, Arts and Sport, Dr Tim Smyth was engaged in late April 2013 by the Hospital Enterprise to undertake a review of the Norfolk Island Health legislation. Dr Smyth has provided the Hospital Advisory Board with his June 2013 interim report which outlines a number of key findings. The interim report is firstly to be considered by the Hospital Enterprise and the Advisory Board in the first instance. The next step is for there to be a multi-jurisdictional discussion involving the Norfolk Island, Commonwealth and NSW Governments to guide the next stage of the review. I look forward to receiving comment from the Hospital Enterprise and the Advisory Board and to ~~be able to table at the September sitting of the House the interim report and advice that I have~~ received from those bodies.

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Opening of DCA8 House

Mr Speaker there is another significant initiative which I wish to acknowledge, — this time a community initiative, — namely the DCA8 community supported and managed safe house which formally opened on Saturday 3 August 2013.

In opening DCA8 I paid tribute on behalf of the Norfolk Island Government to Mrs Vicky Jack, our Child Welfare Officer, who had the initial idea many years ago and has, with the assistance of so many generous, caring people, too numerous to mention, turned this idea into a reality.

Honourable Members this House, the DCA8 house is in fact a home. It has made that subtle conversion through the tremendous generosity of so many individuals, community service groups, accommodation businesses and retail businesses that make up the Norfolk Island community. I'm sure on behalf of all those in this House today I extend heartfelt thanks to the community for its support. It's hard for many of us to understand and appreciate the social needs required by some in our community. This support assistance accommodation goes some way in addressing those needs. The House is a work in progress and will always be so and this is because as the Norfolk Island community grows and contracts, as the expectations of those who live here change and develop, over time, so too will the needs and uses of this House. Honourable Members this project is yet another demonstration of how this community can pull together in times of need to achieve great things when called upon to do. The Norfolk Islander in reporting on the opening used the following words in their report, and I quote - "DCA8 is a novel service, a local solution, meeting a need and providing a service which works here on Norfolk Island" and I am sure all Members here this morning join me in wishing the ongoing management team of volunteers tasked to manage this project well in their future endeavours. Thank you Mr Speaker

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker, Update on Sporting activities during August 2013. I just have a short statement with my Sports Minister's hat on today. August is certainly a great month to visit Norfolk Island especially for the playing of sport. The winter chills are starting to disappear, the days are slowly getting longer and the sun is attempting to warm the island to show off its beautiful landscapes to welcome its visitors to Norfolk Island. August is time for some of the best sporting clubs on Norfolk Island to display their talent and to welcome sporting persons to Norfolk Island for a time of sporting relaxation,

the renewal or making of friendships and a time to celebrate triumphs. I am of course talking about three clubs who are very active in August with tournaments for visitors and the local community. Last week saw the Creaky Old Convicts host over 80 players from Australia and New Zealand who participated in a week long Masters Rugby Tournament. There certainly were a lot of cheers and laughter as these men plus a couple of women entertained a large crowd down at the Kingston Oval over three days with six games being played. From all reports these players enjoyed the friendliness and hospitality of Norfolk Island, and Teddy just showed me his leg before and I think he enjoyed some of the hospitality as well. Next week sees the Bowling Club host its annual TAB Triples Tournament and this year is expected to be one of the best of many as there are 54 teams participating with 41 visiting and 13 local teams which means that over 160 players will be on the greens each day from 8 o'clock in the morning, with play concluding with the finals next Thursday. A great week of bowls, entertainment, laughs, and the making of new friends will be assured. At the end of August the Golf Club will host its annual Classic Golf Tournament and this year we'll see over 80 visitors combining with 50 local players for a full field of over 130 golfers who will attempt to tame the Kingston Golf Course, who many will know, can be difficult to manage at times. I would like to take this opportunity to give congratulations to these three sporting clubs committees and other organizing persons who make these tournaments what they are. Tournaments that visitors come back to year after year and spread the word on the beauties of Norfolk Island. Sporting clubs on Norfolk Island and it's not just these three, always assist our tourism with these events and the word on the street is that the next twelve months will see record numbers attend many other activities on Norfolk Island

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and I pass on the Government's thanks to all clubs for sharing their facilities and providing these opportunities.

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SPEAKER Thank you Minister. Any further Statements this morning. We have concluded Statements Honourable Members.

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Honourable Members I don't have any Messages from the Office of the Administrator and I don't have any Reports from Standing Committees. Therefore we progress to Notices.

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1) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan — Update on Sporting activities during August 2013

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MR SPEAKER As there are no Messages from the Office of the Administrator nor Reports of Standing Committees we move on

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NOTICES

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NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU ACT 1980 – APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER AND CHAIRPERSON

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MR SNELL Mr Speaker, I move that this House in accordance with section 4 of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Act 1980 recommends to the Minister that he re-appoint Michael Perkins to be a member of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Advisory Board for the period of two years commencing 9 September 2013 and that he be Chairperson of the Tourist Bureau Advisory Board for that period. Michael Perkins was appointed to the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Advisory Board on the 9th September 2011 and appointed the Chairperson on the 15th April 2013. Throughout his time on the Board he has proved himself to be a very valuable member and brings his wealth of tourism industry experience to that role. Mike puts a lot of voluntary time and energy into Board duties and I thank Mike for agreeing to be reappointed for a further two years. I commend the motion to the House Mr Speaker

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SPEAKER Any further debate? I put the question that the motion be agreed to

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QUESTION PUT AGREED

That motion is so agreed to

NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU ACT 1980 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

MR SNELL Mr Speaker, I move that this House in accordance with section 4 of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Act 1980 recommends 1980 recommends to the Minister that he appoint Anita Toni French to be a member of the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Advisory Board for the period of two years commencing 9 September 2013. Ms Anita French has been employed as Administrative Officer in the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area KAVHA since 2008. Anita's attributes of diligence and acumen will be an asset to the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau Advisory Board. There is a goal to foster stronger links between Norfolk Tourism and KAVHA. With Anita on the Board this will be a positive step in that direction. I thank Anita for agreeing to be appointed to the Board. If a motion is passed today, Anita will fill the position of Board member that was previously held by Mrs Louise Tavener. Louise was first appointed to the Board on the 8th September 2011 and will remain on the Board until

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the 9th September 2013. Louise was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Board on the 15th April 2013. I would like to take this opportunity for bringing her trademark energy and enthusiasm to the Board for her term of membership and thank her for all the voluntary time that she put into Board duties. Mr Speaker I commend the motion to the House

SPEAKER
be agreed to

Any further debate? I put the question that the motion

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That motion is agreed to

PROTECTION OF MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT 1987

MS ADAMS Thank you Mr Speaker I move that in accordance with section 9 of the *Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1987*, this House recommends to the Minister that Beryl Phyllis Evans and Rhonda Evelyn Griffiths be re-appointed as members of the Norfolk Island Cultural Heritage Committee for the period 26 August 2013 to 25 August 2017.

Honourable Members the current Members of the Cultural Heritage Committee are the appointment of Mrs –

— Eve Semple, Mrs
— Rhonda Evelyn Griffith, Mrs
— Beryl Phyllis Evans and Mr
— Neil Tavener.

Honourable Members this act deals with the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act deals with the protection of movable cultural heritage of Norfolk Island, namely, objects that are of importance to Norfolk Island for ethnological, archaeological, historical, literary, artistic, scientific or technological reasons. The Act categorises the objects which fall within the meaning of the Act.

The appointment of members of the Norfolk Island Cultural Heritage Committee under the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage Act 1987 expires on 25 August and before speaking to the motion proper I would like on your behalf to thank Mr Neil Tavener for his years of community and voluntary service on the Committee. Mr Tavener is not seeking re-appointment at this time, and also -

Honourable Members Mrs Semple is off Island at the moment and I have yet been unable to seek her agreement to re-appointment. I trust that she will continue in this valuable role.

In the meantime Honourable Members I have brought to the House this morning the re-appointment of just two of those current members, Mrs Beryl Phyllis Evans and Mrs Rhonda Evelyn Griffith as members of the Norfolk Island Cultural Heritage Committee for the period 26 August 2013 to 25 August 2017 and seek your endorsement of their re-appointment. Thank you Mr Speaker

SPEAKER
be agreed to

Any further debate? I put the question that the motion

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That motion is so agreed to

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ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 19 RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

MRS WARD

Thank you Mr Speaker, I move ~~I move~~ that the House take note of Minister Adams' answer to Question on Notice (number 19) asked at the 17 July 2013 sitting of the House relating to the immigration website. The question related primarily to the need for Australian and New Zealand citizens to have onward air-tickets and that's of some interest to the community so, - I will lead off by saying Mr. Speaker that this matter is in the process of being resolved however I felt that it was important to briefly speak to the motion in order to provide information to the listening community who ~~is-are~~ interested in immigration matters. It is certainly important to ~~me~~ give the community an assurance that they can trust their elected representatives members to uphold the law and ensure that the Minister will ensure that policy changes are implemented by the Chief Executive Officer ~~CEO~~ of the Public Service and that if uncertainty exists, that it is clarified as promptly as possible. Minister Adams has tabled a document that was presented to members yesterday that was titled "Discussion Paper on airline ticket policy, dated 13th August 2013". The first statement that the paper ~~makes~~ is this; "Currently there is a long standing requirement for persons other than residents to have means ~~for-of~~ onward travel from Norfolk Island ~~N~~ or to have lodged a cash bond in lieu." The qQuestion is, "should this requirement continue?" As I said this question has been resolved ~~now~~, but the problem was that this statement about ~~an-the~~ ongoing requirement for persons other than residents ~~had-was-been~~ made null and void when the Immigration changes were assented to on the 24th of May and ~~those~~ changes were reflected in the New Policy and Guidelines Published on the 2nd of July. The change I'm referring to is reflected at section 14A (4) of the Immigration Act which clearly shows that "The holder of an unrestricted entry permit has the same rights under any-the enactment as the holder of a general entry permit...". So tThat means that now— only a TEP who is a foreign national-(FN)- needs to be considered by the Minister for the need offer an onward ticket for travel out of Norfolk Island ~~N~~. Australian and New Zealand ~~NZ~~ citizens can travel to Norfolk Island ~~N~~, just as we can travel to Australia or New Zealand as Australian citizens, that is on a one way ticket. Can I just note that any risks that were associated with those decisions that were taken by the previous Legislative Assembly that where ~~were~~ analysed at the time and identified to the Commonwealth officers ~~last year. Where-When~~ I first became aware that the changes to the law and the policy were not being implemented was when the Immigration website went live at the end of July which of course led to my Question on Notice No. 19. We know that therefore the Minister did not Adams didn't need- to bring theis question of clarity to us-the members yesterday, but she did, —what she needed to do of course wwas to insist that the changes were implemented. They were-based-on- clearly articulated as I said, butand documented changes — both to the law and the policy — but the Minster did bring it to us and just so that the listening community is aware, — there was strong support for the airfare issue to be clarified and that it should be removed — as is-and- was originally intended. We have been assured by the Minister that there will now be assurance of the DIAC for Australian and NZ citizens. We have been assured by the Minister that DIAC will be update its Fact Sheet 59 being updated in relation to Norfolk Island, that the TIM or the Travel Agents and

~~□~~ TIM (ground-ground handling people will be updated and that the wers and travel agents)

~~□~~ Website will be updated and as we have covered at the beginning in Questions Without Notice, that

~~□~~ people who are entitled to receive a-their cash bonds s will be able-refund will to do so. I won't presume to say immediately as my previous question with the Minister didn't indicate that. Obviously this is a process that needs to go through the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Service so there —and I trust that this will happen... there may be some time delay.?

Coming back to the answer provided by Minster Adams to my Question on Notice No. 19. Clearly it was materially wrong but —I now I do trust that the Minister will ensure procedural fairness andsee that procedures are updated so I only —the immigration department requirements are updated. So I hope that we have managed to clear a few

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things ~~up~~, for ~~everyone everybody~~ involved. ~~In closing I think that~~ if we believe that immigration, investment and growth are key elements ~~in to~~ our economic recovery, then we ~~must have to~~ continue to do everything ~~we can~~ to remove barriers and create flexibility across the board and make ~~that~~ recovery happen. ~~and~~ I appreciate that ~~sometimes that~~ takes ~~and~~ some change ~~in of~~ thinking. Thank you Mr Speaker

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MS ADAMS

Thank you Mr Speaker. What I would like to put into

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the debate is whether or not, and this is the request from our Immigration Officers, for us to give clarity as to whether or not a person meets entry requirements as a UEP is not known until a person presents at the Immigration border in Norfolk Island with his or her passport and a passenger arrival card, and it is from these documents that an Immigration Officer assesses UEP status, and whether the person is a health concern or behaviour concern in respect of New Zealand citizens. If entry of that person were to be denied for lawful reasons then a return airline ticket would ensure the person is covered for onward travel and not a potential liability on the Norfolk Island Revenue Fund. The current practice that only residents identified by the permanent resident Norfolk Island Visa the PRNIV sticker in their passport, may travel on a single ticket is easy to administer at check in and is currently supported by the TIM manual and the DIAC website and that was the reason for bringing it to members, to get clarity to give the Manager of Immigration the Collector of Customs in his role to speak with members to answer any questions that they might have. There are varying views around the issue. I think members generally yesterday after those discussions we had are comfortable to move in this direction. As Mrs Ward mentioned, the Norfolk Island Government of the previous Legislative Assembly pointed out the financial risk to the Island's budget have been identified to the Australian Government since the Immigration Act was amended in 20123 as a potential additional liability. Members are comfortable to wearing the potential risk that might exist and as a consequence of our discussions yesterday I have written this letter to the Manager of Customs and Immigration, the Immigration Officer and the Immigration Assistant this morning. Revocation of Policy. I refer to the Ministerial Instruction dated 14 August 1990 requiring persons, other than residents, travelling to Norfolk Island to have a return ticket and confirm that his Instruction has now been revoked insofar as it relates to Australian and New Zealand citizens. At an informal meeting of Members of the Legislative Assembly held on Tuesday 13 August 2013 it was agreed that the standing policy for Australian and New Zealand citizens to have a ticket for onward travel from Norfolk Island or to pay a bond in lieu of holding a ticket for onward travel is no longer necessary. Would you please notify the relevant agencies of the change in the policy including but not limited to – Airlines, IATA, Travel Information Manual, General Manager, Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau for advice to the tourism industry, Norfolk Island Travel Agencies, Department of Immigration and Australian Citizenship, Office of the Administrator. Please note that the requirement for tickets for onward travel or the payment of a bond in lieu of a ticket for onward travel is still required for foreign nationals, that is persons who are no Australian or New Zealand citizens. I so table that Memorandum. Thank you Mr Speaker

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SPEAKER That paper is so tabled.

~~Paper tabled: Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – Immigration – Discussion Paper on airline ticket policy~~

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SPEAKER Any further debate? I put the question that the motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That motion is so agreed

That concluded Notices Honourable Members. We are now at Orders of the Day

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MARINE SAFETY (AMENDMENT NO 2) BILL 2013

SPEAKER Honourable Members we resume on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and ~~Mr Minister~~ Ward ~~has you have~~ the call to resume ~~please.~~ ~~Mr Ward~~

MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. ~~This Bill is to clarify and correct the principal Act the Marine Safety Act 2013. When the principal Act was presented for assent, it contained two corrections that had been made after its passage through the Legislative Assembly. These corrections, while obvious, were beyond the level of correction left to the discretion of the Speaker. Subsequently the needed corrections were noted within the Legal Services Unit but not that they had been corrected already in the Bill to which assent had been given. As a result of this, the Marine Safety (Amendment No 2) Bill is before us today to make those two corrections and actually there's the following three things. 1. It ratifies the principal Act in all respects, thereby giving full effect to the amendments to the Act at the time of its assent. 2. It repeals the changes made by the Marine Safety (Amendment) Bill 2013 which will be presented for assent at the same time but before the present Bill (the process avoids having that Bill left in limbo having been passed but never being presented for assent). 3. It adds to subsection 52(c), following the correction made previously, the words "prescribed by regulation" to ensure that only licences of another country approved by regulation may be exempt from the requirement to hold a boat driving licence. Thank you Mr Speaker.~~

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SPEAKER Thank you. Further debate around the table. I will now put the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The Bill is agreed to in principal. We move to the Detail Stage.

~~Do you wish~~ ~~is it the wish of the House to to~~ dispense with the Detail Stage ~~Honourable Members~~. We so dispense. ~~With the detail stage. Therefore~~ Minister Ward I seek a final motion ~~from you please~~

MR WARD Thank you Mr Speaker I move that the Bill be agreed to

SPEAKER Thank you Minister Ward. ~~The question is that the Bill be agreed to. Any final debate? No.~~ -I put that ~~finale~~ question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. The Bill is agreed.

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013

SPEAKER Honourable Members we resume on the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle and ~~Minister~~Mr Sheridan ~~has you have~~ the call to resume. ~~Minister on this matter~~

MR SHERIDAN Thank you Mr Speaker. ~~Whilst I provided some further information to this B ill to Members, under a recent motion passed in this House there's supposed to be a regulatory impact statement that accompanies Bills such as this. Mr Speaker I've been unable to supply that to members at this time and a couple of~~

my ministerial colleagues have indicated that they would seek a motion to defer this for a future Sitting day and it's with this in mind, without going into debate, I would seek a further adjournment of this matter

SPEAKER Thank you. The question before us is that this matter be adjourned and made an ~~Further debate around the table. I will now put the question that debate be adjourned and resumption of debate be made an~~ Order of the Day for a subsequent day of Sitting. I put that question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

That matter is so adjourned.

Honourable Members we have concluded Orders of the Day.

FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DAY

MRS WARD Thank you Mr Speaker. I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday the 18th September 2013 at 10.00 am.

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MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any debate on that Honourable Members-

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

ADJOURNMENT

MR EVANS I move that the House do now adjourn,

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Any adjournment debate Honourable Members. No adjournment debate. Thank you, Honourable Members I put the question to you that the House do now adjourn.

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until Wednesday the 18th September 2013 at 10.00 am.

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