

EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Opening of Meeting by Clerk

Your Honour The Administrator, Mrs Kerr, Honourable Members of the Eighth Legislative Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen good morning.

This meeting, the first of the Eighth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island is convened pursuant to the following notice which appeared in the Norfolk Island, Government Gazette dated 2 May 1997

"I, Alan Gardner Kerr, Administrator of Norfolk Island, under subsection 40(2) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, convene a meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island being the first meeting of the 8th Assembly, to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers in Kingston, on Monday 5 May 1997 at 10 am. That notice was dated 1st day of May 1997 and signed A G Kerr, Administrator."

I invite all present to be upstanding, whilst the Reverend Peter Dillon, reads prayers

Prayer

Almighty God King of Kings, and Lord of Lords we pray today for the Members of this the 8th Legislative Assembly. May they be quiet in spirit and clear in judgement. May they be able to understand the issues that face them. May they think often of the people of this Island on whose behalf they must speak and act.

May they remember that only in keeping your law, is there goodness and happiness.

Grant them patience, grant them courage, grant them foresight and great faith. In their anxieties be their security, in their opportunities be their inspiration.

By their plans and their actions may Your kingdom come. Your will be done. In the name of Jesus Christ, Our Saviour, Amen

Return to Writ

CLERK Thank you Mr Dillon. Please be seated everyone. I have received a return to the writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on 30 April 1997

By the endorsement on the writ it is certified that the following Members have been elected:

George Charles Smith
David Ernest Buffett
John Terence Brown
James Gary Robertson
Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson
Geoffrey Robert Gardner
Ronald Coane Nobbes
Robert Eric Adams
Brian George Bates

and I lay the Return on the table of the House

Swearing in of Members

CLERK The Deputy Clerk will now approach each Member in turn so that they may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation of allegiance and the oath or affirmation of office

DEPUTY CLERK George Charles Smith please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR SMITH I, George Charles Smith, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

I, George Charles Smith, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God

DEPUTY CLERK David Ernest Buffett please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BUFFETT I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

I, David Ernest Buffett, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God

DEPUTY CLERK Brian George Bates please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BATES I, Brian George Bates, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

I, Brian George Bates, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God

DEPUTY CLERK James Gary Robertson please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR ROBERTSON I, James Gary Robertson, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

I, James Gary Robertson, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God

DEPUTY CLERK Geoffrey Robert Gardner please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR GARDNER I, Geoffrey Robert Gardner, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

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

DEPUTY CLERK Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson please read and subscribe the affirmation

MR ION ROBINSON I, Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law

I, Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson, do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island

DEPUTY CLERK Robert Eric Adams please read and subscribe the affirmation

MR ADAMS I, Robert Eric Adams, do solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law

I, Robert Eric Adams, do solemnly and sincerely promise and declare that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island

DEPUTY CLERK Ronald Coane Nobbs please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR NOBBS I, Ronald Coane Nobbs, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

I, Ronald Coane Nobbs, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God

DEPUTY CLERK John Terence Brown please take the Bible in your right hand and read and subscribe the oaths

MR BROWN I, John Terence Brown, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Her Heirs and Successors according to law. So help me God

I, John Terence Brown, do swear that I will render true and faithful service as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. So help me God

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

The Administrator signs the attestation form

ADMINISTRATOR Honourable Member, in attesting to your oaths and affirmations I offer you my congratulations on your appointment

Election of Speaker

CLERK Honourable Members the next business is the election of a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Are there any nominations please?

MR BROWN I move that George Charles Smith be elected as Speaker and do now take the Chair as Speaker

CLERK Mr Smith do you accept nomination

MR SMITH I do accept that nomination

CLERK Are there any further proposals? If there is no further proposal the time for proposals has expired. I declare that George Charles Smith has been elected as Speaker and I would ask Mr Smith to now take the Chair

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members I thank you for the honour that you have bestowed on me in electing me Speaker the Eighth Legislative Assembly. The next business is the election of a Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. Are there any nominations please?

MR ROBERTSON Mr Speaker I move that David Ernest Buffett be elected as Deputy Speaker

MR SPEAKER Mr Buffett do you accept nomination?

MR BUFFETT I accept nomination

MR SPEAKER Is there any further proposal on the position of Deputy Speaker? Time for proposals has expired. I declare that David Ernest Buffett has been elected as Deputy Speaker. If any Member would like to offer their congratulations to Mr Buffett please feel free to do so

MR BUFFETT One moment before that happens Mr Speaker, may I address you and say congratulations. I do wish you well in the position, especially on the occasions when I think, we all may choose to be disharmonious but may you preside over the House exercising both wit and wisdom, I hope with abundance of the latter

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Buffett and I also wish the same for you in your position as Deputy Speaker

MR BUFFETT Thank you

Administrator's Speech

MR SPEAKER I now invite His Honour the Administrator, to address this Assembly

HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATOR Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, Mr Deputy Speaker, Honourable Members, Madam Clerk, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. My wife Judy and I congratulate Honourable Members on your election to the Eighth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. We also congratulate you Mr Speaker, and you Mr Deputy Speaker on your elections to office. It is with a considerable degree of pride that Judy and I join you today on the occasion of the first meeting of your Assembly. The timing of my appointment as Administrator on Norfolk Island has meant that we have had the honour and privilege of being at the inaugural meetings of the Sixth, Seventh and now the Eighth Norfolk Island Legislative Assemblies. A fact that gives us both great pleasure.

The Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government, the Honourable Warwick Smith MP has asked me to convey to you his congratulations on your election and his best

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wishes for a productive and successful term of Office. The Minister is keen to renew his contacts with the Norfolk Island community and with the Norfolk Island Government through the Intergovernmental Meeting processes which have been successfully established. The Minister will be looking to progress the wide range of matters which will be in that forum and to work in every way to negotiate mutually satisfactory outcomes.

The Minister is confident that the excellent co-operation which has marked the relationships between the Federal Government and the Norfolk Island Government in the past will continue.

The Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Mr Roger Beale, has also asked me to extend to you, his congratulations on your election and his best wishes for the Assembly work ahead.

Mr Speaker the Seventh Legislative Assembly achieved much in its lifetime. Like its predecessors it continued to build on the foundations laid down in Norfolk Island's move to self government and continued to build a framework of law and endorsed policies for the equitable governance of Norfolk Island. You and Honourable Members of the Eighth Assembly will take forward that work in your period in office. There are many important decisions ahead of you, not just in the areas of specific Government policies and legislation but in the broader questions of Norfolk Island's constitutional, economic and social development. Also the Eighth Legislative Assembly will have its own unique place in the history books as it will guide Norfolk Island into the eve, or depending on how you look at it, the dawn of the new millenium.

Mr Speaker I beg your indulgence to repeat two things I have said before on these occasions and to make a personal comment. First the Administrator and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are servants of the public of Norfolk Island and it is our deep responsibility in our work to account for and discharge that public service to the Norfolk Island community. Second, legislatures and Governments are often criticised, but there's is not an easy task. The Norfolk Island community has placed its trust in you in electing you to be members of this Assembly. All the matters you will deal with in your term of Office, will relate to the good fortune and wellbeing of Norfolk Island's community, to its social order, its economy and its environment. These matters demand the most careful attention. And I believe that the people of Norfolk Island are confident that you will give them that degree of attention in your Assembly work.

Mr Speaker and Honourable Members, I mentioned at the outset the pride that Judy and I feel at having been at the opening meetings of three Norfolk Island Legislative Assemblies. Our extended time on Norfolk Island for which we owe much thanks and gratitude to the community as being immensley satisfying and rewarding, personally and professionally for us both. The kindness and consideration shown to us by your Island community has been overwhelming. Our lives have been greatly enriched and we are deeply honoured. We leave you now Mr Speaker and Honourable Members with our best wishes for the success of your work in the Eighth Legislative Assembly

Mr Speaker's Reply

Thank you Your Honour. Your Honour and Mrs Kerr, Honourable Members, Madam Clerk, distinguished guests in the Chamber this afternoon, on your behalf I would thank you Your Honour for your warm wishes to Members upon the commencement of this the Eighth Legislative Assembly.

Thank you also for conveying messages of congratulations from the Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government, the Honourable Warwick Smith MP, and also from the Secretary of the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories, Mr Roger Beale.

We would appreciate you offering to them our appreciation of their best wishes.

We the Members of the Eighth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island equally share the desire of the Honourable Warwick Smith to renew as a matter of priority our contacts with the Minister through the Intergovernmental Meeting processes and to continue to progress the wide range of matters that need to be addressed in that forum and to work closely together to negotiate mutually satisfactory outcomes. As you say Your Honour, the foundations for self government have been laid by all those who served since 1979 in the Legislative Assembly and on the Norfolk Island Council before that. We as an Assembly will continue with that framework and I hope that my colleagues and I of this the Eighth Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island will at least start to get the roof on and do the finishing touches on the structure of self government by the end of our short term of three years. If we do this, the next generation of Norfolk Islanders will have a clear start to the next century. There are many things to be done by this Assembly and provided that we stay focussed on our goals, and as you say again Your Honour, that we remember that we are the servants of the people of this community, and if we do, if we remember that, much will be achieved.

On a personal note Your Honour, I am sure that the community will agree with me when I say that you have shown how easy it is to get along, be it between our two governments or in our personal lives, by the way you've carried out your role as the Administrator, with kindness, friendship and communication. You and your good wife Judy will certainly be missed when you leave the Island in the next few weeks and I would like to say to you both that you will always be welcome when you come home to this Island community of ours, of Norfolk Island.

Suspension of Sitting

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members the House will now suspend for two minutes.
I would ask that Members and guests stand with me but remain in the Chamber

Resumption of Sitting

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members the House has now resumed its Sitting and I call upon Condolences

Condolences

MR BUFFETT Mr Speaker. It is with regret that this House records the passing of David Francis Greenham a resident of some 26 years. David Greenham was born and educated in Victoria and after completing high school at Footscray Technical College, he entered employment with Containers Limited completing first an apprenticeship as a fitter, turner and toolmaker, then further engineering certificates. He married Margaret Duart Mclean in 1945 and they had two children Dale and Bill. David Greenham had a distinguished work history in engineering and factory management. He worked and managed with Containers Limited, Edgell Gerberts, Mole Tool factory, with major plants in Victoria, Sydney, Bathurst and Sheparton He completed numerous management diplomas and he became a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. Margaret and David Greenham decided to move to Norfolk Island originally because of Margaret's ill health and Dale and Michael Dale being

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their daughter, joined them in 1977. The Greenham's subsequently sold the business to the Hogden's and then retired to community activities and hobbies. For many years David was a member of the Norfolk Island Lion's Club. He was a member of Pittwater Masonic Lodge and was awarded Life Membership in appreciation of 50 years service in 1992. In latter years, David became an active member of the Probus Club. One of his greatest loves was fishing and he rarely missed an opportunity to go out in the boat with his son-in-law Michael. In the last few months fishing has proved too arduous so David concentrated on two other loves, that is bowling and gardening. For many years David grew magnificent orchids as well as a variety of vegetables for the family and he did take out points prizes at the Royal A & H Show. Of late he concentrated on fruit trees, grafting several new varieties and overall he gave much of his abilities to Norfolk Island. So to David's family and friends, this House extends its deepest sympathy

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Buffett. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased I would ask that all Members stand in silence please. Thank you Honourable Members

Messages from the Office of the Administrator

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members I have received two messages from the Offices of the Administrator and I will now read them

Message No 112

On the 23 April 1997, pursuant to subsection 21(2) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, I declared my assent to the Healthcare Amendment Act 1997, which is Act No 7 of 1997. Dated 23 April 1997. Signed Alan Kerr, Administrator.

Message No 113

On the 16 April 1997, pursuant to sub-section 22(1) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, His Excellency the Governor-General declared his assent to the Public Reserves Act 1997 which is Act No 8 of 1997, and the Public Reserves Consequential Provisions Act 1997 which is Act No 9 of 1997. Dated 24 April 1997. Signed Alan Kerr, Administrator.

Appointment to Executive Officers

MR SPEAKER Honourable Members, the next item of business is to determine the number of executive officers and their respective designations.

MR BATES Mr Speaker I move that under section 12 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979, (a) all previous resolutions under that section be revoked; (b) there be four executives officers, (c) these officers have the following designations -

- . Chief Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning
- . Minister for Tourism and Commerce
- . Minister for Community and Resource Management
- . Minister for Health and Immigration

MR SPEAKER Thank you Mr Bates. Is there any debate Honourable Members? No debate, then I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it.

Would the Deputy Speaker please take the Chair

DEPUTY SPEAKER Honourable Members we move on to the next item of business which is the proposing of Members to fill each executive office. I firstly call for nominations for the position of Chief Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning

MR GARDNER Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker I move that George Charles Smith be chosen to be Chief Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you Mr Gardner. Mr Smith do you accept nomination?

MR SMITH Mr Deputy Speaker, I do accept nomination

MR SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals? If there are no further proposals Honourable Members I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you.

I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Health and Immigration

MR ION ROBINSON Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. I move that John Terence Brown be chosen to be Minister for Health and Immigration and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Brown do you accept nomination?

MR BROWN Mr Deputy Speaker, I do accept nomination

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals? If there are no further proposals Honourable Members I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you.

I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Tourism and Commerce

MR NOBBS Mr Deputy Speaker I move that Gary James Robertson be chosen to be Minister for Tourism and Commerce and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Robertson do you accept nomination?

MR ROBERTSON Mr Deputy Speaker I do

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals? There being no further proposals Honourable Members I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you.

I now call for nominations for the position of Minister for Community and Resource Management

MR GARDNER Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. I move that Cedric Newton Ion-Robinson be chosen to be Minister for Community and Resource Management and that the Administrator be advised accordingly

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Mr Robinson do you accept nomination?

MR ION ROBINSON Thank you Mr Deputy Speaker. Yes I do accept nomination

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. Are there any further proposals? There being no further proposals Honourable Members I put the question

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you.

Honourable Members that concludes the formal matters of determining Members for Executive Offices and can I commence by saying congratulations to all those who have been nominated for Executive Office at this formal sitting, the first for the Eighth Legislative Assembly

Fixing of the Next Sitting Day

DEPUTY SPEAKER We move to the fixing of the next sitting day

MR BATES Mr Deputy Speaker, I move that the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 21st May 1997 at 10.00 am

DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you. The question is that that motion be agreed to

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it thank you

Adjournment

DEPUTY SPEAKER We now move to the adjournment

MR SMITH Mr Deputy Speaker I move that the House do now adjourn

DEPUTY SPEAKER The question is that the House do now adjourn. Any adjournment debate? I will put the question that the House do now adjourn?

QUESTION PUT
AGREED

The ayes have it. Therefore Honourable Members this House stands adjourned until the date that we have determined which is Wednesday 21st May 1997 at 10.00 in the morning.

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