

**NORFOLK ISLAND
TENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE 2002**

**NORF'K AILEN
DIISEM MENETS LARNEN WATHING HAEPN
INAA
TENTH LEJESLIETEW 'SEMBLE
WENSDI 19 JUUN 2002**

1 The Legislative Assembly met at 10.05 am. The Speaker (Hon D.E. Buffett) took the Chair and read the Prayer

2 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE MRS JACK**
Leave of absence from the sitting was extended to Mrs Jack

3 **CONDOLENCES**
Ms Nicholas recorded the passing of –

Alice Ivy Douran

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members stood in silence

4 **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

5 **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**
The following papers were presented to the House:

(1) Mr Smith (Minister for Community Services and Tourism) tabled the inbound passenger statistics for May 2002 and moved –

THAT the House take note of the paper

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices;

(2) Mr Donaldson (Minister for Finance) tabled –

a) the Financial indicators for 11 months ended May 2002 and moved –

THAT the House take note of the paper

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices;

b) detail of virements approved by him as executive member under the *Public Moneys Act 1979* for the period February to June 2002
Mr Brown moved –

THAT the House take note of the paper

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices;

- c) detail of goods exempted from duty by him as executive member under section 2B(2) of the *Customs Act 1913*

6 STATEMENTS

- 1) Mr Donaldson (Minister for Finance) provided a response to a question without notice asked at an earlier sitting by Mr Nobbs re. travel expenditure funded from the Revenue Fund

Paper:

Mr Donaldson tabled a paper detailing travel expenditure for the Administration of Norfolk Island for the period 1 December 2001 to 30 April 2002

- 2) Mr Smith (Minister for Community Services and Tourism) –
- a) Advised that resealing of the road between the Leagues Club and the Tourist Bureau is scheduled to commence before the end of this financial year
Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT the House take note of the Statement

Debate ensued
Question put and agreed to on the voices

- b) Acknowledged the excellent contribution to radio and television by Ms Margaret Meadows as manager of VL2NI for the past 10 years and as broadcasting officer for meetings of the Legislative Assembly in that time. Ms Meadows has resigned from her position and moves shortly to live in New Zealand
Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT the House take note of the Statement

Debate ensued
Question put and agreed to on the voices

7 INQUIRY INTO EFFECTIVENESS AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NORFOLK ISLAND HOSPITAL ENTERPRISE

Mr Nobbs, pursuant to notice, moved -

THAT this Assembly take note of the petition in relation to a dispute between the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise and Dr Damien Foong presented at the Legislative Assembly meeting of 5 June last and agrees to –

1. **Note that separate legal action by Dr Foong is to be heard in the Supreme Court on 1 July next, seeking a lifting of his suspension pending outcome of inquiries currently in progress concerning contractual and other issues;**
2. **Initiate an independent inquiry into the Norfolk Island Hospital, with particular reference to –**
 - a) **the effectiveness of legislative and management arrangements as they currently apply to the Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise; and**

- b) the adequacy or otherwise of the Hospital Enterprise, the Director, the Hospital Board and the Executive Member in their oversight, action or conduct in the engagement, suspension or termination of medical or Hospital staff over the recent six months;
and

3. To provide adequate support to the inquiry.

Debate ensued

Mr Ivens Buffett (Minister for Land and the Environment), by leave, moved –

THAT the words “the recent six months” in paragraph 2(b) be deleted and the words “the last 18 months” inserted

Debate ensued

Question – That the amendment be agreed to - put

The House voted –

AYES, 6

Mr Buffett

Mr Gardner

Mr Donaldson

Mr Ivens Buffett

Ms Nicholas

Mr Smith

NOES, 1

Mr Nobbs

ABSTENTIONS, 1

Mr Brown

Amendment agreed to

Mr Gardner (Chief Minister), by leave, moved –

THAT the words “and practices undertaken and” be inserted in paragraph 2(a) after the words “management arrangements”

Question – That the amendment be agreed to – put and agreed to on the voices, Mr Brown being absent from the Chamber

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair at 12.02 pm

Debate ensued

Mr Ivens Buffett moved –

THAT debate be adjourned and the resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting

Question put

The House voted –

AYES, 6

Mr Buffett

Mr Gardner

Mr Donaldson

Mr Ivens Buffett

Ms Nicholas

Mr Smith

NOES, 1

Mr Nobbs

ABSTENTIONS, 1

Mr Brown

Debate so adjourned on the question – That the motion as amended be agreed to

**The Deputy Speaker at 12.24 pm suspended the sitting until 2 pm
The House resumed at 2.04 pm, the Speaker taking the Chair**

8 SUSPENSION OF MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HEALTH

Mr Nobbs, pursuant to notice, moved -

THAT this House –

- 1. Recommends to the Administrator that he suspend the executive member with responsibility for health, the Hon. George Smith MLA, without executive member allowance.**
- 2. Allocate those executive responsibilities currently with the executive member with responsibility for health to the remaining three executive members as they see appropriate**

Debate ensued

Mr Brown, by leave, moved –

THAT all words after “THAT” first occurring be deleted and the following inserted:

“this House resolves –

- 1. That all executive offices held at this date be declared vacant effective from 10 am on Wednesday 3 July 2002**
- 2. That the House meet at 10 am on Wednesday 3 July 2002 to select the persons who shall thenceforth be appointed to executive office and, if necessary, the number and titles of such offices**
- 3. That His Honour the Administrator be advised accordingly”**

Debate ensued

Question – That the amendment be agreed to – put

The House voted –

**AYES, 1
Mr Brown**

**NOES, 7
Mr Buffett
Mr Gardner
Mr Donaldson
Mr Ivens Buffett
Mr Nobbs
Ms Nicholas
Mr Smith**

Amendment negatived

Question – That the motion be agreed to – put

The House voted –

AYES, 2
Mr Nobbs
Mr Brown

NOES, 6
Mr Buffett
Mr Gardner
Mr Donaldson
Mr Ivens Buffett
Ms Nicholas
Mr Smith

Motion negatived

9 CUSTOMS ACT 1913 - EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY

Mr Donaldson (Minister for Finance), pursuant to notice, moved -

THAT, under subsection 2B(4) of the *Customs Act 1913*, this House recommends to the Administrator that the goods specified in the first column of the Schedule imported by the person specified opposite, and on the conditions mentioned, in the second column of the Schedule be exempted from duty -

SCHEDULE

<u>Column 1</u> <u>Goods</u>	<u>Column 2</u> <u>Importer/conditions</u>
Three Coils of Wire for Fishing Cranes on Jetties – amount of duty applicable \$244.48	Norfolk Island Fishing Club Conditions – Nil

Debate ensued
 Question put and agreed to on the voices

10 APPROPRIATION BILL 2002

Debate resumed (Mr Donaldson, Minister for Finance) on the question – That the Bill be agreed to in principle

Debate ensued

Question put

Bill agreed to in principle on the voices

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage

Mr Donaldson moved –

THAT the Bill be agreed to

Question put
 Bill agreed to on the voices

11 TOURISM – FUTURE DIRECTION

Debate resumed (Mr Nobbs) on the question – That the motion be agreed to

Debate adjourned (Mr Smith, Minister for Community Services and Tourism) and resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting

12 NORFOLK ISLAND PLAN

Debate resumed (Mr I Buffett, Minister for Land and the Environment) on the question – That the amendment proposed by Mr Nobbs be agreed to

Debate adjourned (Mr I Buffett) and resumption of debate made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of sitting

13 FIXING OF THE NEXT SITTING DAY

Mr Donaldson (Minister for Finance) moved –

THAT the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 17 July 2002 at 10 am

Question put and agreed to on the voices

14 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Brown moved –

THAT the House do now adjourn

Debate ensued with Mr Nobbs, Mr Brown and Mr Gardner participating

Paper:

Mr Gardner (Chief Minister) tabled the Norfolk Island Annual Report for the period 2000 to 2001 and read into hansard the letter contained therein dated 1 March 2002 to him from the Chief Executive Officer

Question put and agreed to on the voices

AND THEN the House at 4.35 pm adjourned until Wednesday 17 July 2002 at 10 am

Robin-Eleanor Adams

Clerk to the Legislative Assembly

Members Present: All Members were present except Mrs Jack, by leave