

**NORFOLK ISLAND  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
THIRTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
20 MARCH 2013**

**NORF'K AILEN  
DIISEM MENETS LARNEN WATHING HAEPN  
INAA  
THERTIINTH LEJESLIETEW 'SEMBLE  
20 MAACH 2013**

- 1 The Legislative Assembly met at 10.00 am on 20 March 2013 for the dispatch of business pursuant to a notice (hereinafter set forth) from the Administrator: Rosemarie Gaye Evans, Clerk, attending according to her duty, the said Notice was read by the Clerk:

"I, Neil Albert Pope, Administrator of Norfolk Island, under section 40 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979*, do by this notice, convene the first meeting of the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island after a general election of that Assembly, to be held at the Legislative Assembly Chambers, Kingston, at 10.00 am on Wednesday 20 March 2013

18 March 2013

Neil Pope  
Administrator

2 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were read by Rev Frank Mostyn

3 **RETURN TO WRIT FOR ELECTION**

The Acting Clerk read and laid on the Table the Return to the Writ for the election of the Legislative Assembly held on 13 March 2013 which showed that the following Members had been elected:

- Lisle Denis Snell
- Robin Eleanor Adams
- Ronald John Ward
- Timothy John Sheridan
- Melissa Ward
- David Ernest Buffett
- David Raymond Porter
- Ronald Coane Nobbs
- Hadyn Paul Evans

4 **OATHS BY MEMBERS**

The Members, whose names are set forth above, made and subscribed an oath or affirmation of allegiance and an oath or affirmation of office before His Honour the Administrator as required by law

5 **ATTESTATION BY ADMINISTRATOR**

His Honour the Administrator attested to the subscribing of the oath or affirmation of allegiance and an oath or affirmation of office as required by law

6 **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

Mr Nobbs moved –

**THAT David Ernest Buffett be chosen as Speaker and do now take the Chair**

Mr Buffett informed the House that he accepted nomination

There being no further proposals, the Clerk declared Mr Buffett to have been elected Speaker

Mr Buffett presented himself to His Honour the Administrator and took the Chair

**7 ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Mr Evans moved –

**THAT Ronald Coane Nobbs be elected Deputy Speaker**

Mr Nobbs informed the House that he accepted nomination

There being no further proposals, the Speaker declared Mr Nobbs to have been elected Deputy Speaker

**8 ADDRESS BY HIS HONOUR THE ADMINISTRATOR**

At the invitation of the Speaker, His Honour the Administrator addressed the Assembly

**9 ADDRESS IN REPLY**

The Speaker replied to the Address to the Assembly by His Honour the Administrator

The Administrator and the Speaker exchanged copies of their respective Addresses

**10 SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

The Speaker briefly suspended the sitting of the House and escorted His Honour the Administrator left the Assembly Chamber

**11 RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

The Speaker took the Chair and resumed the sitting at 10.23 am

**12 NOMINATION OF CHIEF MINISTER**

Mr Nobbs moved –

**THAT Lisle Denis Snell be nominated to be the Chief Minister  
and that the Administrator be advised accordingly**

Mr Snell informed the House that he accepted nomination

Debate ensued

Question – THAT the motion be agreed – put

The House voted –

**AYES, 8**

**Mr Buffett**

**Mr Porter**

**Mr Ward**

**Mr Snell**

**Mr Nobbs**

**Mr Evans**

**Mr Sheridan**

Motion agreed to

**NOES, 1**

**Mrs Ward**

**ABSTAIN, 0**

**13 CHIEF MINISTER'S STATEMENT**

Chief Minister (Mr Snell) advised the House of his proposed Ministry

**Paper Tabled:** Mr Snell tabled –

(1) the proposed Administrative Arrangements Order for the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly

**14 SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

The Speaker suspended the sitting of the House until 2.00 pm

**15 RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

The Speaker took the Chair and resumed the sitting at 2.01 pm

**16 MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR - NO 1**

The Speaker reported the following Message from the Office of the Administrator:

**Message No. 1** Message No 1 from the Administrator advising that on 14 February 2013, under section 22 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979*, Her Excellency the Governor-General declared her assent to the following Act: Official Survey (Amendment) Act 2011 (Act No 7 of 2013).

**17 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

The following papers were tabled –

Minister for Finance elect (Mr Sheridan) – **Australian National Audit Office ~ Independent Auditor's Report for the –**

- 1) Administration of Norfolk Island;**
- 2) Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise; and**
- 3) The Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau**

Mr Nobbs moved –

**THAT the Papers be noted**

Debate ensued

Mr Nobbs moved –

**THAT debate be adjourned and made an Order of the Day  
For a subsequent day of sitting**

Question put and agreed on the voices

**18 MOTION BY LEAVE – INTERGOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

Leave having been granted to Chief Minister elect, Mr Snell moved -

**THAT this House -**

- 1. acknowledges that the Norfolk Island Road Map was developed in partnership between the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island Governments subject to budget outcomes from both Governments and was signed on 2 March 2011 between the Hon Simon Crean, MP, Minister for Regional Development and Local Government and the then Chief Minister of the Norfolk Island Government, the Hon David E Buffett, AM, MLA.**
- 2. reaffirms the purpose of the Roadmap to describe the reforms needed to strengthen:**
  - **The Island's economic diversity to provide a sustainable and growing economy;**
  - **The Island's social cohesion and resilience**
  - **The Island's unique heritage and environment**
- 3. resolves that:**
  - (i) as a priority, the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly commits to ongoing and urgent discussions with the Commonwealth on detail and refinement of the purpose and reforms of the Roadmap to work together in a spirit of cooperation and willingness to find joint solutions to the community's needs; and**
  - (ii) to discuss Norfolk Island's current financial circumstances with a view to progressing arrangements to meet the shared intent of both Governments for a sustainable future for Norfolk Island.**

**Paper Tabled:** Mr Snell tabled –

- (2) Letter to the Administrator, Hon Neil Pope dated 15 march 2013**
- (3) Letter to The Hon Simon Crean MP, dated 18 March 2013**

Debate ensued  
Mrs Ward moved –

**THAT the Paper (letter to Minister Crean) be printed**



**E-MAIL**  
18.3.2013

**THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

TELEPHONE 6723 22003  
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OLD MILITARY BARRACKS  
KINGSTON, NORFOLK ISLAND  
2899 SOUTH PACIFIC

18 March 2013

The Hon Simon Crean MP  
Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development & Local Government  
Parliament House  
PO Box 6022  
CANBERRA .. ACT .. 2600

Dear Minister,

**Re: Norfolk Island Funding requirement for 2013/14**

I have been advised that the projected funding requirement for the Administration of Norfolk Island for 2013/14 is \$6.7 Million. The Norfolk Island Government seeks this financial assistance from the Australian Government to enable the provision of services to the Norfolk Island community for the 2013/14 financial year.

I have discussed this response with the former Chief Minister, Hon David Buffett and am aware of the letter which he forwarded to you dated 10 January 2012 which set out the forward estimates deficits for the financial years 2013/14; 2014/15 and 2015/16. The magnitude of the deficit is consistent with the forward estimates that have been provided to and reviewed by Commonwealth officials.

As Chief Minister elect, I have also recently been appraised of the outcome of the audit of the 2011/12 financial accounts for the Administration of Norfolk Island conducted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO). The recent Audit opinion of the ANAO has been determined based on the submission and analysis of financial projections provided by the Administration of Norfolk Island for the next three years as part of the Audit process and confirms significant deficits in each of those three years.

I note that the ANAO have determined in relation to the recent audit that they have *"disclaimed an audit opinion due to the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Administration of Norfolk Island to continue as a going concern"*.

I understand that the Audit results are to be tabled in Federal Parliament this coming Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 the day of the inaugural sitting of the 14<sup>th</sup> Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly. The ANAO disclaimer will continue the uncertainty regarding the ability of the Government to continue to provide services to the community.

I would, on behalf of the Norfolk Island Government and community be grateful for your consideration of financial assistance request as outlined above and I look forward to our teleconference scheduled for 3:45 AEST tomorrow, Tuesday, 19 March 2013.

Yours Sincerely

  
Lisle Snell  
Chief Minister Elect

Administrator  
CoC  
CEO

**Deputy Speaker Nobbs took the chair – 2.45 pm**  
**Speaker Buffett resumed the chair – 2.58 AM**

**Question put and agreed on the voices**

**Question – THAT the motion be agreed to – put and agreed on the voices**

**21 FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY**

Mr Porter moved –

**THAT the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday  
10 April 2013 at 10.00 am**

Question put and agreed to on the voices

**22 ADJOURNMENT**

Mr Evans moved –

**THAT the House do now adjourn**

Question put and agreed to on the voices

**AND THEN the House at 3.18 pm adjourned until Wednesday 10 April 2013 at 10.00 am**

**Gaye Evans**  
**Clerk to the Legislative Assembly**

**Members Present:** All Members were present