

**NORFOLK ISLAND
FOURTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2013**

**NORF'K AILEN
DIISEM MENETS LARNEN WATHING HAEPN
INAA
FORTIINTH LEJESLIETEW 'SEMBLE
WEDNESDAY 16 OKTOEBA 2013**

1 The Legislative Assembly met at 10.03 am, the Speaker, Hon David Buffett AM MLA, took the Chair and read Prayers

2 **WELCOME**

Speaker welcomed to the Public Gallery Mr Jon Gibbons, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Service

3 **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (10.05-11.05 AM)**

DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair at 10.20 am

Mr Buffett moved –

THAT time for Questions Without Notice be extended for ten minutes

Question put and agreed on the voices

SPEAKER resumed Chair at 11.16 am

4 **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Responses were provided to:

24 Mrs Ward asked the Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Service –

Given that the education memorandum of understanding extended tenure positions have been 'frozen' and are subject to review; will the Minister answer the following?

1. Under whose authority was the memorandum frozen;
2. What is the timeframe for a review; and,
3. What community consultation will take place as part of the review process?

Paper tabled: "A world-class curriculum for the 21st Century"

Paper tabled: "Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians"

31 Mrs Ward asked the Minister for Finance –

Will the Minister inform the House how much the Norfolk Island Government contributes to local charities, services and sporting clubs in any given year by way of duty exemptions tabled in this House?

32 Mrs Ward asked the Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Service –

Will the Minister answer the following questions in relation to immigration?

1. Is it not a fact that a recent change in the way an application fee is applied at an administrative level when making an application for a declaration of residency under the *Immigration Act 1980*, which includes a spouse and/dependent children, has increased from \$125.00 irrespective of the number of persons included in the application, to \$125.00 per person included in the application; and if so,
2. Is it not a fact that the change has resulted in an increase to the fees payable and therefore the Minister's advice to the House on the 16th of September that there has "been no changes to the fees" was misleading; and,
3. Is it not a fact that such an increase conflicts with the General conditions, point 9 of the 2013-14 funding agreement which says "Norfolk Island will not develop policies or procedures that will disadvantage or impede Australian citizens wishing to reside on Norfolk Island?"

33 Mrs Ward asked the Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Service –

Will the Minister advise the House in detail of the factors which were taken into account when determining that a new interpretation and application of the immigration law was necessary for residency applications and explain how this change has been applied without amendment of the empowering Regulations?

5 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

- 3) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Public Sector Remuneration Tribunal – Determination NIHE No 1 of 2013**
- 4) Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism, Mr Snell – **NI Tourism Strategic Plan 2013-2023**
- 5) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan – **GST Quarterly Report July-September 2013**
- 6) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan – **Quarterly Economic Indicators July-September 2013**

6 STATEMENTS OF AN OFFICIAL NATURE

The following statements were made –

- 1) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Health, hospital and community initiatives and the opening of DCA Safe House**
- 2) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan – **Update on Sporting activities during August 2013**

7 Messages from the Office of the Administrator

The Speaker to report the following Messages from the Office of the Administrator **Message No. 8** from the Administrator advising that on 8 October 2013 acting pursuant to section 21 of the *Norfolk Island Act 1979*, he referred the following proposed law for instructions of the Commonwealth Minister: **Customs (Amendment) Bill 2013**

8 Reports from Standing Committees

Mr Nobbs, Chairman IBDC tabled the **Quarterly Report of the IBDC – 16 October 2013** and moved –

THAT the Report be noted

Discussion ensued
Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT debate be adjourned and resumption of debate be made an Order of the Day for a subsequent day of Sitting

Question put and agreed to on the voices

9 FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY

Mr Evans moved –

THAT the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 10 am

Question put and agreed to on the voices

10 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Nobbs moved –

THAT the House do now adjourn

Question put and agreed to on the voices

AND THEN the House at 11.58 am adjourned until Wednesday 13 November 2013 at 10.00 am

Gaye Evans
Clerk to the Legislative Assembly

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present