

**NORFOLK ISLAND
FOURTEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2014**

**NORF'K AILEN
DIISEM MENETS LARNEN WATHING HAEPN
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FORTIINTH LEJESLIETEW 'SEMBLE
WEDNESDAY 19 NOEWEMBA 2014**

1 The Legislative Assembly met at 10.02 am, and the Speaker, Hon David Buffett AM MLA, took the Chair and read Prayers

2 **CONDOLENCES**

Mr Evans recorded the passing of –

**Unice Mahinga Vercoe
Byron Hugh Burrell**

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

3 **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (10.09 to 10.36 AM)**

4 **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Responses were provided to:

30 Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance –

Will the Minister for Finance provide, for the public record, a simple table for each financial year since 1979 that lists -

1. Year;
2. Average number for resident population for the year;
3. Total dollar value of expenditure from the Norfolk Island Government Public Account for the year;
4. Total dollar value of expenditure at (3) funded by Australian Government; and
5. Total dollar value of expenditure at (3) used to fund works on Commonwealth assets eg Roads, Reserves, Piers etc.

1) **Paper tabled: Mr Sheridan: Population Statistics**

31 Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance –

Will the Minister for Finance provide, for the public record, an itemised list detailing the specific works the Norfolk Island Government has been required to do in exchange for annual payments received from the Australian Government under Funding Agreements?

32 Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance –

Will the Minister for Finance provide, for the public record, detail of expenditure reported to be spent by the Australian Government in emergency funding to Norfolk Island not covered in responses to questions 30 and 31 above. If the Minister does not have this information will he seek this from Minister Briggs department to qualify his claims in Australian media?

33 Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance –

Will the Minister for Finance establish a mechanism for accountability and local reporting of all federal funding claimed against Norfolk Island to provide Australian and Norfolk Island taxpayers information about where taxpayer resources are being allocated?

34 Mr Nobbs asked the Minister for Finance –

Does the Minister for Finance consider Norfolk Islands quantum funding to maintain Commonwealth owned assets since 1979 grounds for a claim for reimbursement or offset against funding received since the RoadMap was signed in 2010. If not will the Minister advise why he supports introducing new taxes upon a financially stressed economy whilst we fund Australian Government obligations?

35 Mr Nobbs asked the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism –

In respect of significant activity being undertaken by the federal Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development on Norfolk Island's future governance model will the Chief Minister -

1. seek from the Administrator, for the public record, details of all personnel engaged within the Departments Norfolk Island team, their role and responsibilities, and a summary bio that identifies their respective qualifications and experience
2. Put in place a mechanism to publicly update this information when new personnel are engaged within the Departments Norfolk Island team in any capacity

36 Mrs Ward asked the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism –

Is it a fact that the Chief Minister met with a political lobbyist firm during his most recent visit to Canberra and if so –

1. what was the purpose and outcome of the meeting;
2. who paid the account; and
3. is there an ongoing relationship with any external consultant?

37 Mrs Ward asked the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism –

Will the Chief Minister table his Government's strategic and/or economic plan and highlight the key elements which will lead to a sustainable future for the Island?

38 Mrs Ward asked the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism –

Given the Government's 2014/15 budget debate; will the Chief Minister list the identified constraints to business development and improving the economy and describe what the Government has been doing to remove and/or reduce local constraints?

39 Mrs Ward asked the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism –

Is it a fact that the Norfolk Island Government's Preferred Governance model is reliant on access to the Australian fiscal transfer payment system and a dividend collected from each of the Government Business Enterprises, and given recent comments made by Assistant Minister Briggs that Norfolk Island would not be entering the fiscal transfer payment system, and the draft Deloitte Report recommendations, how will the Preferred Governance model be funded?

40 Mrs Ward asked the Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services –

Will the Minister table in tabular form by category the number of people, resident or otherwise, who have obtained a Healthcare Levy exemption over the past twelve (12) month period and from those figures will the Minister inform the House how much has been paid out by the Healthcare Scheme in the same period?

2) Paper tabled: Ms Adams: **Table of Healthcare Exemptions June 2013-2014 - and moved –****THAT the Paper be tabled and printed**

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices

41 Mrs Ward asked the Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism –

Will the Chief Minister describe in detail his comment that some funding agreement conditions will be "impossible to achieve"; outline what this means in dollar terms and explain where expenditure could be reduced in order to meet any budget shortfall?

42 Mrs Ward asked the Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services –

Given the tabling of the Education Report 2014 and the Administrator's September 2014 letter to the Minister in relation to education and training on the Island; has there been any further discussion with the Australian Government on the matter, and if so, what was the outcome?

5 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

3) Mr Snell – Norfolk Island Government's response to the JSC Report

Ms Adams moved –

THAT the Paper be noted

Debate ensued

Deputy Speaker took the chair at 12 noon

Speaker resumed chair at 12.26 am

Question put and agreed to on the voices

- 4) Ms Adams – **Healthcare** – and moved–

THAT the Paper be printed

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices

- 5) Mr Snell – **Norfolk Island Annual Report 2013-2014**
6) Ms Adams – **Petition** – and moved –

THAT the Paper be noted

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices

- 7) Mr Sheridan – **Customs Act 1913 - Duty Exemptions**
8) Mr Sheridan – **Liquor Licencing Board Annual Report 2013-2014**
9) Mr Sheridan – **Employment Conciliation Board Annual Report 2013-2014**
10) Mr Sheridan – **NIA Quarterly Financial Statistics July to September 2014**
11) Mr Sheridan – **NIA Quarterly Financial Statistics July to October 2014**
12) Mr Sheridan - **Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise - Statement October 2014**
13) Mr Sheridan - **NI Government Tourist Bureau - Statement October 2014**
14) Mr Sheridan – **NIA Audited Financial Statements 2013/14**
15) Mr Sheridan - **NI Government Tourist Bureau Audited Financial Statements 2013/14**
16) Mr Sheridan - **Norfolk Island Hospital Enterprise Audited Financial Statements 2013/14**

Mr Sheridan moved –

THAT the Papers be noted and printed

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices

6 STATEMENTS OF AN OFFICIAL NATURE

The following statements were made –

- 1) Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services, Ms Adams – **Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area (KAVHA) Update**
2) Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan – **Gave notice of his intention to introduce legislation to adjust the Norfolk Island Time Zone**
3) Mrs Ward – **Report on attendance at the 60th CPA Annual Conference in Yaounde, Cameroon as Norfolk Island's parliamentary delegate and representative at the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Meeting**

- 17) **Paper tabled:** Mrs Ward – **Report on attendance at 60th CPC, Cameroon** - and moved –

THAT the Paper be printed

Debate ensued

Question put and agreed to on the voices

NOTICES

7 CUSTOMS ACT 1913 - EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY

Minister for Finance, Mr Sheridan 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 column 1 of the Schedule imported by the person specified in column 2, and on the conditions mentioned in column 2 of the Schedule, be exempted from duty.

SCHEDULE

Column 1
Goods

Column 2
Importer/conditions

Laser Grader Blade Control Equipment
- amount of duty applicable \$600.27

Norfolk Island Bowling Club
Conditions: Control equipment to be
exported on completion of use

Uniform - Football Jerseys
- amount of duty applicable \$609.84

Norfolk Mutineers Norfolk Island Rugby
League Masters
Conditions: Nil

Basketball Tower
- amount of duty applicable \$234.14

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Conditions: Nil

Debate ensued
Question put and agreed to on the voices

8 MOTION BY LEAVE

SOCIAL SERVICES ACT 1980 - REVOCATION OF APPOINTMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND CHAIRMAN OF SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

Minister for Cultural Heritage and Community Services (Ms Robin Adams), sought leave to move a motion

Question – **THAT leave be granted** – put and agreed on the voices
Ms Adams moved -

THAT for the purposes of sections 4 and 5 of the *Social Services Act 1980*, this House resolve to recommend that the Minister revoke the appointment of —

Melissa Ward

as a Legislative Assembly member of the Board and as Chairman of the Board, and appoint —

Hadyn Paul Evans

who is not the Minister or the authorised officer, as a Legislative Assembly member of the Board, and further, appoint —

Ronald Coane Nobbs

being a member of the Board as appointed on 12 April 2013 to be the chairman of the Board.

Debate ensued
Question put and agreed to on the voices

9 FIXING OF NEXT SITTING DAY

Mr Porter moved –

THAT the House at its rising adjourn until Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 10 am

Question put and agreed to on the voices

10 ADJOURNMENT

Mrs Ward moved –

THAT the House do now adjourn

Debate ensued with Mr Nobbs participating

18) Paper tabled: Mr Nobbs – **Norfolk Island – Forward from 2014**

Question put and agreed to on the voices

AND THEN the House at 1.26 pm adjourned until Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 10.00 am

Gaye Evans
Clerk to the Legislative Assembly

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present