

The Joint Standing Committee inquiry into local government models and equitable revenue sources to support the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

Committee Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to send to you my opinion and proposal in writing (submission) into the local government models and equitable revenue sources to Support the Norfolk Island Regional Council.

I propose the following for Norfolk Island:

I would like to see the appointment of a Board (replacing the election of councillors) comprising 5 people with AICD qualifications and governance/management expertise. While numbers could be flexible, I also propose a minority of locally elected members who can represent the community and a majority of members selected for their expertise by the Government (including a Chair) - all AICD 'qualified'. If not already qualified, the elected members would be given a short time to complete the AICD qualification, if not completed their membership would lapse and they would be replaced. Board membership would be for fixed terms which could be renewed based on performance. The Board does not need to be more than 5 members.

I understand that there would need to changes to legislation to enable the above (e.g. Lord Howe Island has a 'Board' Act) or something along the lines of the Torres Strait Island Regional Authority but aside from determining the Board arrangements, the present enabling local government legislation would remain appropriate.

I would also like to see.

1. That an agreement be struck whereby Norfolk Island and its inhabitants remain Australian and the Islands operation and governance is modelled on that of the Torres Strait Islands Regional Authority, or the Lord Howe Island Board. I propose that a Norfolk Island Regional Authority (NIRA) be created to replace the Norfolk Island Regional Council, and that it works with the Queensland Government in the interest of financial viability, and accountability and transparency of local governments laws of that State. I would like to see Norfolk Island be integrated into Queensland but be administered by the Norfolk Island Regional Authority that would be a statutory authority of the Australian federal government so have the same set up as that of the Torres Strait Islands Regional Authority and how it works with Queensland and Australia.
2. My proposal would see The Norfolk Island Regional Authority as an Australian Government body established to administer Norfolk Island. It would consist of 5

elected representatives. The primary function of the authority would be to strengthen the economic, social, and cultural development of the peoples of Norfolk Island. The Norfolk Island Regional Authority board would be led by a chair of the Norfolk Island Regional Authority and a deputy chair both selected by the government and appointed according to their expertise. The day-to-day functions of the Norfolk Island Regional Authority would be carried out by an Administration Department led by a chief executive officer.

3. The goals of the Governance of the Norfolk Island Regional Authority would be to help maintain and improve the leadership and governance skills of current and future leaders of Norfolk Island and to support Development Planning and coordination of integrated government service delivery on Norfolk Island. To achieve these the Norfolk Island Regional Authority would involve local islanders in legislative processes, policies, and priorities in terms of setting direction for integrated planning and service delivery. The Norfolk Island Regional Authority could also optimize and enhance local Board Members decision making and communication capabilities, involve local islanders in integrated service delivery and involve local leaders in monitoring progress towards reaching regional goals and outcomes.
4. I also propose that an Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) Project be jointly implemented by the Federal Government and the leaders of the Norfolk Island Regional Authority, and the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs (DATSIMA) establish a Regional Working Group (RPWG) comprising representatives of the three levels of government agencies working on the island.

Kind Regards