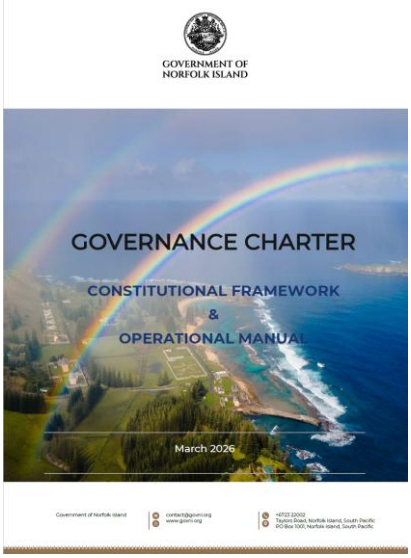
GOVERNMENT OF
NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Government Sets Dates to Activate Direct Democracy

The Government of Norfolk Island has confirmed key dates and next steps as it moves from establishment into full operation following the 01 Jan26 election.

Since the election, Members of the Government have been meeting weekly, supported by a small operational team, to put in place the practical machinery required for the community to exercise its authority through direct democracy. That work is now translating into clear actions and timelines.



The Governance Charter will be released for public review via the GNI website on Friday 17 April. The 120-page framework sets out how government operates, how decisions are made, and how accountability is maintained. Recorded summaries will accompany each section to ensure the information is user friendly and easy to engage with.

Terms of Reference for two government Select Committees — focused on key priorities constitutional modernisation and the Island's resource and funding strategy — will be published by the end of April, ahead of formal introduction.

The first General Assembly meeting will be held at Rawson Hall on 30 May, where the community will be invited to consider and determine key matters, including the first proposed law. The Notice Paper for this meeting will be available online by 22 May.

To support participation, the GNI Hub at Foodland Mall will reopen with set public hours. The Hub will provide access to documents, support for submissions, and enrolment on the Electoral Roll to ensure community members can participate fully in General Assembly decision-making.

These steps mark the activation of a working system of governance where authority is exercised by the community and formalised through established processes.

The Government's objective is clear: to support an informed community, confident in making decisions that serve Norfolk Island and all its people well.

It may take a bit to get our heads around having our voice and authority again – we've been locked out of our own governance for so long now - but working together as equals, and respectfully, we can and will find our way to putting local back into Norfolk Island, and unity back into our community

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