

Audio file

20260822 GNI Meeting MP3 Recording - Full Notice Paper.mp4

Transcript

Clerk

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I call together the House and the General Assembly of Norfolk Island. We come to a time where we read the prayer of the Government of Norfolk Island and Before I do that, you'll notice we've got a gentleman over there operating the projector slide. His name is Peter Lipscomb. He's from Wollongong and his father Willie Adams is on the departed comrades wall at the RSL Club. Peter is one of many Adams family in Wollongong and Peter has been a wonderful supporter of the government of Norfolk Island and of course the RSL Club over a number of years. And today he is helping us with the slides. So thank you very much, Pete. For those who can read the slide, we just remain seated. We'll say the prayer together. Almighty God, we humbly beseech thee to vouchsafe thy blessing upon this house, direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of thy glory and the true wealth of the people of Norfolk Island. Amen. We do have some condolences for our meeting today. The House passes on condolences since the last sitting of the 11th of July 2026. The House fondly remembers and passes on its sincerest thoughts to the families of Mike Adams, Marshall Shane McCoy, Marie Forsyth and Robin Mahoney. The General Assembly are asked to stand for a period of silent reflection after I read this short eulogy from Robin's brother. Robin was born on the 6th of June 1955 at Pittsworth near Toowoomba, Queensland. She is the eldest with three brothers, Greg, Mark and Brett. Robin worked in tourism in Toowoomba, working in the area of travel agency and real estate work. Her involvement with the travel centre brought Norfolk Island to her attention, and after many visits, Robin moved to Norfolk Island in 1990, where she worked in the tourism sector. Robin went back to Malaney in 2007, but the lure of Norfolk Island was too great, and she returned back to Norfolk Island in 2019. Robin was again welcomed into the lives of the Norfolk Island families and became a strong supporter of Norfolk Island's fight to restore democracy. Many hours were spent down in the Tent Embassy and most recently at the Government of Norfolk Island Hub in Norfolk Mall. Robyn collapsed at her home on the 11th of August and was medivac across to Brisbane and went to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Sadly, Robyn passed away in the early morning of 19th of August 2026. It was her wish to be returned home to Norfolk Island. Rest in peace. Can I have a minute of silence and just moments of silence will be upstanding please. Rest in peace. Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen. Before proceeding to the notice paper of the Assembly this afternoon, I will briefly outline the arrangements for participation and conduct. Involving things like emergency procedures, location of the amenities, recording arrangements, conduct of proceedings. As you know, if there's an emergency we exit, there's many exit doors around Rawson Hall. The toilets are to your left and right as you go out or come into the Rawson Hall. The General Assembly is conducted respectfully through collective deliberation. Community participation is welcomed. Contributions are to relate to the matter under discussion and should not exceed 5 minutes. Please address contributions through the Clerk and allow others the opportunity to participate uninterrupted. Voting process explained below Voting in the General Assembly is undertaken through direct democracy. Only persons recorded on the electoral roll may participate in formal voting. When voting is called, the returning officer will facilitate the process and determine the

outcome, which will be recorded by the Clerk. Instructions will be provided at the time of vote by the General Assembly is called. Today we do have a roving mic. And when we get to the section in our General Assembly meeting today, if there's any deliberations or contributions from the General Assembly community, I ask that someone take the mic and make their less than 5 minute discussion and hand it on to anyone else who might have something to say. Item one on the notice paper for this afternoon's General Assembly meeting is a notice convening the House. I hereby table the Gazette Government of Norfolk Island Notice Paper dated the 10th of August, 2026. Item 2, Governance Charter Amendments 2.1 Referendum Enabling Clause. I invite Chief Magistrate Peter Christian Bailey to introduce to the community in relation to the motion.

Chief Magistrate

Thank you, Tet. So, as Tet said, this motion here is to seek approval of an amendment to the Governance Charter, an operational manual seeking an express which establishes an express authority for the will of the General Assembly to be expressed, giving effect implemented through laws made for that purpose, including where appropriate through a referendum process. The motion is that the Governance Charter and Operational Manual 2026 be amended by inserting a new clause entitled Referendum Enabling Clause in the form set out in the Annexure A, which has been on public display. The Governance Charter establishes that the General Assembly is a principal institution through which the will of the people collectively exercise direct democracy and express their will. While the Charter establishes mechanisms for deliberation, participation and decision making through the General Assembly, it does not presently contain and express constitutional authority enabling the will of the General Assembly to be formally expressed given effect and implemented through laws made for that purpose. The proposed amendment addresses that omission by establishing a general enabling power permitting laws to be made giving effect to the will of the General Assembly. The amendment further confirms that such laws may include provision for the conduct of referenda where appropriate. Referenda are therefore recognised as one authorised mechanism through which the will of the General Assembly may be expressed without limiting the ability of future laws to provide for other lawful mechanisms consistent with the charter. The amendment does not itself establish A referendum system prescribed order prescribed referendum procedures, determine eligibility requirements, create voting thresholds or regulate the conduct of any particular referendum. Those matters remain to be addressed through separate laws enacted under the authority of the Charter, including the proposed Norfolk Island referendum law. The proposed clause is facilitative rather than transformative. It is intended to provide clarity and legal authority for future laws that may be required to give effect to decisions of the General Assembly. It does not alter the powers, rights and responsibilities, institutions or constitutional hierarchy otherwise established by the Charter, except to the extent limited necessary to authorise the making of such laws. The House considers that the amendment will strengthen the constitutional framework of the Charter by providing a clear legal foundation through which the collective will of the Norfolk Island community may be expressed and implemented in accordance with democratic principles and the rule of law. The outcome that we seek is that the General Assembly approved the insertion of the proposed clause into the charter and operational manual. The amendment will establish an express constitutional authority for laws giving effect to the will of the General Assembly while preserving the existing constitutional structure, powers and principles of the charter. It will also provide a clear constitutional basis for the proposed Norfolk Island referendum law on any future laws enacted for the similar purpose. So it's been through all the impact assessments including environmental, social,

economic, cultural, governance. The clause improves legal clarity while maintaining the existing constitutional hierarchy established by the Governance Charter. It creates no new substantive rights or powers beyond those necessary to authorise making laws for the purpose specified in the House and for expressing the will of the people. So, are we up to the referendum resolution? So the resolution that we're seeking is that the General Assembly approves the amendment to the Governance Charter and Operational Manual, which was adopted on the 30th of May 26th, adopts the clause entitled the Referendum Enabling Clause, authorises incorporation of the amendment into the Consolidated Governance Charter and Operational Manual, notes that the amendment establishes A constitutional authority for laws giving effect to the will of the General Assembly. Notes that the amendment authorises but does not require laws providing for referenda or other lawful mechanisms through the will of the General Assembly may be expressed and notes that the amendment does not alter the substantive rights, powers, duties or other constitutional limitations otherwise established by the Governance Charter under the Constitution.

Clerk

Thank you, Chief Magistrate. I now ask if anyone in the General Assembly would like to have any contributions or discussions around that referendum enabling clause. Thank you very much everyone. Therefore, there be no other further correspondence or contribution. This motion is hereby announced. The motion before the House is that the Charter and Operational Manual 2026 be amended by inserting a new clause titled Referendum Enabling Clause in the form set out in Annexure A. I now ask the General Assembly to vote. Those of the opinion of yes, raise your electoral roll card please. Thank you. Those of the opinion of no. Any abstentions? One abstention. Noted. Chief Magistrate, I declare the results of the vote exceed the requirement of majority of yes and declare that the motion is carried. Abstentions noted. On behalf of the Government of Norfolk Island, this House thanks the General Assembly for their direct democracy.

Moving on to Governance Charter Amendments 2.2. Minor operational amendments, number one, community submissions and official General Assembly records. I invite Councillor Rebecca Hayes to update the community in relation to the adopted resolution of the House meeting on the 3rd of August 2026 and provide the General Assembly with the public record of their purpose and effect.

Cr Hayes

The purpose of the charter amendments number operational amendments number one for in community submissions and official General Assembly records. The purpose is to report minor operational amendments number one to the Governance Charter and Operation Manual 2026 adopted by resolution of the House on 3rd of August and provide the General Assembly with a public record of their purpose and effect. Motion for noting no further approval or endorsement of the amendment is sought. Clause 7 of the Governance Charter provides that the Charter may be amended by the resolution of the House and formal endorsement by the people is also required where an amendment affects constitutional authority, sovereignty, institutional structure or rights. The House determined that minor operational amendments number one are administrative and procedural. They do not alter the constitutional authority or composition of the House and diminish the role of the General Assembly, change any decision, category or

affect community rights. The amendments therefore took effect upon adoption by the resolution of the House on 3 August. The amendments address 2 matters identified during the early operation of the charter. First, they clarify how community correspondence and submissions are received, recorded and considered. They confirm that a written submission does not of itself become an agenda item, formal business or a motion before the General Assembly. It does not create An entitlement to priority consideration, a particular outcome, an individual written response or action within the time frame stipulated by the correspondent, the House remains responsible for determining whether, how and when a matter is progressed. General business remains the opportunity for members of the community attending a General Assembly to raise matters directly with the House. Second, the amendment Establish the process for recording General Assembly proceedings and preparing the official transcript or Hansard. They provide for an authorised audio recording, preparation of the transcript by the designated support officer, independent proofreading against the recording, certification and publication by the clerk and confirmation of voting outcomes by the returning officer. The amendments have been incorporated across Clause 17, Protocol 32, Correspondence, Protocol 36, Records, Protocol 39, General Assembly Meetings, and Schedules 3, 5 and 6. The outcome is sought that the General Assembly notes the House resolution of 3rd of August 2026 and the resulting amendments to the Governance Charter and Operational Manual 2026. The amendments will provide clearer processes for community submissions, general business and the preparation and preservation of official General Assembly records. This matter has gone through all the impact assessments, environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability, cultural sustainability. The amendments preserve the General Assembly as a principal forum for direct community participation and strengthen the record of proceedings for future generations. They do not alter cultural rights or the constitutional identity of the Norfolk Island people, governance and constitutional sustainability. The amendments strengthen transparency, procedural clarity, record integrity and public accountability. And they preserve the separate responsibilities of the officers of the House. The clerk oversees the recording and transcript processes, certifies the hand side and authorises publication. The designated support officer prepares the hand side. An independent proofreader checks the transcript against the authorised recording and the returning officer determines and confirms voting outcomes. The amendments do not alter constitutional authority, sovereignty, international structure or rights. And I pass to the General Assembly that a resolution, number one, notes the resolution of the House dated 3rd of August 2026, adopting governance charter minor operational amendments number one, community submissions and official General Assembly records attached as annexure A. Notes that the amendments clarify the administration of community correspondence and submissions, general business and the official recording and transcription of General Assembly proceedings. Notes that the House determined the amendments to be administrative and procedural. and not affecting constitutional authority, sovereignty, international structure or rights under Clause 7 of the Governance Charter and notes that the amendments took effect upon adoption by resolution of the House and will be incorporated into the Consolidated Governance Charter and Operational Manual 2026. And I move.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Councillor Hayes. A rather lengthy follow up with the procedural matters through the House, titled Community Submissions and Official General Assembly Records. Anyone like to contribute with any comments from the General Assembly, from the floor? Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

Councillor Hayes, the resolution of the paper 2.2 by the House is hereby noted.

Point with Governor's Charter amendments, point 2.3, change of date of the November meeting of the General Assembly to the 25th of November 2026. I invite Councillor Rebecca Hayes to update the community in relation to the adopted resolution of the House meeting on the 10th of August 2026 and provide the General Assembly with a public record of their purpose and effect.

Cr Hayes

The decision of the House to change the date of the November 2026 General Assembly from the 14th of November 2026 to the 25th of November 2026 and amend the scheduled meeting dates in part H of the Governance Charter and operational manual to 2026 accordingly. Motion for noting no further approval And the rationale is Part H, Clause 40 of the Governance Charter and Operational Manual 2026 records the scheduled General Assembly meeting dates for 2026, including the final meeting scheduled for 14th of November 2026. Part H also provides that operational arrangements may be amended by resolution of the House, provided the amendment does not alter the constitutional hierarchy established under the Charter. The House has agreed that the November General Assembly will instead be held on 25 November 2026. This is an administrative scheduling change only. It does not alter the constitutional role, authority or operation of the General Assembly. The scheduled meeting dates recorded under Part H Clause 40 are therefore amended as follows. Replace the 14th of November 2026 with the 25th of November 2026. Resolution that the General Assembly notes the decision of the House and to change the date of the November 2026 General Assembly from 14th of November 2026 to the 25th of November 2026, notes the corresponding amendment to the scheduled General Assembly meeting dates recorded under Part H, Clause 40 of the Governance Charter and Operational Manual 2026. notes that the amendment is an operational scheduling change and does not alter the constitutional role or authority of the General Assembly, and notes that the revised date will be publicly notified and incorporated into the Consolidated Governance Charter and Operational Manual 2026. I move.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Councillor Hayes. I might have to seek your approval. To change your recording of the 10th of August meeting with the House, the 25th of November arrives on Wednesday, which is the Thanksgiving Day, and I ask that you might like to approve that the date be changed from the 25th to the 28th November 2026.

Cr Hayes

I approve.

Clerk

Thank you very much. Any comments from the floor on that matter of changing it from the 14th of November to the 28th of November? The resolution of the notice paper 2.3 by the House is hereby noted. Moving on to item 3, Norfolk Island laws. 3.1, Norfolk Island referendum law. I invite Councillor Hayes to introduce to the community in relation to the motion. Correction. To the Chief Magistrate.

Chief Magistrate

Thank you, Tet. So the outcome sought here is that the General Assembly adopt the Government of Norfolk Island Referendum Law 2026. So members of the General Assembly, having considered the question, we now enabling law, we now turn to the practical question. If the charter now permits the will of the people to be formally expressed through a referendum process, how should that process be administered? This proposed referendum law 2026 to answer that question. The proposal is primarily administrative and procedural. It establishes machinery through which a referendum may be conducted Votes may be administered, results may be certified and the will of the electors may be transparently ascertained and recorded. It does not alter the charter. It does not alter existing rights. It does not alter constitutional identity. It does not change the role of the General Assembly. It does not amend rights under the charter. it does not create a new constitutional structure. Instead, it operates within the charter framework and gives practical effect to procedures by which the electorate may express its will when matters are referred to it for determination. Again, it is important to understand that this proposal does not change any thresholds already established by the charter, which was adopted on the May 30th. 2026, and it does not remove or reduce any two-thirds requirements contained within the charter. So at present, there's, I think, there's close to 800 people on the electoral roll. I think, is that correct?

Clerk

705.

Chief Magistrate

Sorry. And obviously for practical reasons, to required by the charter to meet that two-thirds of the electoral roll is unlikely to occur through a General Assembly meeting, particularly when it's to consider matters which are of a substantial nature, which alter people's rights or alter the Constitution. As I said, it also recognises this practical reality. Not every person can attend. People may be overseas, working, studying, travelling or otherwise unable to be physically present. A referendum framework through a mechanism which the broader electorate may participate directly in decisions when required under the charter. As with the previous motion, the government does not contend that a law comes into existence merely because it's published. The charter framework already provides for public notices, general assembly consideration, decision making pathways, electoral administration, certification of outcomes, official records, the Norfolk Island Register, publication requirements and government protocols concerning authentication and promulgation. This law operates within that framework already established. If anything, it strengthens accountability. It creates A transparent and auditable mechanism by which the community's can be measured and by which charter requirements, including any applicable two-thirds thresholds, can be demonstrated to have been satisfied. It's about creating a practical mechanism for meeting them. So obviously when decisions, even decisions that are made on our behalf by external administrators. They may be routinely ignored, but at least we now have a mechanism where we can demonstrate whether the people actually approved or otherwise. So obviously we've been through all the impact assessments which include environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability, cultural sustainability, governance and constitutional sustainability. So the resolution that I put forward to the General Assembly is that the General Assembly adopt the Government Referendum Law 2026, attached as Annexia A, which has been on public exhibition, notes that the law is made under the authority provided by the Governance Charter for Laws giving effect to and ascertaining the will of the General Assembly and electors. Notes that the law establishes procedures for the initiation, conduct, administration, certification and

declaration of referenda conducted under the charter. Notes that the law substantially adapts and modernises referendum machinery and electoral procedures previously enacted and utilised under the former legislative assembly framework while updating those provisions to reflect the governance charter and contemporary voting methods. recognises that the law becomes a transparent, objective and measurable process by which the collective will of electors may be formally ascertained and recorded on matters of major importance. Notes that the law assists in ensuring that democratic participation remains practical and accessible to the widest possible proportion of the Norfolk Island electorate, including electors who may be temporarily or permanently outside Norfolk Island or otherwise unable to attend a General Assembly. recognise that referendum processes may assist public authorities, service providers and other entities involved in the administration of Norfolk Island affairs to better understand community views and the demonstrated will of electors on matters that affect Norfolk Island. And notes that unlike consultation mechanisms, submissions, surveys or stakeholder engagement mechanisms, referenda provide a formal democratic mechanism through which the collective will of electors may be measured and expressed with a high degree of certainty and transparency. And notes that the law has undergone legal review and revision, has been drafted to operate directly within the constitutional framework established by the Governance Charter. Notes that the future development of a Norfolk Island Interpretation Act or similar lawmaking framework may be appropriate as a body of GNI laws expands. This law has been drafted so that its authority, power, definitions and procedures are derived directly from the and remain consistent with the Governance Charter. Authorises incorporation of the law into the published laws of the GNI, Government of Norfolk Island. And just one extra thing, The House has also, as an aside to this, has put forward a modern adaptation of all existing or former Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly laws in the fact that they will be adopted by Government of Norfolk Island, but enacted. This is just a proposal which I'm going to add to, and could be commenced on a case-by-case scenario, on a case-by-case basis. So that's just, this is just one of the first sweep of these laws that we're looking at, that we can practically commence right now. So should we get into the motion, which is... So the motion is that the General Assembly adopt the Government of Norfolk Island Referendum Law 2026, attached as Annexure A, as the law providing for the ascertainment and expression of the will of electors on questions, proposals, laws and other matters as submitted in accordance with the charter and applicable decision-making pathways contained within that charter. Thank you.

Clerk

Thank you, Chief Magistrate. I now open the floor for any contributions or comments on that Norfolk Island referendum law. Can we come use the microphone, please?

Chief Magistrate

You have to be on the electoral roll.

Clerk

Chief Magistrate. We'll just get Dennis to ask that question again. with the microphone, so it's recorded. Ladies and gentlemen, the microphone goes through this recording here, so it's all recorded. Turn it on.

Dennis Sterling

The question is, I was asking, with a referendum, if a referendum is held, are only 185 here today able to vote for the referendum? Or are the other people who are not on the electoral roll?

Chief Magistrate

According to the living constitution, you would need to be on the electoral roll. So, in other words, satisfy the five-year residency. Obviously, this may change with any modernisation of the constitution which is put forward. But to answer the question briefly, you would need to be, say for example, if there's, I think Tet just clarified that there's 705 people currently on the roll. So to satisfy that provision, you would need to have in excess of 500 people vote in favour of that motion. Obviously, as I said before, it's going to be pretty hard to get that many people within a meeting such as this. which is part of the reason that part of the provision within the law is to allow digital and online voting for the diaspora who aren't actually on Norfolk Island. So there's going to be those rigid security measures contained within the law so that people who are off island and want to participate, we can participate in a referendum who qualify.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Dennis Sterling and Chief Magistrate. Any other contributions from the floor?

Cr Hayes

So now, you're going to have to talk into the microphone because it's then recorded and for Hansard?

Alan Summerscales

I just wanted to clarify that as part of this process that you did just say you're going to take ownership of our existing laws and take control of them and, if necessary, amend them as necessary.

Chief Magistrate

As applicable, yes. It's initial stages, but it's definitely something that we believe people of up the Norfolk Island own these laws. And although the source of authority is going to be different, as we see fit they will be commenced if they are relevant.

Clerk

Any other one person in this General Assembly would like to make any contributions to item 3.1, the Norfolk Island Referendum Law? Chief Magistrate, you got further comments.

Chief Magistrate

So obviously one of the benefits of having a body of law that already in place, although we won't be deriving the authority from the 1979 Act. It will be from the will of the people in essence. One of the things about that is there's a whole sweep of legislative drafting that has taken place. So for practical reasons, it's very beneficial. Some of them take slight amendment. One of the other things that we are looking at is obviously as our body of law continues to grow, We will obviously be looking at engaging professional drafting. People say that we know that obviously drafting is a particular skill that will help with the commencement of any of these body of laws or other laws that we may wish to put forward.

Clerk

Thank you, Chief Magistrate. Any other comments from the floor? This motion is hereby announced. The motion before the House is that the General Assembly adopt the Government of Norfolk Island Referendum Law 2026 as a law providing for ascertainment and expression of the will of electors on questions, proposals, laws and other matters submitted in accordance with the Government's Charter and applicable decision-making pathways. I now ask the General Assembly to vote. Those of the opinion, yes. Raise your electoral card. Thank you. Those of the opinion, no. Contrary, no. Any abstentions? One abstention. Chief Magistrate, I declare the results of the votes exceed the requirements of majority of yes and declare that the motion is carried. Abstentions are noted. On behalf of the Government of Norfolk Island, this House thanks the General Assembly for their direct democracy.

Moving on to Norfolk Island, item number 4, the community consultation reporting, 4.1, Norfolk Island Land Trust. I invite Chief Magistrate Peter Christian Bailey to update the community in relation to the motion moved and passed as a majority on the 30th of May 2026 General Assembly.

Chief Magistrate

Thank you, Clerk. So this is just to provide an update on the General Assembly paper which concerns the proposed establishment of a Norfolk Island Land Trust. I understand there's a little bit of uncertainty within the community about certain aspects of it. But this is just to report to the General Assembly on the community consultation undertaken regarding the continued proposed Norfolk Island Land Trust, summarise the principal themes and issues raised by the community, and confirm the process for further investigation and development of the proposal. So the motion is just really just to say that the General Assembly note that the Norfolk Island Land Trust community consultation report and support the continued investigation and development of the concept subject to further community consultation, legal advice and government design. So the rationale initially was the government of Norfolk Island undertook preliminary consultation on the concept of a Norfolk Island Land Trust. The consultation examined whether the concept warranted further investigation and sought to identify potential opportunities, concerns and safeguards that would need to be addressed before any proposal could proceed. The proposal explored long-term stewardship models under which land may be protected for future generations while allowing long-term leaseholders to practically enjoy rights associated with occupation, development and use. So some of the strongest feedback that we received was obviously the theme that land here needs to be preserved for opportunities for future generations of Norfolk Islanders and maintain long-term access to land while also protecting important land from market speculation and short-term interests. Many respondents also linked the concept to protection of Norfolk Island's cultural identity, heritage and community connection to place. Obviously the consultation highlighted affordable long-term leasing arrangements, potential pathways for Norfolk Islanders and other descendants and people associated with Norfolk to access land and opportunities to support community continuity while protecting land into the future. The most consistently raised concern was governance. Participants repeatedly emphasised the need for independence, transparency, accountability, conflict of interest protections and ongoing public oversight. The consultation also identified the importance of clearly explaining how any trust would operate, how decisions would be made, how accountability would be maintained and how private property rights would be protected. So just to clarify, this isn't an intention at all to infringe on people's private property rights. That's not the intent. It's for acquisition of land into a potential trust through

possibly inheritance, donation, market acquisition, but it's definitely not about infringing on people's personal property rights. So research undertaken during the process included legal advice, engagement with Maori and indigenous land stewardship models. There was a lot of discussion about this during my recent trip to New Caledonia, particularly with scholars and other people from around the Pacific in how they protect their land, particularly through things such as customary title, which is a slightly different thing to what we're proposing, but we're using the mechanisms that are available to us right now. These investigations indicated that trust-based stewardship arrangements are workable in principle, provided that strong governance and accountability arrangements are established from the outset. Obviously We've had a look at all the impact assessments, so things such as environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability, cultural sustainability, governance and constitutional sustainability. These are all the things we need to tick off within the charter in order for things to proceed. Obviously, as I stressed before, there's been a lot of dialogue, particularly with Maori Hapu or Iwi as they're called about how these sort of structures operate, how they help their community, how they can actually provide affordable housing and keep land in their own in community ownership. So really this is just an update and the resolution is that the The General Assembly receives and notes this report on community consultation regarding the proposed land trust, acknowledges the participation and feedback provided by members of the community and external advisors, notes the principal themes arising from consultation including stewardship for future generations, access to land, cultural preservation, governance, accountability and protection of people's private property rights. So I can't stress that bit enough. supports continued investigation of potential structures, governance arrangements and legal frameworks, notes that further consultation and detailed development work will be required before any final proposal is considered, and notes that any future proposal will be presented to the community for consideration before any implementation would occur. Thank you.

Clerk

Thank you for the update, Chief Magistrate, on the Norfolk Island Land Trust. Any comments from the floor on the matter of Land Trust?

John Brown

With the greatest respect to everybody involved, this is dreaming. There are no funds available. The only available land is probably the Kingfisher Paddock. The chances of land having been leased to someone surviving a divorce or a family provision claim in relation to their estate are zero. We are wasting our time with the greatest of respect with this proposal. Until such time as there are funds with which to purchase property, it's going to go nowhere. In Australia and in New Zealand, land has been gifted to the various Maori and Aboriginal trusts. That's not going to happen here. Let's forget about that and get on with the things that matter.

Clerk

That was comments from Mr John Brown. Thank you very much, John. Chief Magistrate, any more comments on that?

Chief Magistrate

Yeah, thank you for your comments, John. That's all I've got to say.

Clerk

The Norfolk Island community is hereby updated with many thanks and I declare the outcome of the update and state that the continuing initiatives of the Norfolk Island Land Trust is hereby noted.

Moving on to item 4.2, Norfolk Island Wellbeing Survey. I invite Councillor Hayes to update the community in relation to the motion moved and passed as a majority on the 11th of July 2026 General Assembly.

Cr Hayes

Feedback was received through written submissions, consultation forms and direct discussion with members of the community. A detailed submission was received from Dr Kate Lamerle and feedback was also received from the Council of Elders and other members of the community. The submissions were constructive and identified opportunities to strengthen the survey, its supporting indicators and the way future results will be reported. The principal matters raised include strengthening the explanation of the survey's purpose, methodology and intended use, Reducing duplication, improving the clarity and order of questions, measuring the effects of population change, and immigration on housing, employment services, infrastructure, community cohesion, culture, and the environment, and giving greater attention to cultural heritage, and community participation in cultural life. Strengthening questions concerning business conditions, employment, underemployment and economic opportunity. Examining the effect of external administration, bureaucracy, duplication, accountability and access to review or recourse. Strengthening measures concerning health, food security, safety, justice, land use, environmental capacity and community resilience. Ensuring that governance questions measure trust, transparency, local accountability, direct participation and whether people feel heard. Improving the treatment of open-ended responses and quality of community experience. Ensuring that privacy, confidentiality, data management and public reporting arrangements are clearly explained. and clarifying the distinction between the GNI Community Well-being Survey and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census. The GNI Survey and the ABS Census serve different purposes. The Census collects standard population and household information for national statistical purposes. The GNI Survey is intended to measure the well-being, experiences, priorities and aspirations of the Norfolk Island community. community and to monitor locally relevant conditions over time and participation in one does not replace or diminish the separate purpose of the other. The House will consider the feedback received and determine what amendments are required to strengthen the survey, its supporting indicators and the arrangements for future reporting. and a revised survey package will then be prepared for consideration by the House and published before implementation. And the outcome that is sought is that the General Assembly notes the consultation feedback and supports the House considering that feedback in finalising the survey and supporting documents. The revised survey package will be published before implementation and will provide the basis of establishing the first GNI community wellbeing baseline. And the motion that the General Assembly receives and notes the community wellbeing survey consultation report and supports the proposed process for considering the feedback and preparing the final survey and monitoring framework. Thank you.

Clerk

Thank you, Councillor Hayes. Any further comments or any contributions from the General Assembly this afternoon on the matter of the Norfolk Island Wellbeing Survey, the Government of Norfolk Island Wellbeing Survey? Thank you everyone. The Norfolk Island community is hereby updated with many thanks. and also noted.

Item 5, moving on to matters of significant community interest. The Norfolk Island Marine Park proposal. I invite Councillor Tim Brown to present the Government of Norfolk Island's preparation paper to the General Assembly.

Cr Brown

Thanks, Tet. Just so that everyone's aware, this is available for you to look at on the Govni.org website. So if anyone hasn't had the chance to look, you can find it there. Basically, the purpose is to assist in developing a stronger community submission to a decision that involves a resource that belongs to all Norfolk Islanders. This paper provides a disciplined basis for the General Assembly's questioning, community participation and the Government of Norfolk Island's subsequent submission, seeking clear evidence, reason, documents and commitments before any irreversible decision is made. It's not an endorsement of the proposal and does not predetermine the position of the General Assembly or the Government of Norfolk Island. Participation by the Government of Norfolk Island, the General Assembly or any Norfolk Island resident in either consultation process must not be interpreted as acceptance of Commonwealth title, jurisdiction or control, acquiescence in the description of the surrounding maritime area as Australia's EEZ, acceptance that Norfolk Island's interests are confined to the special purpose zone or limitation or prejudice of any claim concerning Norfolk Island's territorial sea, full 200 mile nautical maritime area, continental shelf, natural resources, self-determination or constitutional status. GNI request that this reservation be recorded in the Marine Park Director's report to the Minister and all subsequent instruments and consultation records. The proposal in the snapshot, so Parks Australia's process contains 2 related but legally distinct matters. A proclamation process to expand and rename the park, alter its internal zoning, remove the park from the temperate east network and revoke 1.28 square kilometres around Cascade Pier from that park. And then a separate process to prepare a standalone tenure management plan with later consultation on the draft plan. The central evidence question, what's specifically being protected from which demonstrated activity or threat and at what present level of impact and what measurable ecological improvement will the area of no take category 2 zoning produce that a more targeted, locally governed and proportionate approach would not. So preliminary evidence issues that we believe requires answers. Consultation papers says that there's no currently operating commercial concessions and either the Norfolk Island inshore fishery or offshore demersal finfish fishery and no stock assessments or biomass estimates have been made for those fisheries. Says that the eastern tuna and billfish fishery is the only other fishery operating around Norfolk Island and that its fishing intensity is relatively low compared with areas closer to Australia. Supplies no Norfolk area catch effort or bycatch or revenue figures. It describes deep offshore ecosystems as under sampled while proposing that almost the entire maritime area receive no-take category 2 protection. The principal identified present pressures include climate change, marine pollution, invasive species risk and inshore runoff. Several of those pressures are not caused by offshore fishing and will not be removed merely by drawing a no-take boundary. Cascade Pier proposed for removal from the park to facilitate infrastructure upgrades supporting shipping and tourism, but the scope, proponent, approvals, alternatives and long-term intended use are not

adequately explained. Additionally, areas like Kingston Pier, Ball Bay or Headstone aren't identified as potentially needing removal also, despite having similar needs as Cascade Pier. Two third party papers applied to GNI in April 2025 commercial fishing analysis and a February 2025 mining brief contain material claims about statutory fishing access, AIS derived apparent fishing activity, mineral deposits and petroleum prospectivity. Their commissioning, funding, official status and use in designing the proposal have not been disclosed. Fishing analysis reports apparent fishing signals inside existing marine park zones, including the no-take national park zone. Those algorithm-derived signals require validation. They do not by themselves establish actual fishing, illegality, catch, or ecological impact. Local residents and experienced mariners have reported repeated observations of channel long-line vessels operating in waters surrounding Norfolk, including apparent activity within the Norfolk Island fishing box. These observations appear inconsistent with descriptions of little or no commercial fishing activity and require investigation against AFMA logbook vessel monitoring, AIS surveillance and enforcement records. The identity, activity and legal status of each vessel must be verified before any conclusion can be reached about whether fishing occurred or whether it was authorised. Local fishers hold practical and intergenerational knowledge of established and prospective fishing grounds or marks, including areas they may seek to investigate as vessels, technology, infrastructure and environmental conditions change. The absence of present recorded fishing effort at those locations must not be treated as evidence that they have no present or future importance to Norfolk Island. The mining brief identifies prospective seabed resources but reports no current mineral licences, petroleum wells or demonstrated industry interest. It also states that mining is prohibited in every existing park zone, raising the question of why mining prevention requires 94% category 2 no-take zoning rather than the targeted prohibition combined with locally governed sustainable use. GNI's preliminary principles. So GNI supports responsible, evidence-based marine conservation and intergenerational protection of Norfolk Island's marine environment. Conservation must be proportionate to the threats demonstrated and must address the actual causes of harm. Norfolk's relationship with its surrounding seas is cultural, economic, constitutional and intergenerational. It cannot be reduced to conditional permission to fish within a small box. No proclamation should proceed full disclosure of the scientific fisheries' legal, cultural and socio-economic evidence. or the community's ability to consider the operative management rules. Meaningful participation requires shared authority, transparent reasons and enduring local role, not merely opportunities to submit views to a decision made elsewhere. Norfolk's experience with the governance of the Kingston Arthurs Vale Historic Area demonstrates why access given before a major conservation Designation must be binding, measurable and enduring. The Representative Carver Management Board identified in the World Heritage Government arrangements was subsequently replaced by an advisory committee without executive decision making or expenditure powers. Any governance commitments associated with Norfolk Marine Park must therefore be protected against ladder unilateral abolition, downgrading or conversion to a merely advisory role. Present low use must not be used to extinguish future rights, economic options or adaptive access for later generations. And then just conduct for the General Assembly session today. Questions should be answered by reference to evidence, statutory advisory and practical effect. Representatives cannot answer authoritatively. GNI requests formal referral to the responsible officer or agency and a written response within 14 days in time to involve submissions before the 30th September deadline. The clerk will identify each unanswered or partly answered question for the record. Documents promised should be listed with a responsible officer and delivery date. Questions outside Parks Australia's direct remit should be referred not dismissed and all answers should distinguish what is fixed by

proclamation, what will be determined in the management plan and what can later be changed administratively. So we know that there are a number of people here that have got experience dealing with the current provisions that we're dealing with as well as many who have looked into this already and will make submissions on their own but encourage anyone that's offering questions here and now still make those submissions on your own because many people have got a great deal of experience and we thank those who have been involved in the process thus far so if anyone's got any questions that we may be able to add to the GNI submission we would very much appreciate it.

Clerk

Thank you Councillor Brown.

Cr Brown

Thanks Phil.

Clerk

Phil, do you want to use the microphone please?

Cr Brown

Just sorry, I did miss. Parks were invited to attend today to answer these questions, but instead they'll just form part of our submission and be submitted directly to them to try and get additional information for everyone.

Phil McDowell

What concerns me is, I'll discuss it with you guys up the front, what concerns me is a special purpose zone, IUCN6 or V1, can be open to mining and oil exploration under certain conditions. So under standard guidelines, most special purpose zones actually allow mining operations, including oil and gas exploration and seismic blasting. There is 1 absolute exception. The zone is explicitly legally sub-designated as a special purpose zone mining exclusion. This is a highly specific separate sub-zone explicitly created to legally bar oil and mining exploration. So my state is we should be asking that they include mining exclusion under our special purpose own.

Clerk

Thank you very much for your contribution, Phil. Any other comments? Thanks, Brian Buffett.

Brian Buffett

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to speak. When I went away including myself, Andre Vicky and Kane Anderson went away to the UK to sort out the community's complaint under the father's name. We had many discussions with many constitutional lawyers on these matters, what's ours and what isn't. When we came back, I met with the governance committee. That's what they call themselves, Chris Magri and Alma, and then the... is that what we call them? Governance Committee? I met with them and told them, and nothing's changed to this day, that there's three things we are not to give up. It's our sovereign right, okay? Our EEZ, our immigration and our customs. Those 3 things are non-negotiable. And they were told if they weren't... on the table to give back to us then they were to resign. That didn't happen. We also met, and Dennis was with this, I'm going to say 2016, where the head of parks and everything come over to Norfolk Island and meet with a group of the fishing club members and community members

and we all met up at the NIPD centre and one of the first questions was asked of the parks directors and everybody else was could they please provide the authority they have to do this? Okay, so this is 2016. I went to the meeting on Friday night because none of us were allowed to go down to the meeting to the administrators to ask this question. So I asked the question at the meeting on Friday night and they still haven't presented or produced the paper that they say that they have the authority to do this. While I'm not here to discuss whether this parks is a good idea or not, I personally, I don't think it is, but if we're going to do one, it's up to us to do it.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Brian Buffett. Great contribution.

Cherri Buffett

My name is Cherri Buffett and I'm speaking on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and the committee as well as members. And the instruction that the committee has been given to ask the government of Norfolk Island to please consider taking the Commonwealth Government to court in relation to the fact that they do not own our waters as well as the fact that they don't own our land or our air. Thank you.

Clerk

Thanks, Cherri. Any other person who would like to make comment?

Clerk

Mr Lyle Snell.

Thank you, Clerk. Thank you for the opportunity to have a few words here this afternoon. And I admire the efforts that have been put in to rectifying the situation on Norfolk Island and in consideration of what Brian Buffett had to say about the territorial waters and the territory rights, whether there is still some dispute as to the legality of whether Norfolk Island is a territory under the authority of Australia or as they claim a territory of Australia. That is a big question mark and it refers to many things. One in particular is the Territorial Waters Act of 1926, Norfolk Island. As it appears on the Federal Register of Legislation as being enforced the latest version consolidated as at the 14th of February 25 and that the act states subject to subsection 2 and 2 in brackets territorial waters means that a part of the sea adjacent to the territory of Norfolk Island that is within 12 nautical miles of territorial sea baseline for the territory as determined by proclamation under section 7 of the Commonwealth Seas and Submerged Lands Act 1973. The question I ask here is the The government has inquired as to does the Territorial Waters Act 1926 Norfolk Island still applies and whether there is any consideration given to it. And there is great concern amongst the community as to the possibility that the Norfolk Island box that has been created over many years as a protection for the people of Norfolk Island is still in force. and will that continue to be so protected? Thank you.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Lyle. Great question. Thank you. I know Dennis Stirling would like to present his... Dennis, just before you start, we'll use the microphone. Thanks.

Clerk

Dennis Sterling. I just wanted to clarify what Phil McDowell was going on talking about. As you see, there is a map up the front here. That is the present marine park around Norfolk Island. The

green is the no-take zone, the yellow is a protective zone, and the blue is our box. What I did hear coming out of these speakers was that mining You can see by the area there, there's a great deal of the area around Norfolk Island, which is not a marine park. And that area is under, at the moment, under the control of Australia by their rules. I believe that they don't have the authority also. But under the present situation, the only area that's under jeopardy for mining and such like is what has been declared as Marine Park. The rest of it can be commercially fished, commercially mined, and whatever they like to do in it, and it's nearly, as you might see there, at least half. I'm just reinforcing what Phil McDowell was saying to you, that we are worried that someone will make laws to do those types of activities. What I'm going to say to you here now is the fact that is the management plan and the marine parks did that over Norfolk Island's wishes and the park came right up to the high water mark. We argued that point at that time and we managed to get the box, which is the blue zone, registered on the marine park map. And the reason for having it registered that is now in your hands today to have it enlarged. You've got the opportunity through talking to the Australian government and working with them, because I believe my own personal belief is the plan that you see on the paper by the Australian government is going to go ahead with or without us. I don't think from my conversations with the minister there is any form of backing off on that proposal. But we do have an opportunity to say that if it is going to be a protected zone, that we do have a say in the management plan. We've got a very strong chance of getting a management plan which is similar to Christmas Island and similar to one that's happening up on Thursday Island at the moment where the community have a say and a voice and a vote in what's happening in their zone. The Norfolk Island Government has the opportunity to put a proposal in, and the Norfolk Island Government has the opportunity to put some management plan proposals in the submissions, or as they feel. As you know, we put a submission in purely to try and protect our waters from overseas fishing. And that's what it's about. The commercial fishing is able to be fished in all the other zones except the green zone and our blue zone. That's virtually 6 miles to the east, probably west I mean, and about 15 miles to the east. So you've got the opportunity to think about working with the Australian government to get a some protection for our future.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Dennis. There's a couple of hands up. John's got the microphone. John, do you have something to say?

John McCoy.

Thank you, Tet. Thank you, Norfolk Island. Government of Norfolk Island. One of the issues I have with this is the special purpose zone for Cascade Pier. Councillor Brown did say that this allows for the development of the harbour and wharf, but the biggest impact for me is for cruise ships. Now this just clearly shows what the people who think they have control over our waters will do. They want to develop Cascade for cruise ships. And I'll ask in this room, what is the net benefit that we, the Norfolk Island community, get from cruise ships? So that really shows what these people will do. They also, under the present plan, think they have the authority to hand out fishing licences to fish in the so-called park. They also, in the present plan, allow for the dumping of bilge water in that park. So what is this plan about? It's not about protecting the waters and it's not about anything that will benefit Norfolk Island. And I'm with Brian. The EEZ should be controlled from here. Absolutely. Thank you.

Clerk

Thank you very much, John. Ladies and gentlemen, before we go on further, don't forget this presentation by Councillor Brown is all about forming an opinion by the Government of Norfolk Island as a submission that's due by the 30th of September this year to the Marine Park proposal. We're not here to create arguments, but if it's constructive ideas that you like us to consider, by all means, but we don't want to have, there's a lot of us have got grievances about what's going on, of course we do, but we're really seeking constructive ideas that we can put forward in support of the community of Norfolk Island for, on behalf of the Government of Norfolk Island, for a submission on the proposal of the Marine Park.

Chief Magistrate

Can I answer a question?

Clerk

We do have One question from Brian Buffett and George Nebauer.

George

Well, the Australian constitutional law boundary stop at Lord Howell Island, Western Australia. This whole conversation is about the constitution at law only. I believe that's where the challenge come. They have their unlawfully occupying Norfolk and their departments. People can dislike what I say, that's fine, but that's, I think, where the Norfolk Island people need to really bog in. Thank you.

Clerk

Thank you, George. Brian Buffett.

Brian Buffett

Yeah, just one more statement after what Dennis has had to say. I'm very sceptical of trusting the Australian government. How many times do we have to get burnt and then we want to go back and start negotiation and talk with them again? Again, when I was away, I was told, if the EEZ, immigration and customs aren't on the table, then we walk the door, mate. We go to the rest of the world. We have to stop going to Australia. We have to now start challenging the rest of the world and letting them know what we're doing if we want to get anywhere. Please.

Clerk

Thank you, Brian. I'm very confident that you have got the Government of Norfolk Island who are, you know, we're a body with the General Assembly here, we're a body that's green with everyone. We're trying to form our government at the moment, and yes, we will look at how we deal with a government in isolation. So these laws will come into effect, but we're in the process now of gathering information for our submission And can I also make another point here? That is, when the Government of Norfolk Island makes its admission, which it will, we've got a very large document on our website. That document is just from one entity. So when the response is received from the Government of Norfolk Island, they just see that as one response, not 705 electoral members of the Government of Norfolk Island. It's seen as one response. We all need to, sorry Councillor Brown, if I can get this point across, we all need to think about having responses on their table. So you may have your own responses, but this is about helping us to get our response. Chief Magistrate will look like a comment before Ruth has to say.

Chief Magistrate

I'd just like to make a comment in regards to Dennis's comments about When I saw the direction that they were looking at going and when they mentioned something, that they're well on the way to, was the Christmas Island model, which obviously is an advisory role, an advisory board similar to, it actually operates under the same provisions as the EPBC Act as what KAHVA currently does. And we all know the difficulties we're having at the moment as an advisory role under Carver. So I think Under the EPBC Act, there actually are provisions for things such as co-management, delegated authority. These are all within the remit of the act that they say extends to Norfolk Island. So I'm just curious why they haven't been sort of put forward or on the table. When the boxes were originally done here on the consulting committee, we were actually sitting.

From the floor

Down with AFMA and talking about it.

Chief Magistrate

And the way I understand it is that how it operated back then, it actually operated, it doesn't actually operate under any authority locally. It's under dispensation. That's the way I believe it operates. But in other words, we're going to sort of turn a blind eye to the rules that we think.

Clerk

There was a comment from Mr. Paul Evans about he's been involved in this particular subject for many, many years and he actually recalls the discussion with AFMA some years ago, which doesn't seem to have much change to that original decision back then.

Ruth Hessessey

Yes, congratulate this government and investigating this issue. I'm sure many people in this room are aware of the push of the New World Order government wanting to grab land, wanting to grab resources, and particularly through the United Nations currently and Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2045, I read one of their aims and objectives is to maintain humanity under 500 million in perpetual balance with nature. That means that probably 8 billion people on this earth have to be got rid of. One of the other aims and objectives is be not a cancer on the earth, leave room for nature, leave room for nature. And if you read more detail about these, it means take the people out of these areas and just leave it to nature. And looking around the world currently where this is getting really pushed in places like Canada, there's some dire things going on where people are not permitted to go into their own lands, where I believe with this fishing, this marine park, it'll just The Australian government doesn't act just by itself. It's being told by the United Nations and other bodies what to do. So they are trying to grab the water and what's in that water away from the people who should have the real right to it. And I just want to encourage people to look into this in more detail to see what that agenda behind this really is. because I think that ultimately you'll be, if you give it up or if you agree with this, you'll be giving up your rights to your own water.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Ruth. Kim Friend. No. Once again, any more comments from the floor?

Glenn Buffett.

I just wanted to commend the Government of Norfolk Island on what they're doing in terms of submission for this. And in terms of other people looking for submissions, particularly those who refute the Australian claim to the economic zone, I just want to read something that Dad wrote in the 30th of October 2016, which might give some words to those submissions. He wrote it as the president of the Council of Elders, so I assume the Council of Elders has a record of this somewhere too. But he wrote in terms of the extension period of the temperate East Commonwealth Marines Reserve Network. And he wrote, the Norfolk Island Council Elders refutes the Commonwealth of Australia's claim to the economic zone, EZ, surrounding Norfolk Island and in accordance with the International Commandant on Civil and Political Rights, the ICCPR, Part 1, Article 1, 2. All people may for their own ends freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources. without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation based upon the principle of mutual benefit and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. The Norfolk Island Council of Elders formally resumes the exclusive economic zone surrounding Norfolk Island and welcomes discussion within the Australian Government on any future activities within the Norfolk Island exclusive economic zone in line with international recognised legal ownership that aligns with the ICCPR. Australia is signatory and obligated by the ICCPR. Therefore, Norfolk Commonwealth Marine Reserve is to be removed from the Temperate East Commonwealth Marines Reserve Network. The Norfolk Island people are cognizant of the need to ensure environmental preservation of the oceans surrounding Norfolk Island. Unfortunately, successive Australian governments have reaped decades of financial benefits from Norfolk Island EEZ without reporting the financial benefit or the conservation management of fisheries. This has impacted the island's own responsible and culturally sensitive management of fishery and species collection data in the area directly around the island's coastline. And that was signed by Dad in October 2016. But what I'm saying is that there is this letter, if at the very least if people want to dispute Australia's claim, and I do, there's some words within this letter that was submitted to them in 2016 that can be also used again, or at least people can use these words and say, I still fully support this view.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Glenn Buffett. Very powerful words, and if you need any motivation to submit something to the proposal, you've just heard another one. Thank you very much, Glenn.

Brian Buffett

There's only just a quick one. possibly if the government are going to put a submission in. I know what you're saying, that we've got to put as many as we can in, but let's do it our way too. If we can put a letter out and put it where everyone wants to go sign it from the government of Norfolk Island to say that we disagree with this and we can get 700 people or whatever on it that have elected people, put it out like we did when we took our petition to the United Kingdom and everything else, that's another. It's ours where we do it our way. It's our way. Let's do that as well.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Brian.

Cr Hayes

As far as how the Australian bureaucracy works for submissions of situations like this, is that I'm hearing what you're telling Brian about putting signatures down, but they will only recognise that as one submission. It's not going to have the weight of 700 individual submissions. So when NIPD did the preamble, it was done in a way that everybody who signed that and initialed every page and stated their name, that it was recorded as their individual submission And I think that we got 740 odd submissions. And then I asked, NIPD then asked for that to be recorded, like from their end. Like, yeah, so you've got a paper trail and they've recognised 700 of those individual submissions. Yeah, so I understand one thing you're telling it had to be done, but the government and Norfolk Island submission will be counted as one submission and everybody else's as one individual. So I would encourage that everybody puts in one submission individually. No, So I understand that Parks and Wildlife have a community consultation on a Thursday up at their parks headquarters from 9 until 12 o'clock. So they have pre-former submissions You'll be interested to note that in those preformer submissions that they've identified, do you live in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Northern Territory, Norfolk Island or other? So how does... I've never... with the idea of... marine parks and things. This is the first time that the rest of Australia has an opportunity to have a sit in Auckland's marine or Auckland's waters. I've never seen that before. So I would suggest that, yeah, if everybody can do themselves submission and then one thing of the feedback we get not just from the General Assembly, but over the next weeks, that will inform the General, the Government of Norfolk Island submission. And it's Yorlies, what Yorlie have given to us. We are unbiased.

Clerk

Thanks so much, Councillor Hayes. Councillor Brown, have you got any comments on how we might put forward our submission in terms of its timing and any other, whether it be brought to the community through any other media.

Cr Brown

At present it's available, the current range of questions is available on the website. If everyone who's interested could have a look, read through those questions and if there's additional things that you would like to question or add, we can incorporate that in addition to the notes that we've taken here today. That there might be things from the range of questions that you read through and realise there are gaps. We've noticed that just from Phil McDowell speaking from Rick Kleiner's posts on social media, things like that. So there will be parts that we've missed so far just in the questions that are being asked. So just being able to read through, review and contact us in that manner will be the start.

Clerk

Thanks, Councillor Brown. So that's just following on from that, what is available on the Government of Norfolk Island website, this particular draft submission response is there's 101 questions on it. And you should be able to find Most of those questions would satisfy your query enough to be able to develop a proposal or a response to the Commonwealth. I encourage you to have a look at the website. It's govni.org and have a look at the proposed response by the Government of Norfolk Island. Look at those questions and then devise your own, derive your own proposal. We need as many as we possibly can. Thank you very much, Chief Magistrate.

Chief Magistrate

I just want to reiterate, please read these questions. We've got 106 odd questions and there's other things also like if there's apparently an absence of statistics or biomass figures, then what are they actually basing their rationale on for doing this? If there's a cascade peer exclusion saying why haven't people here actually got access to what proposed developments there are so that we can actually make an informed assessment on the exclusion area, there's just, there's too many the way I see it too many questions that haven't been explained and I absolutely encourage everybody as Tim and to Councillor Brown and the clerk said please read through them and add to them and take these into consideration because it's yeah a lot of questions remain unanswered.

Clerk

One quick question here from Chris Lang.

These zones, they've been, it's not just Norfolk, it's been set up around the world. And the end game of this thing, they're total no-go zones. That's what it's about. You can put the green thing and the blue thing and whatever. It's about no-go zones. And it should be, the whole thing should be rejected on that basis outright. And just to show a quick example of how extreme this can be, it's really worth looking at the wildlands project in North America. Now originally there was a, it started off softly enough because there's a common river between Canada and America and the buffalo couldn't move across it and whatever. Now there's towns, whatever. The Wildlands Project wants to remove the towns, roads, power lines, dams, everything, and forcibly relocate the population of North America southwards. Now it's easy to say, oh yeah, but you got all the checks and balances, that would never happen. Yeah, you get a crisis event, it'll happen all right. And that's what's behind this thing. I mean, I don't, I think the whole thing should be rejected. Full stop.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Chris. Yeah, we'll use the microphone, please, Brian, because.

Brian Buffett

Just on that cascade exclusion zone, it's not just cruise ships, guys, it's a Navy base. All right. We were warned about this when we were up there. They were talking AUKUS back then when we were in the UK. Okay. And do not be surprised if this is not a landing spot that they want to put those AUKUS subs for not so much refuelling for resupplying. Okay. They can be at months at sea, but this will be a naval base down there if they get their way.

Clerk

Thank you, Brian. Any other comments? I think there's been, thanks so much, Carole Yager.

I understand you're asking us to make individual submissions. Could you explain a little more how we actually do that?

Clerk

Yes, sure. We can help you. Yes.

Cr Brown

There are links on some of the things that National Parks have put out so far. We'll be able to get those to provide to people.

Clerk

Carole, Councillor Brown just said there are links and there are hard copies of documentation that can be used. As Councillor Hayes mentioned, you can go to the National Parks Office and they do have a proforma submission there as well that you can just handwrite for those that are not au fait with computers and things like that. So National Parks offices is one and I believe that we might put something outside of the Government of Norfolk Island Hub. We might do that in some of the sleeves outside there as well.

Chief Magistrate

Can I also add that you can put a submission into us through our web page, contact@govni.org. So we would appreciate any feedback to form our proposal, our submission.

Clerk

All right, thank you. We're getting close to the end, but we do have one more down here. Please identify yourself.

My name's Rhonda Lowry. This is just a question. Any of us can put in these submissions. We don't have to be on the electoral roll of Norfolk Island.

Clerk

Anyone can put the submission in, yes. Thank you. If you intend to do that, we really thank you for that. All right. Well, thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Great afternoon. And the House would like to express their appreciation to the General Assembly for their contributions to the Government of Norfolk Island Preparation Paper in response to the Commonwealth of Australia proposal to augment the marine park in and around Norfolk Island. The House will use your input and consultations today and invite the community of Norfolk Island to provide any other considerations in writing to further substantiate the Government of Norfolk Island response to the proposed changes to the marine park around Norfolk Island. Thank you very much.

Moving on to item 6 which is general business. Anyone would like to bring up any matter of general business? George Nebauer, thank you very much.

George Neubauer

I would like to put forward a motion on immigration that the General Assembly resolves that The Norfolk Island Government take immediate action to seek the suspension of permanent migration and settlement on Norfolk Island until the island's sustainable population capacity has been adequately and comprehensively assessed and considered by the Norfolk Island people. The Government of Norfolk Island immediately notified the Australian Government in writing that the Government of Norfolk Island does not consent to policies or administrative arrangements that are encouraged or facilitate additional and permanent settlement on Norfolk Island while the assessment is undertaken. The Government of Norfolk Island immediately commenced discussion with the Australian Government for the resolution of locally administered immigration residency controls for Norfolk Island. Appropriate to Norfolk Island's unique circumstances, finite resources and infrastructure capacity, environment, cultural heritage and future generation. All correspondences between the Norfolk Island, the

Government of Norfolk Island and the Australian Government arising from this resolution be reported at the next General Assembly and made publicly available in the interest of transparency and accountability. Reasons for motion. Norfolk Island is a small and infinite island community, finite sorry. Continued permanent population growth affects housing, health, water, electricity, food and freight security, waste management, infrastructure, the environment and the preservation of Norfolk Island's distinct community culture and identity. The purpose of this motion therefore to require is to therefore require immediate government the government of Norfolk Island action or the longer term question of Norfolk Island's population capacity and restoration of its own immigration arrangement is properly examined. Thank you very much.

Clerk

Thank you very much, George. As the Clerk and with carriage of the Charter for the Government of Norfolk Island, our general business is not about asking the General Assembly to come forward with motions. We'll take your, if you don't mind, if you can pass your interest into the House and then we'll consider it at the next House meeting, if that's okay. And Chief Magistrate.

Maragret Christian

Tet, could I just make a comment on that? While I agree with what George is saying, I think we need to be careful with the wording because you may be cutting out our future generations by saying we're limiting people coming in completely. And so we have to look at our grandchildren who will be coming home if they're not here to move to the island. And so I think we need to be careful that the immigration... I totally agree with you. Yeah, I agree with you, but we need to be careful of that.

Clerk

Thank you very much, Margaret, and thank you, George. I think it's a very... Very touchy subject, very emotional subject. Chief Magistrate's got a comment to make on that.

Chief Magistrate

Just in answer to George, just within the charter, we've got to actually have got a statement on immigration, so on the government's what has been adopted, so you can have a look in that and read that as well.

Clerk

Any other matters of general business? There be no further general business matters. Item 7 is closure. I now turn to the Chief Magistrate.

Chief Magistrate

I move that the meeting of the House and General Assembly now adjourn until the next scheduled date prescribed in the Governance Charter being Saturday the 3rd of October 2026.

Clerk

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, as the Chief Magistrate has just closed our meeting. If I can ask everyone to be upstanding, we'll sing the Pitcairn Anthem.

Then shall the King say unto them, on his right hand, come Blessed of the Father, inherit the kingdom prepare it for you from the foundation of the world. I was in hunger and he made me mean I was thirsty and he gave me drink I was a stranger and he took me in Naked and he clothed me I was sick and he visited me I was in prison and he came unto me Inasmuch as he had done it unto one Of the least of these my brethren He had done it unto me. He had done it unto me.

Clerk

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. To finish off, if I could ask everyone, when they do, to move their chairs, but we do have some tea, coffee, and biscuits available next door in the supper room. Have we got fish nibbles? And we've got fish nibbles as well. So please come and join us and continue mingling. Thank you Jane Rutledge and Dean Snell for their support and for arranging the after meeting opportunity to casually discuss matters with the GNI.