



GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING:

10 October 2026

NOTICE PAPER ITEM:

5. MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY INTEREST

5.5 Modernisation of the 1838 Constitution – Update

Purpose:

To update the General Assembly on the constitutional modernisation process and the pathway for its continuation beyond the current government's term.

Update:

The Select Committee on Constitutional Modernisation was established by the General Assembly on 30 May 2026 to undertake constitutional review, lead community consultation and prepare recommendations under the adopted Terms of Reference.

The Committee's work will not be completed within the term of the present government, which ends on 31 December 2026. Further work is required to fulfil the Terms of Reference, including meaningful community consultation before recommendations are finalised.

Drawing on the Committee's work to date, the required Constitutional Modernisation Plan is currently being developed. The Plan will identify the stages of review, consultation, drafting and community endorsement, providing a clear pathway for people to understand the matters under consideration and participate in shaping the next stages.

The Plan will be presented to the next General Assembly, or published earlier if available. The work and records developed during this term will be retained to support continuity under the incoming government.

Any proposed constitutional changes remain subject to the required General Assembly and community endorsement processes.

Outcome:

That the General Assembly notes the revised timing of the Committee's work and the development of the Constitutional Modernisation Plan to guide consultation, community participation and the next stages of constitutional modernisation.

Presented by: Chief Magistrate, Peter Christian Bailey

Date: 10 October 2026