



## GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

### MOTION PAPER

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING:** 30 May 2026

**MOTION # 2: Adoption of Governance Charter & Operational Manual 2026**

#### **Purpose:**

To formally adopt the Governance Charter & Operational Manual 2026 as the principal governance framework guiding the operation, administration, decision-making, participation, and strategic direction of the Government of Norfolk Island during the current transitional term.

#### **Motion:**

That the General Assembly adopts the Governance Charter & Operational Manual 2026 as the governing operational framework of the Government of Norfolk Island, including its constitutional foundations, governance principles, procedural structures, operational arrangements, Action Plan, Vision, schedules, and associated protocols.

#### **Rationale:**

The Governance Charter & Operational Framework 2026 has been developed to provide Norfolk Island with a clear, transparent, and community-accessible framework for the modern operation of government under the continuing constitutional foundations of Norfolk Island.

The Charter establishes the governance principles, structures, procedures, accountability mechanisms, and participation pathways necessary to support public administration, direct democratic decision-making, and orderly governance during the transitional period.

It also articulates a long-term community vision and practical Action Plan supporting constitutional modernisation, community renewal, cultural continuity, and future opportunity.

Prior to public release, the Charter underwent peer review and was subsequently released for public review and community feedback. This version reflects that process, including refinements to governance procedures, continuity arrangements, participation mechanisms, and implementation planning.

Importantly, the Charter does not replace or alter Norfolk Island's constitutional foundations. Rather, it provides the contemporary framework through which those foundations may operate transparently and effectively.

Adoption of the Charter provides the operational foundation for the General Assembly, government officers, advisory bodies, committees, consultation processes, and future governance development.

#### **Public Review Outcomes**

The Governance Charter & Operational Manual 2026 was released for public review prior to consideration by the General Assembly.

Submissions received, both written and in person, during the review process contributed

directly to refinement of the Charter and supporting documents.

Key amendments incorporated into the version before the General Assembly include:

- Strengthened continuity arrangements for The House: Schedule 5 – General Assembly Procedural Orders: Temporary Vacancy & Continuity provisions
- Greater emphasis on constitutional modernisation and future direction: Part B – Transitional Governance Arrangements; Constitutional Modernisation provisions
- Inclusion of long-term community aspirations and intergenerational outcomes: Norfolk Island 2030 – Community Vision
- Expansion of implementation priorities into practical community actions: Part H – Community Action Plan
- Stronger articulation of community participation and direct democracy: Part D – General Assembly; participation mechanisms
- Greater recognition of cultural continuity, youth, and stewardship: Vision; Pillar 6; Action Plan
- Clarification of constitutional foundations and authority: Part A – Authority & Foundations; Statements of Constitutional Position
- Strengthened community governance resilience: Schedule 5 continuity mechanisms and operational provisions

**Outcome Sought:**

Formal adoption and implementation of the Governance Charter & Operational Manual 2026 as the governing framework of the Government of Norfolk Island during the transitional period and constitutional modernisation pathway.

**Impact Assessment:**

The Governance Charter & Operational Framework 2026 establishes governance, procedural, transparency, and accountability mechanisms intended to support orderly administration, public participation, institutional stability, and responsible decision-making during the transitional period.

The Charter additionally establishes strategic priorities, participation mechanisms, and implementation pathways supporting constitutional renewal, cultural stewardship, community resilience, and future opportunity for Norfolk Island.

There is no additional Sustainability Assessment or secondary review process presently required beyond consideration by the General Assembly.

**Resolution:**

**The General Assembly adopts the Governance Charter & Operational Manual 2026 and authorises its implementation across the governance, operational, consultative, and administrative functions of the Government of Norfolk Island.**

**Moved:** Councillor, Rebecca Hayes

**Voting:** Adjudicated by Returning Officer