



GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

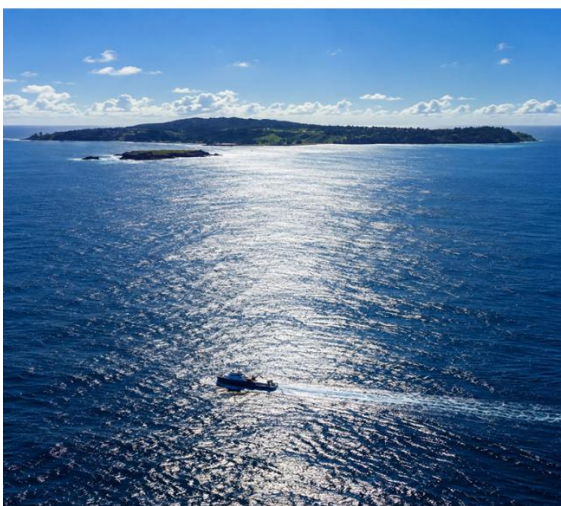
General Assembly – Saturday 10 October: Important Matters for Norfolk Island's Future.

The next General Assembly will now be held on **Saturday 10 October 2026 at 1.00 pm at Rawson Hall**, one week later than previously advertised. The meeting will bring several major areas of GNI's work back to the community.

Constitutional Modernisation and the 2027 Election: The General Assembly will receive the first stage of work being undertaken on modernisation of the 1838 constitutional arrangements, focusing on the electoral provisions required ahead of the 1 January 2027 General Election. This is intended as a practical first step in bringing the original arrangements forward while preserving the constitutional connection and principles that underpin Norfolk Island's system of representative government.

The Assembly will also consider a proposed **Statement of Constitutional Position – Recognition of Norfolk Island's Land, Waters and Natural Resources**.

Our Waters – Norfolk Marine Park Submission



**SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED
EXPANSION OF THE NORFOLK MARINE PARK**
September 2026

Government of Norfolk Island

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Following the extensive community discussion at the General Assembly on 22 August, GNI has completed its formal submission on the proposed expansion of the Norfolk Marine Park.

The submission records that **GNI does not support proclamation of the proposal in its present form**, identifying unresolved questions concerning jurisdiction and Norfolk Island legislation, the evidence supporting the proposed scale and zoning, local governance and decision-making, monitoring and enforcement, fishing and future economic opportunities, and Norfolk Island's cultural and intergenerational relationship with its surrounding seas.

GNI has called for these matters to be substantively addressed before any further decision is taken and has sought an enduring, locally representative role for Norfolk Island in the governance of its surrounding marine environment.

Population, Immigration and Norfolk Island's Sustainable Capacity

The Assembly will consider a further paper on Population, Immigration and Sustainable Capacity of Norfolk Island. This work responds to concerns raised through the General Assembly about the effect of population change on housing, infrastructure, services, employment, culture, community wellbeing and the Island's long-term capacity.

The purpose is to establish a practical community mechanism for identifying and reporting these impacts and ensuring that future discussion is informed by Norfolk Island's circumstances and sustainable capacity.

Community Wellbeing – Moving Toward Norfolk Island's First Baseline

The updated Community Wellbeing Survey & Monitoring Framework, following community consultation on the draft released earlier this year will be tabled in preparation for the next stage which is to conduct the Survey and establish the first wellbeing baseline.

Governance and Norfolk Island's External Voice

The General Assembly will receive GNI's response to the Australian Government's recent Transition Assembly announcement and will also be presented with the External Relations & Diplomacy Framework 2026. Both matters form part of the continuing work to strengthen Norfolk Island's representative institutions and ensure the Island's interests and voice are clearly represented in its external relationships.

GNI Website – Easier Access to Government Information

The GNI website has also undergone a significant update to make government information easier to find and follow. The refreshed site now includes dedicated areas for the 2026 Members, General Assembly, Publications and Registers, together with improved access to government documents and a new Subscribe function for people wishing to receive GNI updates. We encourage the community to explore the updated website and subscribe for future GNI news and information. Take a look at www.govni.org

Come and Take Part

The General Assembly remains the community's forum for direct participation in the work of the Government of Norfolk Island.

These are significant matters concerning how Norfolk Island is governed, how our community develops, how our land and waters are protected, and how decisions affecting our future are made.

Saturday 10 October 2026

1.00 pm

Rawson Hall

The updated Notice Paper and supporting papers will be made available through the GNI website and GNI Hub.

Come informed. Ask questions. Have your say.



To contact us:
send an email to contact@govni.org
or call 22002

25 September 2026