



Community Update from the Norfolk Island Radio Board

The Board of Norfolk Island Radio met recently on the island and would like to provide the community with an update on our activities.

Over the past several months, a significant portion of the Board's work has focused on developing policies and procedures required under the current regulatory framework. As a volunteer-led Board, this work does take time, but we are now close to finalising what is required from a compliance perspective.

The Board has also recently held a number of community meetings to discuss Norfolk Island Radio and the future of Radio Norfolk. These discussions included meetings with groups such as the Council of Elders, emergency service providers, and the local school. These were the first of many future engagements and provided a valuable opportunity to listen, discuss issues and concerns, as well as to share an overview of the work the Board has been undertaking.

Two Directors recently provided an on-air update, but the following outlines some of the key topics raised.

What is Norfolk Island Radio and why was it created?

Under current broadcasting legislation, local councils do not ordinarily hold broadcasting licences. As a result, it was necessary to establish a new entity to which the licence could be transferred. Norfolk Island Radio Ltd was created for this purpose.

In December 2024, the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) formally advised of the transfer of the broadcasting licence to Norfolk Island Radio Ltd, marking an important milestone in the station's governance and future operations.

Norfolk Island Radio has a service agreement with the Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC), which facilitates the use of buildings, assets, insurance, the secondment of staff, and—importantly—funding assistance through a community grant, to support the day-to-day operation of the station.

It is important to note, however, that as the broadcast licence holder, Radio Norfolk is governed by the NIR Board of Directors and operates independently of Council. This independence is why the development of clear policies and procedures has been such a priority—to define how the station operates on a day-to-day basis and where responsibilities sit.

While there is still work to be done and not everything will be finalised in the coming months, establishing this foundation is critical to ensuring the station continues to thrive as a valued community asset that informs and entertains.

Who are the current members of the Board?

The current Board of Directors comprises one Council-appointed Director and two Community Directors. The current Directors are John Kenny, Brent Adams, and Cheryl (Sarlu) LeCren.



Sarlu has been filling a temporary vacancy following the departure of Phillip Reid last year and will be replaced in the coming weeks by a new Council representative.

At its most recent meeting, the Board resolved that increasing community participation in Board decision-making is a priority. Expressions of interest will soon be called for two additional Community Director positions. Further information will be shared via the local paper and on Radio Norfolk.

Looking to the future

A key focus of the recent Board meeting was prioritising objectives and finalising the operational plan and budget for 2026–2027.

Upcoming priorities include completing and embedding policies and procedures, strengthening community engagement, attracting new volunteers, recommencing a youth radio training program, and exploring additional funding and revenue opportunities to support priority initiatives.

The Board is also considering the development of a new website and radio-specific email addresses, separate from NIRC systems, to improve connectivity between the community and the station. This website will also host governance documents and policies for public access.

In the coming weeks, the community will also see the launch of a community survey. It has been some time since we last sought broad feedback on what matters most to listeners, community expectations, and potential improvements or enhancements to Radio Norfolk. The survey will be shared widely and made available via QR codes at multiple locations, with some printed copies also available at the station.

Radio Norfolk continues to play an important role in community connection, information sharing, and local engagement. The Board acknowledges the dedication of staff, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners whose contributions underpin the station's success.

There is still more work ahead, and not everything can be achieved at once. However, please be assured that the Board is committed to better understanding the improvement and enhancements the community imagines or would like to see. We sincerely appreciate the feedback and support we receive as this work on strengthening and enhancing our broadcasting service continues.