

Council Recruitment Update

Update to Airport Fees

Presentation of Amended Financial Statements

Bulky Waste Guide

Media visit from Urban List





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WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY EDITION

The team at Council have had a busy month in February with two Ordinary Council Meetings and the recruitment of various Council roles, so this month's edition is coming to you a little later than usual!

In this month's edition, we welcome our new Acting Deputy General Manager and Acting Manager Environment, have your say on the proposed amended financial statements, read an update from Norfolk Island Tourism, and more!



ACTING DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER

Following a competitive hiring process involving seven interviews, we're pleased to welcome **Nick Mostardo** to the role of Acting Deputy General Manager. Nick will relocate to the Island in early March 2026. Previously, Nick was a consultant to Council, regularly working on the Island over three years. He has extensive local government experience coupled with an immensely strong finance background and qualifications.

The role is for 12 months, with the possibility for extension. Please join us in welcoming Nick to the Acting Deputy General Manager role.

Council is still progressing recruitment for several positions, and updates on the remaining roles will be shared as recruitment continues, with more information to come.



ACTING MANAGER ENVIRONMENT

Joel Quintal will be commencing in the Acting Manager Environment position from 9 March 2026. This is a 12-month contract with a possibility of extension. Joel has held influential roles in both the public and private sectors. He has extensive experience implementing public policy, setting strategy, and management of environmental, social and governance risks.

Council had originally advertised for two positions - Acting Planning and Environment Manager and Acting Waste and Wastewater Manager. After an internal organisational restructuring, the position has been put back into one - Acting Manager Environment.

Council looks forward to having Joel join the team, bringing his wealth of experience to Council and the community.

WE'RE HIRING!

The Liquor Bond is looking for a **Customer Service Officer**. If you or someone you know would be a great fit, we'd love to hear from you.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide courteous and efficient customer service
- Process sales and transactions accurately
- Handle cash and EFTPOS responsibly
- Assist with stock presentation and store operations
- Comply with liquor licensing, WHS, and Council procedures

NORFOLK ISLAND
LIQUOR BOND
YOUR COMMUNITY STORE

Visit the [Working for Council](#) page for the full position description.

Submit your application and current resume to jobs@nirc.gov.nf by 4pm 9 March 2026.



REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING NORFOLK ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Tender

Council invites tenders from suitably qualified and experienced contractors for the refurbishment of the Council Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP).

The project is focused on remedial works to restore structural integrity and address existing defects. The scope does not constitute an upgrade or capacity expansion but rather seeks to improve operational reliability and extend the service life of the STP's existing civil infrastructure.

NIRC specifically seeks individual quotes for:

- Biosolids Removal and Management
- Grit Channel and Screening Improvements
- Auxiliary Equipment Replacement
- Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) Refurbishment and Protective Structure
- Clarifier Refurbishment.

Find more information about the tender and how to apply at the [Tenders and EOIs page](#).

Tenders can be submitted in the following ways:

- Emailed to tenders@nirc.gov.nf
- Posted to PO Box 95, Norfolk Island, 2899
- Submitted in person to Customer Care.

Please clearly mark submissions with the Request for Tender number (RFT 01/2026 – STP upgrade).

Applications close: 4pm on Monday 9 March 2026

UPDATE TO AIRPORT FEES

Council endorsed a small update to airport fees to help ensure the ongoing safe and reliable operation of the island's airport.

The proposed changes were publicly exhibited from 20 November to 19 December 2025, and were formally approved at Council's Ordinary Meeting on 4 February 2026.

The change introduces a new in-hours Flight Operations fee. Each flight requires trained airport staff on duty to carry out safety checks and procedures, and this fee helps ensure those services can continue without reducing funding for essential airport maintenance.

- The new in-hours Flight Operations fee is \$45 per hour, or part thereof, per officer.
- The cost increase is small for passengers, estimated at around \$1.44 per ticket.
- The changes reflect the real cost of safely managing aircraft arrivals and departures.

Council remains committed to balancing safety, sustainability and affordability while supporting essential transport links to and from Norfolk Island.

A full list of Council's fees and charges is available on Council's website under the [Corporate Finance tab](#).

ABS 2026 CENSUS RECRUITMENT

With five months to go until the 2026 Census on 11 August, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will be hiring local staff to support Norfolk Islanders to participate.

Applications for **one Census Field Manager and one Mobile Field Representative** are still open and will likely remain so until filled. There will be more opportunities with the ABS available later in the year, so watch this space! For more information, visit [Census Jobs](#).

The ABS is committed to working with the local community in the lead up to the Census night to ensure the Census collects good quality data.

Census data informs planning and policy development, and supports decision making by government, businesses, organisations, researchers and the Norfolk Island Community.

What is the Census?

The Census is held every five years. It's a snapshot of our population, and how it's changing. Census night is Tuesday 11 August 2026. It's used to inform important decisions about schools, health care, infrastructure and business. It also helps plan local services for individuals, families and communities.

Everyone in Australia on Tuesday 11 August 2026, including Norfolk Island, the Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island, must be included on a Census form. This includes international students, visitors, visa holders and babies!

For more information about the Census, visit www.census.abs.gov.au

Applications for the

Tertiary Access Payment

are open!

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR THE TERTIARY ACCESS PAYMENT

The Australian Government's Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) applications are now open for 2026.

- Have you completed Year 12 (or equivalent)?
- Are you 22 years or younger?
- And are you considering a move or have moved from regional or remote Australia this year to continue your studies?

You might be eligible for the Tertiary Access Payment. While this is not a Council program, some of Norfolk's tertiary students may be eligible. Find out more about the eligibility criteria and apply at [Services Australia](#).

First year students who have taken one or more gap years and meet all other eligibility criteria are now able to apply. Eligible students will be paid either \$3,000 or \$5,000 depending on where they live.

The payment can help pay for things like rent, household bills, groceries, textbooks, or other study supplies.

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE ENDORSED

The Draft Code of Meeting Practice was presented to Norfolk Island Regional Council (Council) for approval at the 4 February 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting. The public exhibition period for the Draft Code of Meeting Practice was initially set to close on Friday 11 December 2025, but was extended to Friday 23 January 2026 by Council at the December 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting through Resolution 2025/114.

Since the extension of the public exhibition period, Council received one public submission and one internal submission. This is in addition to three internal submissions received prior to 10 December 2025.

The Draft Code of Meeting Practice was approved by Council, taking into account the one public submission and four internal submissions, and delegated the Acting General Manager to proceed with implementing the new Code of Meeting Practice.

As part of the extended period of public consultation, feedback was specifically sought on the proposed time change for Ordinary Council Meetings to move to 10:00am on Wednesdays. Only one public submission was received supporting this change and no submissions opposed it, Council expressed that this may not be reflective of the community with only one submission. Hence, the proposed time change was not adopted.

Ordinary Council Meetings will continue to be held at 2:00pm on Wednesdays.

The endorsed Code of Meeting Practice is available to view on [Council's Meetings page](#).

WASTE LEVY EXEMPTION EXTENSION

We are pleased to share that Norfolk Island will receive an extension of the waste levy exemption for the waste generated in Norfolk Island and imported into Queensland by Council until 30 June 2030.

Section 8 of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2023 (QLD) provides a waste levy exemption for waste generated in Norfolk Island and imported by NIRC into Queensland. This exemption was originally due to expire on 30 June 2026.

On 5 December 2025, the Queensland Government formally amended Section 8 of the Regulation, extending the waste levy exemption for Norfolk Island until 30 June 2030. Council thanks the Queensland Government for this continued exemption, as it supports both Council and the community by easing financial pressures and enabling continued compliance with sustainable waste management practices.

All waste from the island disposed of in landfill is classified as Regulated Waste Category 1. In the 2024-25 financial year, more than 500 tonnes of waste were landfilled, which would equate to approximately \$100,000 in levy costs. With the exemption in place, the community is forecasted to save approximately \$400,000 plus in waste levy charges over the four-year period from 2026 to 2030. There are other costs still associated with exporting waste off the island, including freight, customs, biosecurity, transport to the storage and landfill area, and waste disposal fees, so this exemption is extremely appreciated.

Council encourages the community to continue taking simple steps to reduce waste at home and in workplaces. Reducing, reusing, and recycling correctly will help ease pressure on the Waste Management Centre, reduce costs to the community, and support a more sustainable environment for Norfolk Island.

PRESENTATION OF AMENDED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Proposed amendments

The ordinary Council meeting held on 25 February 2026 included the presentation of the amended audited General Purpose Financial Statements and the Auditor's Reports for the year ending 30 June 2025.

The amendments to the General Purpose Financial Statements include:

- "Note B1-1: Functions or activities - income, expenses and assets"
- the "Statement by the Administrators and Management"
- the Independent Auditor's Report.

For more information about the amended audited Financial Statements, visit the [Public Exhibition page](#).

Submissions about Council's Audited Financial Statements or the Auditor's Report can be made by any person in writing.

Share your written feedback before 4pm on 4 March 2026 in the following ways:

Hand delivered to:

Customer Care
Bicentennial Centre,
39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine

Email:

customercare@nirc.gov.nf

Why are the amendments proposed?

On 29 October 2025, Council's audited General Purpose Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 were received and noted by Council. A Commonwealth representative made enquires to Council regarding these General Purpose Financial Statements, specifically "Note B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets."

The concern raised was associated with the function, "Commonwealth Service Delivery," (the SDA) which presented a significant net surplus position in the audited Financial Statements. This was interpreted to be a misstatement, as the cost recovery on Commonwealth Service Delivery functions was much more limited in the financial years 2024-25 and 2023-24. It is expected that the cost recovery in 2025-26 will be negative on account of the introduction of corporate overhead costing for the current financial year, amongst other factors. The "Total functions and activities" row in the note is correctly stated.

Management reviewed the cause for the misstatement and determined that the mapping utilised to generate the financial statements did not mirror the mapping structure that is normally used to report on Commonwealth Service Delivery activities to the Commonwealth.

For more information, refer to [this media release](#).

WHAT IS BULKY WASTE, AND WHERE DOES IT GO?

We've been hearing questions from the community about what exactly constitutes as bulky waste, and where it should be dropped off at the Waste Management Centre (WMC). Check out our Bulky Waste Guide below. If ever in doubt, ask the team at the centre for assistance.

BULKY WASTE GUIDE

NORFOLK ISLAND
Regional Council

METAL



Fridges

Washing machines and dryers



Ovens and stoves

Metal fencing and metal waste



Other large metal items

BULK WASTE



Sofas

Bed frames and mattresses



Wardrobes, cabinets and bookshelves

Outdoor and garden furniture



Rolled and tied carpet

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION (C&D)

(Builders' Waste)



Concrete and waste asphalt

Timber



Rock, soil and dirt

Plasterboard



Bulky glass

Drop at Metal Section

Drop at Drill Ground

If in doubt, ask our friendly team for assistance!

OPENING HOURS

The Waste Management Centre changed its operating hours from 9 February 2026. These changes will provide additional access for residents who work during the week and have limited opportunity to dispose of bulk waste. Saturday access will now accommodate their needs.

Date	Hours
SUNDAY	CLOSED
MONDAY	CLOSED
TUESDAY	7AM - 2PM
WEDNESDAY	7AM - 2PM
THURSDAY	7AM - 2PM INDOOR SHED IS CLOSED
FRIDAY	7AM - 2PM
SATURDAY	8AM - 2PM

Please refer below for the change in opening hours on Friday 6 March and Saturday 7 March due to the Foundation Day Public Holiday.

The Indoor Shed refers to the recycling centre. The Outdoor Area refers to the Drill Ground, green waste/mulch, and scrap metal disposal areas. The Drill Ground is where bulk waste, and C&D (builders) waste are currently disposed.

FOUNDATION DAY - CHANGES TO OPENING HOURS

Due to the Foundation Day public holiday on Friday 6 March, the Waste Management Centre will be **extending its opening time by one hour** on Saturday 7 March.

Please take note of the updated hours for Friday 6 March and Saturday 7 March.

Date	Hours
Friday 6 March (Public Holiday)	CLOSED
Saturday 7 March	7:00am - 3:00pm*

* The Waste Management Centre usually closes at 2:00pm on Saturdays but will be open for an extra hour on 7 March.

Media visit from Urban List

We recently welcomed Urban List's content creator, Jack Webb, to the Island.

Urban List is an online lifestyle publication that covers travel, entertainment and cultural stories. The content helps readers to discover new and exciting experiences.

Thank you to everyone who shared their time, knowledge and friendly hospitality with them.

Check out Urban List's feature article about Norfolk Island [here](#). Keep an eye out with more coverage from Urban List on the way!

Photo shows (LtoR) Jack Webb and partner Lauren.



New visitor experiences!

Exciting new experiences are now available for visitors and locals.

Kingston Cruisers offers a gentle cycling tour through historical Kingston. The tour includes a headset audio guide along the route, so you can ride at your own pace.

An immersive musical heritage presentation, 'In the Sweet by and by,' is being held in St Barnabas Chapel. Experience 1.5 hours of cultural immersion through music, history and vocal traditions.

Book your experience in for all tours at the Visitor Information Centre or via the [Tourism website!](#)

Don't forget, tickets for the Trial of the 15 Historical Play at Ferny Lane Theatre are available at the Visitor Information Centre or at the door. Aata Orn tours are also available at the Visitor Information Centre – call in for all the details.



Our musical tribute features rare recordings dating back to 1948, providing a unique opportunity to hear authentic Norfolk Island harmonies from an earlier generation.



FOOD SAFETY MYTHBUSTERS

We're back with another Food Safety Mythbusting segment, where we separate fact from fiction and tackle common food safety myths that could put your health at risk.

MYTH #1

You can tell if food is contaminated because it smells or tastes 'off'

You can get food poisoning from food that smells and tastes great. Bacteria can grow quickly in food that has been left in the temperature danger zone, nominally between 5°C and 65°C, with no change in the smell or appearance of the food. When food smells "off" it is usually due to spoilage bacteria growing that probably won't make you sick (but still best not to eat it). They're more likely to change the taste and appearance of the food.



MYTH #2

Using hand sanitiser is equivalent to handwashing

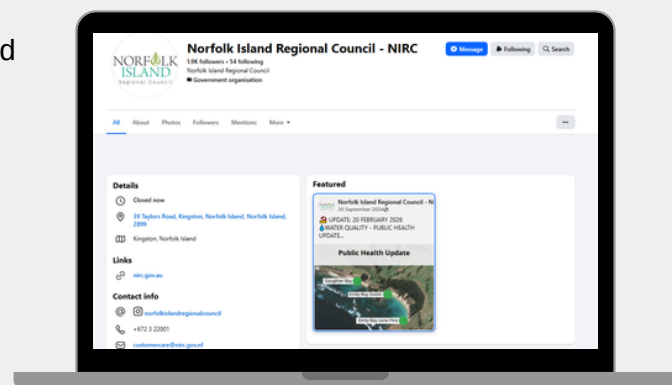
Hand sanitiser is great if handwashing facilities are not available but remember that sanitiser does not work on a range of pathogens, including highly contagious viruses like Norovirus which is only removed from your hands with handwashing with soap and running water and then drying thoroughly on a clean towel.



Public Health Reminder

Council conducts weekly recreational water quality monitoring and reports the test results. Additional sampling is undertaken after significant rainfall events to assess potential stormwater impacts.

You can see the **latest water quality test results** for **Slaughter Bay, Emily Bay Lone Pine, and Emily Bay Outlet** on our Facebook page. The pinned post in the Featured section is regularly updated with the latest test results.





4 to 11 March

4 March

6 March

6 to 15 March

18 March

First Fleeter Groups

Government House Charity Open Day

Foundation Day (Public Holiday)

- A re-enactment is held on the shores of Emily Bay, Kingston from 9:30am. Everyone is welcome.
- Customer Care, Visitor Information Centre, Library, Courts, Liquor Bond, and Waste Management Centre will be **CLOSED**.

Foundation Pairs Lawn Bowls

Government House Charity Open Day

Click [HERE](#) for details of all upcoming events

Stay in the loop with Council throughout the month

MEDIA RELEASES

Read Council's media releases on our website for key news and official statements issued weekly.



nirc.gov.au

 [Media Releases](#)

Media Releases 2026

-  [2026-01-16 Weekly Public Exhibition Notice](#) (PDF, 108KB)
-  [2026-01-15 Council Recruiting Local Talent for Key Roles](#) (PDF, 119KB)
-  [2025-01-14 Cyclone Season Preparedness](#) (PDF, 125KB)
-  [2026-01-14 Electricity Special Purpose Committee Update](#) (PDF, 105KB)
-  [2026-01-09 Energy Bill Relief Fund Now Concluded](#) (PDF, 96KB)
-  [2026-01-08 Weekly Public Exhibition Notice](#) (PDF, 132KB)


Media Releases 2025

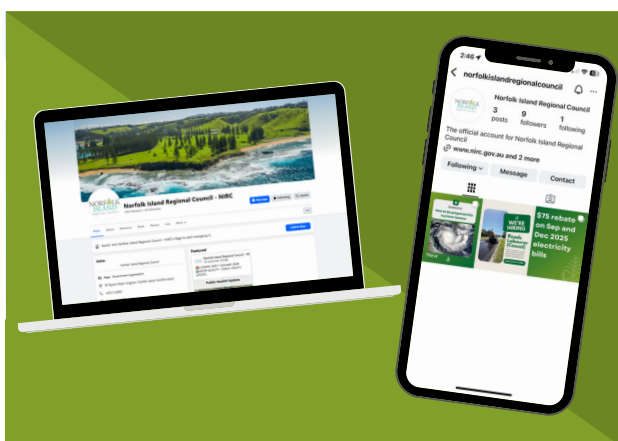
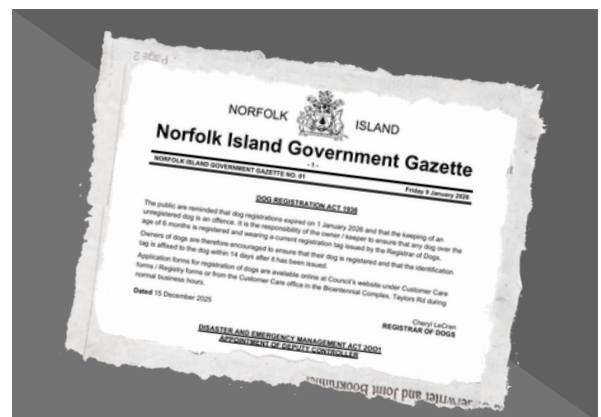
-  [2025-12-22 MR - EOI for Strategic Finance Improvement Committee](#) (PDF, 103KB)
-  [2025-12-22 MR - Weekly Public Exhibition Notice](#) (PDF, 132KB)

GAZETTES

Keep across official appointments, tenders, legal matters, planning updates, and local government notices in our Government Gazettes.

nirc.gov.au

 [Government Gazettes](#)



SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected between editions. Follow our Instagram and Facebook for quick updates and stories you won't want to miss.

 [@norfolkislandregionalcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/norfolkislandregionalcouncil)

 [facebook.com/NIRC2899](https://www.facebook.com/NIRC2899)

LATEST NEWS IS ONLINE

Did you know you can find our most recent media releases on our website?

Visit our [Media Releases](#) page.

JOBS AT NIRC

View details about our current vacancies, including position descriptions and how to apply, head to [Working for Council](#) on our website.



NEXT COUNCIL MEETING DATE

The next Council Meeting is scheduled to be held at **2:00pm on Wednesday 1 April 2026** at Bicentennial Complex, 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine.

Meetings can also be viewed online and are aired live on Radio Norfolk.

Follow this [link](#) to watch the Council Meetings and see the meeting dates for 2026.

PUBLIC ACCESS MEETING

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Gallery to listen in-person - no registration is required. You can simply arrive on the day.

If you would like to present at the meeting, requests for Public Access are open until 4:00pm on the Monday prior to Council Meeting day. Please send an email to executiveassistant@nirc.gov.nf with the details of your request.

The Public Access will be conducted on the day of the Council Meeting commencing at 2:00pm, as part of the meeting's order of business.

Intending speakers should read item 4. Public Access in the Council Code of Meeting Practice located on the [Council Meetings page](#) before making their request.

CONTACT NIRC

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Bicentennial Complex
39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine
NORFOLK ISLAND 2899

PHONE:
Free local call 0100
International callers +6723 22001

EMAIL: customercare@nirc.gov.nf

WEBSITE: www.nirc.gov.au

OPENING HOURS:
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (closed on public holidays)