



**Submission No. 15**  
Norfolk Island Economy  
Date: 17/04/14

## Norfolk Liberals Norfolk Island

Submissions  
Joint Standing Committee  
[jscncet@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscncet@aph.gov.au)  
17<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

Thank you for opportunity to give this submission.

The business community welcomes focus on tourism and the expansion of business enterprise. The effort put in by members of the Joint Standing Committee to facilitate such change is to be applauded.

Our recommendations are noted below and some will cover multiple requirements of your inquiry.

However, from a macro viewpoint, the uncertainty of our future governance is already we believe the cause a drop of both investment and population.

- Our views put forward on governance are in a letter to Minister Briggs, appended, (February, 2014) and have not changed.
- Until a more appropriate governance structure is in place it is not practical to assume that new investment will be attracted.
- You will find below several recommendations on how the population decrease may be arrested, and eventually halted.

We understand that the Norfolk Island Roadmap has as one of its key, aspirational goals, Economic Development.

The Economic Development inquiry terms of reference are:

- 1 Positive action to encourage diversification and broaden the Island's economic basic. The Committee will inquire into and report on:
  - Redressing barriers to tourism, with particular regard to air services, facilities for cruise ships, road and other infrastructure:

We suggest that you look into the following:

- Australian flights departing and returning to the domestic airport instead of the international terminal – this will lower the barrier to tourism allowing both the tourist and business travelers to enter more easily (e.g. lack of need for passport controls etc.), particularly from Australian ports outside of Sydney and Brisbane.
  - Explore a joint venture with the shipping companies to fund the acquisition of several island lighters for the purpose of ferrying cruise passenger to and from visiting ships – this will save the shipping company the anxiety, cost and support, of any of their lighters being damaged during the transfers.
  - Move the public service offices from historic Kingston, and the KAVHA area, to Burnt Pine, allowing the expansion of exhibitions and facilities within the KAVHA area.
2. Complement to tourist, such as agriculture, other industry or small-medium enterprises
- Actively seek to stabilize and grow the population – this will assist all industry especially agriculture.
  - Remove the monopoly held by the liquor bond – this will allow people with expertise to enter the industry and the visitor will be offered a superior service.
  - Develop a way to bring the basic staples of life e.g. milk and fruit and this will enhance the visitors experience and the local's health.
  - Provide better on island adult and teenage education and sports facilities, to help reduce, and eventually halt, the population decrease
3. Proposals and opportunities for niche industries.
- Develop a task force to determine the type of niche industry, and enhancement to required infrastructure, that would flourish given unique characteristic of Norfolk Island such as:
    - Isolation and independence can be seen as a positive to some business enterprises, such as
      - Internet / service based industries
    - The excellent pest control and lack of disease
      - For biotechnology, agriculture and medical research and product development.
    - Overall living, weather and atmosphere environment
      - Increased tourism, and supporting services and companies

- Encourage further Australian and overseas retiree investment, accommodation and supporting services

I hope this has been useful for the inquiry, which we see as crucial to the future sustainability of Norfolk Island economically. We hope to have the opportunity to meet with and make a more detailed submission when members of the committee visit to Norfolk Island .

Yours faithfully,

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