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| The Secretary | M R Snell |
| Joint Standing Committee National Capital and External Territories | 1 st Vice President Norfolk Labor |
| Parliament House Canberra. ACT. | Sub-branch of ALP PO Box 241 Norfolk Island. |

Re: Territories Law Reform Bill 2010.

Norfolk Labor writes in support of the Bill as it applies to Norfolk Island.

The policy platforms of Norfolk Labor recognise the significant deficiency in financial and administrative capacity in Norfolk Island governance arrangements which results in poor quality decisions and outcomes for the people of Norfolk Island. Norfolk Labor has sought far stronger reform than that contained in the Bill; principally that functions of Norfolk Island government should be reduced to those for which Norfolk Island has demonstrated a capacity to administer. In this respect Norfolk Labor observes that the Bill, although establishing some mechanisms to allow greater Federal oversight, stops short of reducing current functions and responsibilities. In this respect the Bill makes no provision for facilitating the transfer of functions and responsibilities between the Schedules in the principal Act or their removal from the Schedules.

Although the Bill largely implements the findings of various Joint Standing Committee reports over many years there is continuing evidence of the need for reforms as outlined in the Bill:

- Gross and ill-considered public spending in most recent years has depleted the public account and undermined the capacity to maintain existing services and to fund on-going government in general,
- Over-spending tarnished further by a distinct lack of transparency, misinformation and accountability,
- Government policy is now driven by a desire to contain and/or reduce expense resulting in continuing poor quality outcomes for the island community,
- Statutory deadlines for financial reporting not being met,
- Political interference in statutory rights of individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to make further submissions.

Yours sincerely

Mal Snell

Senior Vice-President

Norfolk Labor.