

Attachment C

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXTERNAL REPORTS ON NORFOLK
ISLAND NOT IMPLEMENTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH**

Report date	Title	Produced by	Recommendation	Comments
1991	Islands in the Sun	House of Reps Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs	"...that the (Department responsible for territories) exercise a co-ordinating role to overcome delays in assent to legislation. The Committee also recommends that the Commonwealth Government consider adopting a policy to require responses within a fixed period of receipt of notification from the Norfolk Island Administrator of legislation requiring assent."	<p>Neither recommendation has been implemented. Long delays in assent still occur, and in some cases the Commonwealth simply does not respond, leaving NI legislation in limbo.</p> <p>In 2006, NIG put forward to the Commonwealth a comprehensive 10-point plan for governance reform which would have dealt with this issue and associated matters. It involved <i>inter alia</i> adoption of a form of self-government modified from the ACT model which would not have required an Administrator but retained the ability of the Commonwealth Parliament to disallow NI legislation. The Commonwealth did not adopt this suggestion or any of the recommendations in the 2006 DOTARS Cabinet submission, preferring instead to retain the <i>status quo</i> in NI governance.</p>

Date	Report title	Produced by	Recommendation	Comments
1995	Delivering the Goods	Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSCNCET)	"...that the Commonwealth make available a grant equivalent to the Ships Capital Grant for the purchase of an Australian built vessel, smaller than would otherwise qualify for the Ships Capital Grant, on condition that any proposed vessel would be used principally on the Norfolk Island trade for at least the first two years following commissioning."	<p>This recommendation was not actioned by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>The report also recommended that there should be no loans to Norfolk Island for transport infrastructure or shipping "pending an examination of the Norfolk Island Government's capacity to pay debts".</p>
1997	Report on Norfolk Island	Commonwealth Grants Commission	"The Commonwealth might consider whether it has some obligations to provide financial assistance to the Norfolk Island Government to assist it to overcome deficiencies pre-dating self government, such as the safety problems associated with the Cascade Cliff and the inadequacies of the harbour facilities."	<p>Financial assistance with the Cascade Cliff safety project was limited to an interest-free loan of \$3.15 m, 80% of which has already been repaid from royalties on rock sold.</p> <p>There has been no financial assistance with harbour facilities. The Commonwealth did fund a restoration of its historic Kingston Pier in 2005/06, but this is not used principally as a harbour. The JSCNCET recommended in 1995 that "...Kingston be excluded from consideration as a potential site for any new harbour or freight handling infrastructure in Norfolk Island."</p>

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2001	In the pink or in the red?	JSCNCET	<p>“...that the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island Governments consider the desirability of amending the <i>Health Insurance Act 1973</i> in order to cover mainland visitors to Norfolk Island under Medicare.”</p> <p>“...that the Commonwealth Government extend the Aged Care Act to cover Norfolk Island, to enable the Norfolk Island Government to access existing programs and initiatives designed to assist rural and remote communities.”</p>	<p>The Health Insurance Act is a Commonwealth responsibility. No amendment has been made in response to this recommendation.</p> <p>No amendment to the Act has been made by the Commonwealth in response to this recommendation.</p>
2003	<i>Quis custodiet ipsos custodes</i>	JSCNCET	<p>This report contained 32 recommendations. The two governments created a joint task force to develop responses and timelines for implementation. A 25-page table of responses was agreed to by both governments and signed off by the responsible ministers in July 2004. This was provided to the Prime Minister for tabling in the Australian Parliament.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth failed to table the mutually agreed responses and did not implement the defined strategies in relation to the JSCNCET recommendations.</p> <p>NIG continued with the agreed implementation strategies in most areas, incorporating them into the Assembly Priorities Plan and the Administration Management Plan.</p>
2003	Regional Aviation and Island Transport Services: Making Ends Meet	House of Reps Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services	<p>“...that...Norfolk Island receive Commonwealth assistance in upgrading or renewing its shipping infrastructure facilities.”</p>	Not implemented.

Date	Report title	Produced by	Recommendation	Comments
2005	Norfolk Island Financial Sustainability	JSCNCET	This report contained only two recommendations, plus a dissenting report from one member who did not agree with the recommendations. The main recommendation was "...that a new taxation model be developed whereby Norfolk Island is gradually incorporated into the taxation regime of the Commonwealth of Australia."	<p>Norfolk Island Government strongly disagreed with this recommendation, which in its view would have caused great damage to the NI economy. However, the Commonwealth did not act on the recommendation. Instead, in February 2006 the Commonwealth unilaterally announced its intention to remove many self-government powers from NI and commissioned a range of external studies to be undertaken without input from NIG.</p> <p>In December 2006, after consideration of a range of factual material and independent econometric studies, Federal Cabinet reversed the earlier decision and decided to make no changes to the NI governance model. The Commonwealth declined to make public an apparently pivotal report, which it commissioned, from the Centre for International Economics on dealing with negative outcomes from its proposed reforms.</p>