



## THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

It is one of the conventions of self-government in the Westminster tradition that once self-government is granted to a political entity, it should not thereafter be taken away except in the most extreme circumstances, for example, war or civil disturbance.

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department confirmed this principle in a submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Northern Territory in 1974 (Parliamentary Paper No. 281 of 1974) in which it stated it would be politically unthinkable to take away such powers after they had been granted. And yet, history clearly records the Australian Parliament took away Norfolk Island's Parliament and self-government against the wishes of the majority of the people.

### "A MODERN MUTINY"

On Wednesday 20 April 2016, a documentary titled "A MODERN MUTINY" will be screened on SBS - just eight days before the 227<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the world's most famous mutiny – *"The Mutiny on the Bounty."*

Viewers may be able to get an insight from the title and perhaps the content in the SBS documentary from the preview. In the preview the Norfolk Island Administrator is triumphantly showing the SBS film maker the word 'MUTINY' which was illegally painted on the walls of the Kingston compound. To see the preview to the SBS documentary go to -

<http://www.sbs.com.au/programs/untold-australia/article/2016/03/14/modern-mutiny>

One would have hoped the Administrator, a Vice Regal appointee, might have realised that his public presence in front of the word 'MUTINY' is inflammatory and may be viewed by some as incitement – or perhaps he did. Perhaps also the Administrator should take the time to revisit the findings of the 1926 Royal Commission regarding the removal of the then Norfolk Island Administrator. This would be a timely exercise in the light of the Administrator's behaviour since he arrived on Norfolk Island and in light of the 2015 petition sent to the Governor-General requesting the Administrator's immediate removal from Norfolk Island.

NIPD does not condone vandalism. However, a friend of NIPD in Australia, a Sociologist, when asked what Mutiny in the Norfolk context means, said – "When someone writes Mutiny on a prominent wall in Norfolk Island, it is a poetic call to justice; a call to rally together around the heritage of Norfolk Islanders as an independent culture that deserves respect. So the word Mutiny in the current context is a cry of the heart and a political statement. But it is more. It is a poet at full lungs saying that the emperor has no clothes; that the new deal is a raw deal, that local hearts and minds feel trampled on. It is a humble request for Australia to give Norfolk Island a fair deal. Not to let the Norfolk Islander community see their livelihoods and their pride taken away."

### NIPD UPDATE

NIPD had hoped to have a weekly talk back and phone in segment on the Norfolk Island 'Community Radio' to allow supporters (or detractors) to ask questions relating to our work. Within days of making that request the work of our Association to uphold the rights of the Norfolk Island People was deemed to be 'against the Government'. NIPD is not welcome on the Australian Government controlled radio – formerly known as the islands 'Community Radio'.

NIPD had hoped to provide some protection to our Committee members by incorporating as a legal Association, a process that normally takes only a few days. NIPD applied in November 2015 and is yet to hear if that application is to be approved. We have been led to believe that the Commonwealth Legal Officers are still busy working out a way to refuse our application. In recent weeks we have had to take a more expensive legal path to protect our Committee members.

NIPD had hoped to garner the public support of a wider range of groups, Associations and individuals. However NIPD is having to receive their support through third parties (and in confidence) because of fear of retribution by the Australian Government.

It is extremely sad that standing up for one's rights is met with such resistance in this modern day, and especially from a Government that asserts that it upholds the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Given the importance of our work we are understandably cautious and despite overwhelming odds the Committee is still making fantastic progress, so much so that our international, academic and political support base grows substantially as our state of affairs gathers greater profile. .

We leave you with these thoughts:

- Norfolk Island belongs to the descendants of the original settlers from Pitcairn Island, and the many other people, irrespective of their nationality, who have chosen to make Norfolk Island their home since 1856.
- Australia's current actions are illegal in International Law.
- On Monday 18 April NIPD will be holding a public meeting and will be in a position to update the Norfolk Island people on the progress and work of NIPD, including our application to be listed as a non-self-governing territory with the United Nations.

From the Management Committee

[www.norfolkschoice.com](http://www.norfolkschoice.com)

31 March 2016