



YOUR FUTURE – YOUR CHOICE

A RECAP OF NORFOLK ISLAND'S SITUATION - AND SOME GREAT NEWS

On 19 March 2015 Norfolk Island suffered an enormous blow against its government processes when the Commonwealth government announced its unwarranted and ill-informed decision to remove the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly.

On 8 May 2015, the Norfolk Island People voted overwhelmingly in support of their *“right to freely determine their political status, their economic, social and cultural development”*. Australia chose to ignore the outcome of that referendum and disregard the rights of the Norfolk Island People.

On 18 May 2015 the Norfolk Island People for Democracy (NIPD) came together to set in motion an action plan to ensure the rights of the Norfolk Island People are restored and protected thereafter.

On 1 July 2015 NIPD provided the following summary of Norfolk Island's situation:

1. Self-government has been removed.
2. Norfolk Island is now a Non Self-Governing Territory.
3. Norfolk Island may now be inscribed on the United Nations List of Non Self-Governing Territories.
4. Upon Inscription, there are protective rights accorded to the Norfolk Island People by the United Nations to allow them to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Now in December 2015 more than 1000 people have officially joined with us on our journey to ensure the Norfolk Island People are afforded the right to freely determine their future political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Many others fearful of losing their jobs have joined in an 'unofficial' capacity.

The action plan set in motion by the NIPD in May has progressed positively, beyond expectations.

NIPD can now say with a very high degree of certainty that the Norfolk Island People will be afforded their right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Accordingly, NIPD will be writing to representatives of the Commonwealth Government and to the wider Norfolk Island Community inviting all and sundry to participate in a consultation process regarding recovery of self-government for Norfolk Island and providing options for future governance and economic development on Norfolk Island.

NIPD has developed a consultation draft of a Plan designed to inform the wider Community on the Association's stated preferred model of self-government in free-association with Australia in accordance with the rights accorded to the Norfolk Island People by the United Nations. However, it is recognized that ultimately the decisions about Norfolk Island's future governance and relationship with Australia will be decided by the Norfolk Island people through a referendum. The draft consultation Plan will be published in January 2016.

Now that Norfolk Island's pathway to inscription is confirmed, NIPD is compelled to remind the Commonwealth that it is one of Australia's international legal obligations to ensure repressive measures of all kinds directed against dependent peoples shall cease in order to enable them to exercise peacefully and freely their rights.

This must include ceasing to implement or change laws applicable in Norfolk Island unless it can be demonstrated through processes that are democratic and fair that the implementation of those laws have the support of the **majority** of the Norfolk Island People.



"The official Australian stance on Norfolk Island is, in short, patently ridiculous".

The United Nations Association of Australia 1978