



THE NORFOLK ISLAND PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRACY THANKS AND COMMENDS THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Norfolk Island People for Democracy (NIPD) thanks the Council of Elders for the leadership role it has taken during the continuing fight to return democracy to Norfolk Island; and commends the role it played in facilitating the visitation of a delegation of British MP's to Norfolk Island to inquire into Australia's unlawful and undemocratic annexation of Norfolk Island.

In addition to all of the work the Council has been doing they have also announced their intentions to expand their representative role on Norfolk Island. NIPD recognises that, in the absence of a democratically elected Norfolk Island Government, this move by the Council of Elders will fill a much needed void.

In practical terms, this move by the Council is most welcome, primarily because it means that the NIPD management committee can focus more of its time on achieving its primary objectives and goals on behalf of its registered supporters. As a reminder our goals are:

- (a) to have Norfolk Island inscribed onto the United Nations List of non-self-governing Territories;
- (b) to develop a consultative framework within the Association, which gives the opportunity, incentive and confidence to the entire Community of Norfolk Island to be informed and educated on; and to participate and be involved in the process of re-building the Island's governance and sustainability as a self-governing Territory in free association with Australia.

As most people are aware NIPD has made incredible progress towards achieving its goals; including but not limited to the presentation of a formal petition to the United Nations President and to the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization in April of 2016 requesting that Norfolk Island be inscribed onto the United Nations List of non-self-governing Territories.

As the Council of Elders expands its representative role it is important for our supporters to understand that this move by the Council will help to provide greater transparency surrounding many of the broader issues during the continuing fight to return democracy to Norfolk Island. This would include the unification of the Island's different groups behind a common goal and provide a mechanism for concerned community members to be consulted about day-to-day governance related matters.

For clarity, NIPD will continue to play the dominant role in the execution of the strategic plan to have Norfolk Island inscribed onto the United Nations List of non-self-governing Territories; and will continue to do so in consultation with the entire Norfolk Island Community - both on Island and off. It is critical that we all appreciate that the lodgement of the petition is only the start of the journey and that implementation of the remainder of NIPD's strategic plan still requires a lot of work and careful, deliberate execution.

NIPD understands that the Council of Elders will be proposing an organizational structure to the different groups on the Island in the coming days and looks forward to the opportunity to work in close corporation with all of the individual groups and anyone else that supports and respects upholding the 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.