



Media Release No. 1

AT RAWSON HALL LAST NIGHT IT WAS CLEAR THAT

“THE MOUSE HAS ROARED”

With almost 400 chairs filled and large numbers of the Norfolk Island people lining the back and sides of the hall, no-one could deny that the Norfolk Island people were determined that Federal Minister Paul Fletcher would understand that they are upset and angry.

We summarise the outcome of the meeting as follows:

1. There was almost absolute unanimity displayed by the community relating to the misleading and flawed consultation process;
2. There was almost absolute unanimity displayed by the community in anger against the loss of self-government;
3. Despite being touted as a ‘consultation’ Minister Fletcher did confirm that there was nothing this community could do or say which would result in a return to self-government; and
4. When pressed on the Norfolk Island People’s rights at international law, the Minister said “he has discussed this with the Attorney-General’s Department and Norfolk Island has been a part of Australia for more than 100 years and remains so today. I think the official position is ‘These reforms do not alter Norfolk Island’s status as an Australian Territory forming part of Australia.

NIPD’s response to Minister Fletcher is -

1. Self-government has been removed.
2. Norfolk Island is now a Non Self-Governing Territory.
3. Australia’s obligation under Article 73e of the Charter of the United Nations and Norfolk Islands eligibility to be inscribed on the United Nations List of Non Self-Governing Territories has now been confirmed by eminent international lawyers.
4. Inscription does not require the support of the Commonwealth Government. However, NIPD is disappointed that Australia has chosen to refuse to acknowledge its obligations and regrets that this decision may adversely affect Australia’s International reputation as an advocate for rules based global order.
5. NIPD expects the United Nations will begin consideration of the inscription of Norfolk Island sometime in June, 2016.
6. 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.

Prime Minister Turnbull, speaking on radio in Washington DC on 19 January 2016, spoke of the international order, the Rule of Law, where MIGHT IS NOT RIGHT, assuring the global community that Australia will always work with the United States and our other allies and partners to uphold that principle.

NIPD asks the Prime Minister – how does Minister Fletcher’s assertion that ‘there was nothing this community could do or say which would result in a return to self-government’ –align with his belief that MIGHT IS NOT RIGHT?

From the NIPD Management Committee

www.norfolkschoice.com

29 January 2016