



Norfolk Island People for Democracy  
(NIPD)

**Visit to Norfolk Island of the Hon. Paul Fletcher MP**

As advised by NIPD Vice President Geoff Gardner OAM at the community pot luck/fundraiser at the Parish Centre last night, NIPD President Chris Magri has written to Minister Paul Fletcher requesting NIPD Management Committee be given the opportunity to meet with the Minister during his visit to Norfolk Island 28/29 January 2016. Geoff read the letter to the large gathering of supporters. NIPD has received an electronic acknowledgement from the Minister's office stating, amongst other things that he gives "priority to emails from his constituents" and that he also gives "priority to emails raising issues relevant to my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Major Projects, Territories and Local Government". The NIPD letter reads –



31 December 2015

The Hon Paul Fletcher MP  
Minister for Territories, Local Government  
and Major Projects  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: [paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:paul.fletcher.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Minister,

**Norfolk Island People for Democracy (NIPD) – Meeting Request**

The Norfolk Island People for Democracy is an Association in Norfolk Island whose aims and objectives are focused on the restoration of Self-Government for Norfolk Island, leading to an Act of Self-Determination. Our registered supporter base is over 1000 members and growing.

Our large membership should be viewed as a strong indication that contrary to the advice being provided to you by your Department, the Commonwealth Government's current plans for Norfolk Island do not enjoy the majority of support of the Norfolk Island People.

In view of the fact that NIPD represents such a large proportion of our community, and in light of the fact that the views being provided to your office are not reflective of the views of the majority of the Norfolk Island People, we believe that it is important that the NIPD Management Committee is given the opportunity to meet with you during your visit to Norfolk Island 28-29th January 2016.

On 8th May 1015 in a referendum conducted by our then democratically elected Legislative Assembly, our people overwhelmingly voted in support of their wish that "The people of

Norfolk Island should have the right to freely determine their political status, their economic, social and cultural development and be consulted at referendum or plebiscite on the future model of governance for Norfolk Island before such changes are acted on by the Australian parliament.”

The result of this referendum was totally ignored by the Australian Parliament. Since that time, we believe that our Association has become the only significant voice for the majority of the People of Norfolk Island.

With the dismissal of our elected government in June 2015, Norfolk Island is now a non-self-governing Territory, and must now be inscribed on the list of Non-Self-Governing territories with the United Nations, thereby giving the Norfolk Island People their rights, freedoms and protections that inscription provides.

It is our desire to engage with the Australian Government in this process in a spirit of co-operation and goodwill.

We note your comments to the press that departmental briefings had not prepared you for the complexities of the situation on Christmas Island. It is our sincere hope that you will use your visit to Norfolk Island to learn first-hand about the real needs and aspirations of the Norfolk Island People.

Attached for your information is a document explaining the background of the Norfolk Island People for Democracy. The content provides an overview of the actions that have led to the current unsatisfactory position that Norfolk Island has been forced to accept.

We seek confirmation of a suitable time and place to meet with you during your visit to discuss the future of Norfolk Island and its People.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Magri  
President  
Norfolk Island People for Democracy

Attachment: “An invitation to all Norfolk Island People to consider some options which are available to us to pursue a secure, productive and democratic future”.

Also cc'd to Hon Paul Fletcher MP

cc: Hon Gary Hardgrave  
Administrator

a) P.O. Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2601

Office of the Administrator  
Kingston Norfolk Island

Email:

[gary.hardgrave@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:gary.hardgrave@infrastructure.gov.au)

b) Suite 201, Level 2  
280 Pacific Highway  
Lindfield NSW 2070