

NORFOLK ISLAND

YOUR FUTURE - YOUR CHOICE



THE PEOPLE



The Norfolk Island People are 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. The racial, cultural and linguistic origin of the Pitcairn/Norfolk Island People started nearly 7000kms away from Australia in the Western Pacific Ocean in Polynesia, and their history predates the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia by more than a century.

"The mutiny, the relocation to Norfolk Island and the gift of Norfolk Island to the Pitcairners by Queen Victoria are important foundational stories". Australian Government, Heritage Management Plan, 2016



THE OBJECTION



In December 2014, Australia's newly appointed representative on Norfolk Island misled the Federal Minister and the Australian Parliament when he reported:

"The repeal of the current Act and the introduction of a new Norfolk Island Act to effect change of governance arrangements is supported by a substantial majority of Norfolk Island residents". Gary Hardgrave, Administrator, December 2014

On the 8th of May 2015, at an Island-wide referendum conducted under Norfolk Island statute, the Norfolk Island people voted overwhelmingly in support of their legal right to determine their own political status and their economic, social and cultural development.

"The referendum result clearly exposes that the Norfolk Island community has been misrepresented by the Norfolk Island Administrator to Assistant Minister Briggs. The people of Norfolk Island today have clearly said that they want a say on the future model of governance for Norfolk Island, not just have a governance model imposed on them."
Hon. Lisle Snell, Norfolk Island Chief Minister, 2015

On 18th of May, 2015 the Australian Parliament, ignoring the referendum results and the remonstrance motion delivered to it by the Norfolk Island Parliament, passed a law to abolish Norfolk Island's Parliament and replaced it with an undemocratic colonial administration managed from Canberra. This action:

- Dishonoured the 159-year-old commitment made to the *Pitcairn/Norfolk* people to maintain Norfolk Island as a *'distinct and separate settlement'* as the new homeland of the settlers from Pitcairn;
- Is in direct violation of International law and Australia's obligations to the United Nations;
- Is demonstrably inconsistent with the human rights of the Norfolk Island people; and
- Is against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Norfolk Island people.

"Abolishing Norfolk Island as an autonomous territory may not seem to matter much in the grand scheme of things, but for an international order that cherishes self-government and proclaims the right of self-determination of people it is a regressive and unimaginative action, an example of the inability to tolerate democracy and difference". Geoffrey Robertson QC April, 2016

Despite the Australian Government's attempts to justify their actions on Norfolk Island, what cannot be justified was the decision to remove the island's Parliament, strip the Norfolk Island people of their democratic rights, or the decision to impose a new governance model on Norfolk Island denying its people an ability to vote in the laws that affect their lives.

"It is a tribute to the Islanders' general temperament of civilised tolerance and introspective humility, nurtured by their isolation, that they have endured this state of affairs so quietly. Elsewhere political ferment would not only have been inevitable; it would have erupted into more violent forms of conflict long before this". Norfolk Island, Australia & the U.N. 1978 A Report to the United Nations Association of Australia, Federal Executive by John Bulbeck, Hon. Federal Media Officer



THE SOLUTION



1. Australia 'Lists' Norfolk Island on to the United Nations List of Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with their obligation under international law.

"Norfolk Island is a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of Article 73 of the United Nations Charter".
Professor Vaughan Lowe QC, Dr Christopher Ward SC,
May 2016

2. Australia and Norfolk Island enter into genuine negotiations regarding a democratic governance model for Norfolk Island that is consistent with International law and the rights of the Norfolk Island people.

Today the Norfolk Island people continue to protest and have vowed to continue their fight until their rights have been upheld. For more information, see www.norfolkschoice.com