

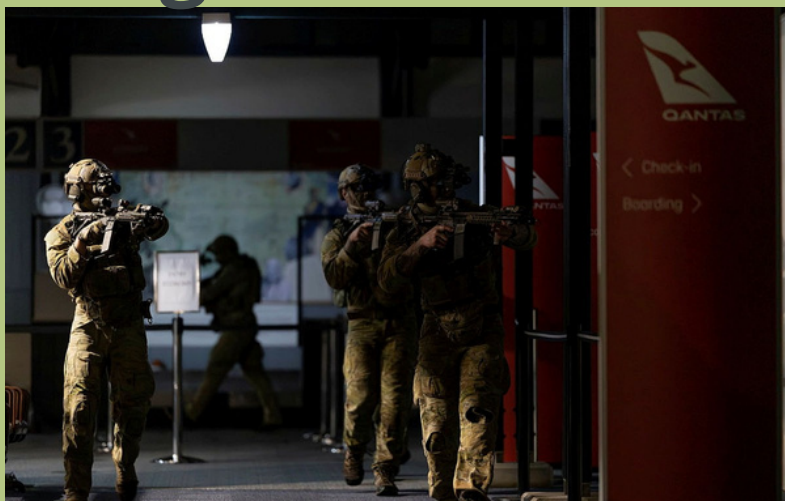
August 2023

Thousands of military personnel visit Norfolk in training exercise

Perhaps you noticed thousands of defence personnel participating in Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023 recently? They climbed our cliffs, visited our departure lounge, and enjoyed Norfolk at its best.

Held across five states and territories over a two-week period, more than 34,000 military personnel from 13 nations joined forces across sea, land, air, cyber and space. Australian and United States military personnel deployed alongside soldiers, sailors, marines and aviators from Canada, Fiji, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Korea, Tonga and the United Kingdom.

Troops conducted a life like simulation exercise mirroring invading a country from the water.



Thousands of troops engaged across the land, sea and air in Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023. A different clientele than usual graced our airport departure lounge. **Photos: Australian Defence .**



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Sewage Treatment Plant designed to improve water quality

NIRC has been working with design consultants Premise and Ranbury Management Group since November last year to progress the design for an upgraded Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

This is following a business case proposal for a new treatment plant, developed in 2019. The business case involved extensive community consultation and support technology that would improve water quality discharge to the Norfolk Marine Park and produce treated water suitable for agriculture.

The current condition of the Norfolk Island STP is poor. For this reason, the Commonwealth Government has supported a project for its renewal through \$1.8m in funding for the design and quantity surveying phases of the project. Future upgrades will provide improved water quality and a more reliable treatment service for the island's Water Assurance Scheme.

Some of the following features are included in the concept design for the new plant:

- New Inlet Works
- Bioreactors and Membrane Filtration for nutrient removal
- Adaptation of existing concrete tanks for balance capacity – these have been included to take advantage of low-cost power that will be available through NIRC's shift to renewables and battery storage.
- Reverse Osmosis for removal of residual salinity and potential for agricultural reuse
- Sludge drying.

While the upgraded plant will be situated at the site of the existing plant, NIRC is also considering other infrastructure that could be coupled with the upgrade, including above-ground tanks and holding dams for treated water storage.

The plant design will have the capacity for future connections to the Water Assurance Scheme, thereby improving water quality impacts currently caused by outdated septic systems across the island.

Following the July Ordinary Council meeting, it was resolved to continue the design process with Premise consultants. Detailed design of the plant is expected to be finished in the middle of 2024, while NIRC will continue to work with the designers and the Commonwealth Government to secure funding for the project in the future.



Water works upgrades underway on island. Photo: NIRC.

5 free things to do on Norfolk Island

- Discover the Cockpit Waterfall at Cascade
- Walk the boardwalk down to the secluded Bumboras Beach
- Visit St Barnabas Chapel and marvel at the magnificent windows
- Wander through Queen Victoria Memorial Gardens
- Take a photo amongst the roots of Moreton Bay Fig Trees

Ships ahoy! Visitors continue to lift tourism on the island

Last month, people were drawn into our beautiful paradise hook, line, and sinker.

About 2500 cruise passengers took to our shores and met the locals on Tuesday, 18 July.

The tourists were certainly not camera shy and photographed anything which moved and things that stood still.

Some young entrepreneurs took it upon themselves to start an impromptu tour business with a \$20 fee taking visitors to all the best Island haunts.

What a day for the island and what a day for our visitors showcasing Norfolk at its best.



Water works upgrades underway on island. **Photo: NIRC.**

The road ahead for our island

Audit findings have been circulated to outside parties and feature an international expression of interest calling out for suitably qualified contractors to assist us in repairing the bad condition of four and five roads. We have also met with the on-island civil construction contractors and encouraged them to respond to the Expression Of Interest.

This will have a flow-on effect to benefit the locals by upskilling employees while improving the on-island access to machines. We have also submitted a request for tender prices to repair sections of Marchs Road, out on the Vendor panel. Design drawings for the new car park on New Cascade Road have been prepared and the project is now in the community consultation phase seeking comments, suggestions, and or otherwise for the car park which when completed will be an asset the community will be proud of.

We are working with the Commonwealth to secure two new purpose-built lighterage vessels to complement and improve our existing capacity to move cargo, break bulk and 20-foot shipping containers, and enhance access to a safer and more efficient manner for our Island community.

We are working with shipping agents to secure the delivery to the island of the much-needed drilling machines and explosives to carry out the recovery of 13,500 tonnes of rock from the Youngs Rd Quarry site. The rock is much needed by Council for its ongoing maintenance of the road network. The need for rock is very high on the Island as the rock is used in the supply of concrete.



Norfolk is saturated by creative change



The Commonwealth, under the Norfolk Island Service Delivery Agreement, approved 1.2m funding over a three year period to support tourism marketing activities. We supported the engagement of an external firm to manage all marketing activities for Norfolk Island Tourism. The tender documentation for ITT:14/22 was released on 25 November 2022. Check out: [CAPABILITY](#)

Council received 16 tender responses, and the panel shortlisted four tenders to proceed to Stage 2. The shortlisted tenderers were invited to provide a 45-minute presentation to the panel and respond to any questions from panel members.



The scenario topic for the presentation was to provide a campaign for Norfolk Island Nature Based adventures with the following key outputs:

1. Tag line with potential for future branding.
2. Drive new demographic (GenX and millennials) with greater disposable income seeking an adventure. nature-based holiday experience.
3. Increase off peak winter visitation.
4. Use the existing nature-based adventure product and also propose new options.

Final evaluation of the shortlisted tenders identified a clear tender winner. Saturate scored high on qualitative score and provided strongest presentation scoring well ahead of other tenders.

The results were reported at the Extraordinary Council Meeting held 17 May 2023 with the Administrator approving the appointment of Saturate to supply Tourism Marketing activities for Norfolk Island.

Saturate presented at the sixth Business Innovation and Tourism Advisory Committee on the 17 July and will be holding stakeholder interviews on island from 8 to 11 August. The interviews draw local business and community perspectives on:

- What is the essence of Norfolk?
- What we can learn from and build upon?
- Future aspirations?



Norfolk Island injected with a surge of marketing activities . Photo: NIRC.

On-site wastewater management systems

With numerous studies and surveys conducted on environmental health, the community is becoming more and more aware of the impacts they are having on the environment. As a result, residents are making more environmentally conscious decisions on the type of on-site wastewater management system (OSWMS) they implement on their property. While it is great that more and more people are opting for better systems it's a good time to be reminded that the first step in erecting or altering an OSWMS is to consult with your local Environmental Health Officer. This can ensure that the type of system you are about to purchase is the correct one for your property which will save time, money and headaches with approval and commissioning of your system. An Environmental Health Officer can help you work through the process and understand the Development Control Plans that govern installing a system. We can even meet with you on site to discuss the best option to suit your needs. We've had a few recent cases where a community member has thought they have done the right thing and purchased the latest AWTs system only

We can even meet with you on site to discuss the best option to suit your needs. We've had a few recent cases where a community member has thought they have done the right thing and purchased the latest AWTs system only to find out during assessment that they were unable to install it as they are within a Water Assurance Zone or are too close to surface water and bores.

We all want to ensure that our environment and water supply are as safe and healthy as possible, so please contact the Environment Team before you purchase or install a system or submit a Development Application. They have a passion for the environment and are here to help you achieve the best result. For more information email: douglas.donaldson@nirc.gov.nf or Arthur.travalloni@nirc.gov.nf



Soaked waste water hot topic on island. **Photo: NIRC.**

When in doubt don't flush says NIRC

NIRC is reminding the community to be mindful of what they flush down the toilet in the Water Assurance Scheme. An increasing number of wipes and rags are causing problems in the sewer network.

Despite being labelled 'flushable' and 'biodegradable,' wet wipes do not break down in the sewer system and can lead to damaged pumps, blockages, and overflows. Proper disposal is essential to prevent sewer failures, which lead to higher maintenance costs, environmental and public health issues.

The Water Assurance Scheme network is in the upper Kingston catchment in the most densely populated area to protect the fragile marine environment within the Kingston lagoon, and the tributaries that flow into it, from unnecessary human impact. By responsibly disposing of wipes, the community can support the network's smooth operation and minimise environmental impact.

Community feedback about the proposed car park



Norfolk Island proposed carpark plan. Photo: NIRC.

We want to thank the community for their feedback on the plans for the new car park we had on exhibition.

The feedback was about the proposed upgrade to the car park on new Cascade Road. Special thanks goes to all the community as there were some who did find a few minor faults which we have corrected in the design but also a thanks to those in our community who expressed their support for NIRC in its efforts to deliver a space that is going to be a centerpiece and able to be used by all in our Community and also the bus companies that we need to ferry the many visitors to island.

The works are proposed to be carried out by NIRC teams and utilising on Island contractors and works are scheduled to start within weeks

Safety matters surrounding asbestos disposal

Asbestos poses serious health risks, and exposure can be extremely hazardous to human health. The Waste Management Company (WMC) is tasked with stockpiling and exporting asbestos for proper disposal.

Individuals who need to dispose of asbestos should ensure appropriate packaging and bring it to the WMC. Upon arrival, WMC staff will inspect and measure the box/bags containing the asbestos waste to issue an invoice. The disposal fee for asbestos is included in NIRC's Operational Plan - Fees and Charges. Please find packaging instructions below:

To guarantee the safe export of asbestos waste and comply with the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (ASEA) permit, individuals willing to export asbestos must pack it appropriately.

Asbestos waste materials intended for export must be:

- Double-wrapped in 200um plastic and contained in 200um plastic lined plywood crates, securely strapped.
- Crates must be made of 18mm marine plywood.
- Enclosed in transport-approved asbestos hazbags rated up to 1.5 tonnes and securely strapped to wooden pallets.
- Packages must not exceed a maximum size of 2700mm in length and 1200mm in width.
- Labeled with stickers of at least 75mm x 90mm in size, displaying the following warning: **CAUTION ASBESTOS. DO NOT OPEN OR DAMAGE BAG. DO NOT INHALE DUST.**

Freight update

NIRC, like the island, relies on freight to operate. This includes incoming goods and consumables. And while NIRC's waste management strategy will result in a significant reduction of waste sent to a mainland landfill, there is still a need to export residual waste and recyclables.

Currently, NIRC is only able to use airfreight services for waste export, with residual general waste prioritised over recyclables due to the limited freight space and cost. Waste export is not currently offered by shipping services to the island.

The community would also be aware that there is a variety of heavy and oversized items to be brought to the island, including processing and logistics equipment for waste management and a drill rig and explosives to develop the quarry at Cascade. For this reason, NIRC has organised another heavy-lift shipping vessel to visit Norfolk Island in early October this year. The vessel, operated by BBC Chartering, will bring a shredder, excavator, bobcat, drill rig, and a variety of containers with equipment and materials for NIRC projects.



Norfolk Island freight carries waste off land

Photo: NIRC.

The operation will be like the voyage commissioned by NIRC in November 2022. With this voyage, there is an opportunity for a greater volume of freight to be imported, resulting in a cost-efficient outcome.

Like the November voyage, NIRC will also use the opportunity to backload the vessel with waste and recyclables for export to the mainland.

NIRC is working with freight consolidators and agents along with BBC Chartering to deliver the voyage in October. We are also advertising a separate expression of interest to the market for an ongoing heavy lift shipping service for Norfolk Island ([VendorPanel Public Tenders](#)). This service will be critical to the Council's needs for export of the island's significant waste legacy and may give the community an alternative shipping service specialised in the movement of heavy equipment. NIRC will continue to provide updates to the community on the above service.



Airline flies high for our island

Exciting news from the team at Air Chathams, as from 7 September 2023, Air Chathams will introduce their largest plane in the fleet A TR72-500 to service the Auckland to Norfolk Island direct route.

What does this mean? More spacious seating, greater on-board service, and the seating capacity goes from 34 to 68 seats.



Air Chatham frequently flies into Norfolk Island.

Photo: NIRC.

Council Meetings

September Meeting of Council

Wednesday 6 September 2023

2:00pm

Council Bicentennial Complex 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine, Norfolk Island.

Ordinary Meeting Dates for 2023

4 October 6 December

1 November

Council meetings are scheduled at 2:00pm at the Council Chambers inside the Council Bicentennial Complex, 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine.

Meetings can also be viewed online with the live link provided on Council's Facebook page prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Public Access Meetings

Requests for Public Access are open to members of the public until 10am on the Tuesday prior to Council Meeting day, with public access meetings to be held at 3pm on Tuesday. See below information to arrange a Public Access meeting with the Administrator.

The Council Administrator Mr Mike Colreavy, can be contacted to discuss concerns, issues or general information by emailing: executiveassistant@nirc.gov.nf.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

Address: Council Bicentennial Complex, 39 Taylors Road, Burnt Pine, NORFOLK ISLAND 2899

Phone: Free local call 0100 and for international callers + 6723 22001

Email: customercare@nirc.gov.nf

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm (closed on public holidays)

Upcoming Events

20 September 2023

Government House Charity Open Day

Kingston, Norfolk Island

Grab the family and head down to Quality Row for a visit to Historic Government House, and support charity in the process.

23 September - 1 October 2023

25th N.I. Theatre Festival

Burnt Pine, Norfolk Island

The Norfolk Amateur Theatrical Society's 25th Theatre Festival will provide entertainment for whole family with groups from Australia, Norfolk Island, and New Zealand putting on plays all week.



To find out more about tours, accomodation, and what's on, visit the Norfolk Island Tourism website.

Follow us

