

## NORFOLK ISLAND ADMINISTRATION BILL 2016

### *Second Reading*

**Mr RAY WILLIAMS ( Castle Hill ) ( 10:12 ):** On behalf of Mr Mike Baird: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

It gives me great pleasure to deliver this second reading speech on behalf of our Premier, the Hon. Mike Baird, in the capacity of his parliamentary secretary. The purpose of this bill is to authorise the New South Wales Government to enter into arrangements with the Commonwealth Government for the provision of services and exercise of functions by New South Wales in Norfolk Island. The bill authorises New South Wales authorities or employees to exercise powers conferred on or vested in those New South Wales authorities or employees pursuant to such an arrangement with the Commonwealth. In May 2015 the Commonwealth Parliament passed legislation that reformed the legal and governance framework for Norfolk Island. Under that legislation, the Commonwealth assumes responsibility for funding and delivering services to Norfolk Island and is to establish an elected Norfolk Island Regional Council from 1 July 2016.

The Commonwealth Government has requested the assistance of the New South Wales Government in providing State-type services to Norfolk Island. In March 2016 this Government committed to providing service delivery support in school education, local government and health for the people of Norfolk Island, commencing 1 July 2016. The involvement of the New South Wales Government in Norfolk Island is contingent on responsibility for Norfolk Island and its citizens remaining with the Commonwealth Government and any activity undertaken by the New South Wales Government being completely funded by the Commonwealth and resulting in no net cost for New South Wales. New South Wales is in a unique position to leverage our expertise and deliver school education and State-type health services and provide support to the newly elected Norfolk Island Regional Council.

The staged application of some New South Wales laws applying as Commonwealth law will provide a practical and established body of State law for the island. New South Wales has a strong track record of high-quality service delivery in health and education. We welcome the opportunity to continue to work with the community on Norfolk Island and to provide stability as they transition to a new period in the island's history. Since 1991 New South Wales has provided teaching staff to the Norfolk Island Central School through an arrangement with the Norfolk Island administration. The school has been, and will continue to be, at the centre of the Norfolk community.

With a renewed commitment, experienced New South Wales teachers could continue delivering high-quality education to Norfolk Island students. New South Wales has also provided some limited support to the Norfolk Island Hospital since 2013. New South Wales is determining the scope of health services it could provide which will help the Commonwealth achieve high-quality, affordable and safe health services for the island's residents. Norfolk Island has a rich history and culture. However, in recent times, the island administration has struggled to provide the economic security, infrastructure development or day-to-day services required for its people. New South Wales is committed to working with Norfolk Island and the Commonwealth Government to provide the necessary support for its prosperous future. I commend the bill to the House.