



**THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**NORFOLK ISLAND THANK YOU AND SINCERE BEST WISHES TO HIS HONOUR MR OWEN WALSH AND MRS BIANCA WALSH**

On Friday 30 March the Norfolk Island Government and community will bid a fond farewell to Owen and Bianca Walsh as they depart the island officially, at the conclusion of his term as Administrator of Norfolk Island.

“On behalf of all residents of Norfolk Island I extend our heartfelt thanks and admiration for the way in which Mr and Mrs Walsh have performed their official responsibilities firstly as Official Secretary and subsequently since 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 as Administrator,” the Chief Minister said.

“Their contribution to Norfolk Island has been much more than an official one as they have made themselves accessible and available to many community organisations and individuals over their years of exemplary service,” Mr Buffett said.

Mr Walsh’s commitment and determination to ensure that the health and community services available in Norfolk Island are modernised and can better serve the local community has been a feature of his service. There is no doubt that by utilising his substantial connections and involving himself in the negotiations he has been a catalyst in developing the Memorandum of Understanding with the South East Sydney Local Health District which will shortly be signed. As well he has paved the way for a similar agreement to be reached with Queensland Health.

“Such dedication is much valued and on behalf of both the Government and local residents of Norfolk Island I offer my sincere thanks for the effort he has expended in furthering these very important milestones,” the Chief Minister said.

“In Mr Walsh’s appointment as Administrator residents of the Island have had the benefit of a young and vibrant man in mid career who was determined to make a difference by bringing his enthusiasm and vitality to bear in everything he has achieved during his term of office,” the Chief Minister said.

Mr Walsh is a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and will resume his legal career.

We wish Mr and Mrs Walsh a wonderful future, wherever life takes them.

David E. Buffett

**Chief Minister**

**17<sup>th</sup> February, 2012**

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