



Australian Government

National Archives of Australia

Archives Act 1983 – section 3C determination

**Norfolk Island maps, plans and field books
collection**

Geoscience Australia

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Norfolk Island maps, plans and field books archive

I, Karuna Bhoday, Director (a/g), Government Records Assurance, at National Archives of Australia, acting in accordance with Delegations under the *Archives Act 1983*, determine that:

plans, maps, bound volumes and field books pertaining to the land management and subdivision of Norfolk Island from 1887-1982 in the custody of GeoScience Australia

are part of the archival resources of the Commonwealth under section 3C of the *Archives Act 1983* as material that is of national significance and public interest as it relates to the history of Australia's external territories. It is consistent with section 3(2) of the *Archives Act* and selection principles 3 and 4 (Knowledge and community memory, and Australians and their environment) of the National Archives policy statement [What we keep: principles for selecting the Australian Government's national archives](#).

These records:

- provide written and visual representations of the development and management of Norfolk Island's settlements between 1887 and 1982, including land subdivisions, surveys, ownership and leaseholds
- hold research value for the community with regards to understanding the landscape, property and inhabitants of Norfolk Island over the period documented
- document the development of sites with conservation and heritage significance as demonstrated by their Commonwealth Heritage and World Heritage List (as part of the Australian Convict Sites World Heritage Property) statuses.

Background

National Archives has liaised with Geoscience periodically since 2016 regarding the transfer of this archive. While these records have been held to be Commonwealth records and historically valuable future additions to the national archival collection, Geoscience and National Archives have been unable to sentence them under a suitable retain as national archives (RNA) disposal class and records authority. One of the reasons for this is the date limitations of classes under Geoscience's agency-specific records authorities, e.g. exclusions for records created prior to 1921 or 1981.

Examples of national archives of this nature already transferred to the National Archives include the following series:

- AA1964/13 - Surveyors' field books, Norfolk Island, single number series
- AA1964/14 - Surveyors' Field Book, Norfolk Island, (Book 'X')
- CP1004/14 - Maps and plans relating to Norfolk Island
- CP697/39 - Record of grants of land held on Norfolk Island

The records in this archive are considered at-risk due to their age, materials and past treatment by former custodians (e.g. lamination, applied document backings, folded map storage). Transfer to the National Archives would allow for quality long-term storage and preservation to support future accessibility and usability.

A portion of the records included in this archive are dated prior to Norfolk Island's legal status as a territory of Australia (1913) and the Federation of Australia (1901). Separating records on this basis would be inadvisable as it compromise the integrity of the system of arrangement of the records.. Maintaining these records as a whole will allow for continuity of information which is critical to Australia's understanding of the development of Norfolk Island.

When the 3c determination is made, National Archives will create a Commonwealth Records Series to manage these records as part of the collection.

This document has been authorised through a digital workflow (R565142025)

Authorising Officer	Date of issue
Karuna Bhoday A/g Director Government Records Assurance National Archives of Australia	16-5-2025

Norfolk Island maps, plans and field books collection

Class no	Description of records	Disposal action
63279	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plans, maps, bound volumes and field books pertaining to the land management and subdivision of Norfolk Island from 1887-1982	Retain as national archives