

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

PLANNING AND BUILDING MOVES FORWARD

General Manager of the Norfolk Island Regional Council, Ms Lotta Jackson, is pleased to announce that the Planning and Building Section is taking shape within the new Regional Council structure, with the recent appointment of local resident Neil Boler as Building Inspector and Compliance Officer. Neil brings many years of experience in the construction industry in New Zealand and Australia to this position. Neil joins Jodie Brown, Planner, and Gizelle Sanders, Administration and Planning Assistant, in the Planning and Building Office at Kingston – however Neil expects he will spend most of his time outdoors on site working with the construction industry teams.

The core responsibilities of the Planning and Building Section are:

- Providing information and advice on land use, planning and development proposals; and on assessment and approval requirements and pathways;
- Assessment of Development Applications and issuing Development Approvals;
- Strategic Land Use Planning – Norfolk Island Plan and supporting codes and policies;
- Issuing Building Approvals and inspecting all stages of buildings under construction;
- Monitoring and enforcing compliance with approvals and general planning and land use requirements.

When assessing applications and issuing approvals, the team in Planning and Building works closely with staff in various other sections of the Council, in particular, Saati Divekar, Manager Local Services and Assets, for construction engineering expertise and infrastructure co-ordination and requirements; and PJ Wilson, Health and Water Officer, for environmental engineering expertise including potable water management, effluent treatment and public health management, such as food premises licensing and inspections.

It is anticipated that during 2017, Norfolk Island's planning and building systems will be updated with the aim to improve development assessment and approval processes. The reforms will more than likely be based on changes to planning and building systems in New South Wales that improved efficiencies and helped to stimulate growth. However, a key objective of planning reform in Norfolk Island is to take local circumstances into account and maintain local management and decision making, as well as ensuring an emphasis on the protection of biophysical, social and cultural environmental values.

Calls for community comment and input to kick start our local planning and building reform will be announced in coming months. Meanwhile, any questions or enquiries on planning, building and development matters can be made to the Planning Office on telephone 23595.

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

26 August 2016