

NORFOLK



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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Proposed changes will simplify approvals for residences

The Norfolk Island Government Gazette of 8th April contains a notice from the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Stephanie Jack MLA, of her intent to proceed with a draft plan to simplify the approval process for private residences.

“I have previously announced my intention to streamline building and development approval processes”, Mrs Jack said. “I have now initiated the procedures to simplify the requirements for people seeking to erect new private residences or to make alterations and extensions, through changes to the Norfolk Island Plan”.

Mrs Jack said that the Gazette notice details the proposed changes, which will have the effect that residential dwelling construction or renovation will need a Building Approval, but will not require a Development Application, provided there is compliance with all relevant development standards and the provisions of the Norfolk Island Plan 2002. The changes will apply to the first dwelling house per portion only second dwelling houses or multi unit developments will still require development approval.

The simplified arrangements will be achieved by amending the Tables of Use or Development in relation to rural, rural residential and residential zones so that the category of “residence – dwelling house” is treated as a permitted (as of right) development.

The Minister encouraged any interested parties to inspect the draft plan and to make submissions as stated in the Gazette notice. Submissions close on 6th May, following which a report will be prepared for presentation to the Legislative Assembly with the Minister’s recommendations.

“I am aware of the community’s comments about the procedures involved and time taken for development approvals”, Mrs Jack said. “I am committed to sensible reform and improvement in the whole planning field and will continue to propose changes such as these to streamline our processes”.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment

8th April 2005