

NORFOLK



ISLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

First Natural Heritage Trust grant announced

The Minister for the Environment, Hon Stephanie Jack MLA, has welcomed the announcement by the Natural Heritage Trust of an Australian Government Envirofund grant which will facilitate a comprehensive survey of birds in Norfolk Island, as well as birds on Phillip and Nepean Islands.

The Minister congratulated the Norfolk Island Flora and Fauna Society, which has been awarded \$17,365 to conduct the survey. The Society's application was sponsored by the Cat Welfare and Wildlife Protection Association of Norfolk Island. Mrs Jack commended the two organisations for their initiative in seeking the funding, which arose from a recent visit to the Island by Mr Michael Schultz, representing the two Commonwealth departments involved with the Natural Heritage Trust.

“This is the first of what I hope will be a series of projects which will attract Envirofund support”, Mrs Jack said. “The Norfolk Island Government will continue to work closely with the Natural Heritage Trust with a view to protecting and enhancing our unique natural environment. I am grateful to the Commonwealth for its tangible support of this project”.

Mrs Jack said that she understood that the survey would involve a number of expert observers, who intend to collect data relating to the presence and habitat of all the bird species in the Norfolk group. The Bird Australia Atlas Group would assist in the task of data management.

Mrs Jack said that she saw the bird survey as part of an ongoing programme to survey and regularly monitor key elements of the Norfolk Island environment, including water resources, weed control and threatened species.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment

13th May 2005