

NORFOLK



ISLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Airport upgrade must move forward: Minister

The Minister for Finance, Ron Nobbs, said today that recent events illustrated the importance of completing the upgrade of Norfolk Island Airport runway pavements as soon as possible.

Mr Nobbs said that the Administration of Norfolk Island had signed a contract with Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd to undertake the Norfolk Island Airport runway reseal. The Administration had also engaged a specialist project manager with responsibility for ensuring that the works were carried out in accordance with the specifications.

The Minister said that he had been advised in a recent progress report that Boral was completing detailed plans covering issues such as environmental management and quarantine procedures for approval by the project superintendent and the Administration. He understood that the project would require almost 30,000 tonnes of asphalt, which would be produced with aggregate crushed on the Island. Boral would need to import bitumen and other materials as well as specialised plant and equipment, much of which would be brought to the Island by barge and be unloaded at Ball Bay.

The reseal would involve planing off 10mm of the existing runway surface to remove surface cracking then overlaying with 50mm of asphalt. As a result, the runway strength would be increased, allowing aircraft such as B737-800 and Airbus A320 aircraft operations without pavement limitations. It was expected that the runway would not need further resealing for around 15 years.

Mr Nobbs said that the total cost of the project would be almost \$12 million, funded through an interest-free loan from the Commonwealth. A special fund into which landing fees would be deposited had been created to provide for future runway reseals. The Minister said that the Administration expected the total project to take approximately 12 months to complete, and that he would monitor it closely to ensure that it was effectively managed and that targets were met.

Ron Nobbs
Minister for Finance

24th June 2005