

NORFOLK



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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Government seeks public and private partnerships in telecommunications: Minister

Following a question in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday 11th January on telecommunications, Minister for Finance Ron Nobbs said today that he was continuing to pursue options for joint ventures with a view to providing the Norfolk Island community with high quality, modern and affordable telecommunications services.

Mr Nobbs said that a consultant independent of both the government and private sector Internet Service Providers conducted a review of government operations and met with Norfolk Island Data Services (NIDS) last year. One outcome of the consultant study was to achieve more efficient and cost effective services with greater benefits to the Island community through a combination of the Norfolk Telecom and NIDS.

The Minister said that he had held detailed discussions with senior staff of the Administration and Norfolk Telecom, as well as a series of negotiations with senior representatives of NIDS. He had discussed with NIDS how such a joint entity could be developed and operated, provided that both parties agreed to progressing the concept. NIDS had undertaken to provide a proposal to the government, and while this has not yet been received, negotiations remain underway. The Minister said he was hopeful of a positive outcome in the near future.

Ron Nobbs

Minister for Finance

13th January 2006