



## **THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Voting system comments still sought**

The Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, Hon Geoff Gardner MLA, said today that he had received a number of submissions and suggestions from the community about the best way to conduct elections for Members of the Legislative Assembly, following his call for comment last week.

The Chief Minister said that the Assembly had before it a Bill which reflected a proposal from the Select Committee into Electoral and Other Matters of the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly, that the voting system should be varied so that all electors have nine votes and must cast all nine for individual candidates. That is, voters would have to vote for no more or no less than nine candidates.

Mr Gardner said that a common theme in the suggestions made to him was that voters wished to have an opportunity to express a greater preference for their most preferred candidates, and not be obliged to vote with one vote each for nine different candidates. Submissions had pointed out that the latter option was already available, and either preferred no change to the existing system or a modification which still allowed greater support to be expressed for voters' preferred candidates.

"I hope to receive more suggestions from the community, so that Members can adequately consider all of the possible options to achieve the results that the voters really want", Mr Gardner said. "I invite members of the community to make their views known to me, or any of the Members of the Legislative Assembly".

Interested community members may also make submissions by email to [clerk@assembly.gov.nf](mailto:clerk@assembly.gov.nf) or arrange to meet with a Member of the Assembly by telephoning 22003.

Geoff Gardner  
**Chief Minister**

10th March 2006