



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Chief Minister welcomes new joint business initiatives

The Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, Hon Geoff Gardner MLA, said today that the Government was seeking to enhance communication with the Island's businesses through existing and new consultative processes and support of a range of initiatives.

"I am very pleased that the Government has been able to join with the private sector to sponsor and promote a forthcoming series of events involving well-known business identity John Pullinger", Mr Gardner said.

Mr Pullinger is familiar to residents of Norfolk Island through his long association with the Grafton and District Business Enterprise Centre, and his pivotal role in organising the Clarence Valley Trade Fairs held in Norfolk Island over a number of years. He spent many years operating successful retail businesses and working as a financial planning consultant, and is now a private business consultant.

Norfolk Island Government has agreed to provide airfares and some associated travel costs for Mr Pullinger's visit, with accommodation, meals and transport donated by the Colonial of Norfolk Island. The Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Mr Pullinger's activities, with support from the Accommodation and Tourism Association.

Mr Gardner said that he understood that the Chamber of Commerce would be making a separate announcement about Mr Pullinger's programme. He said that Mr Pullinger planned to meet with all Members of the Assembly and to hold public sessions on strategies to assist businesses to be aware of the many tools available to improve profitability and to source various training programmes. Mr Pullinger had also indicated his willingness to meet with individual business operators on a confidential basis, to provide free advice and guidance on business management, human resource development, profitability, record-keeping and associated issues.

"This initiative is an excellent example of how Government can work with the private sector to revitalise the Norfolk Island economy", Mr Gardner said. "I expect it to be the first of many initiatives which will lead to economic growth and sustainability for the Island community".

Geoff Gardner
Chief Minister

17th March 2006