



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Chief Minister's major economic statement

At the Legislative Assembly meeting of 15th March, the Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, Hon Geoff Gardner MLA, made a major statement on the economy of Norfolk Island. He presented a review of the 12 major priorities set by the 11th Assembly as it approached the mid-point of its parliamentary term.

Mr Gardner said that major progress had been made on achieving most of the goals, and also highlighted some major economic decisions and actions taken by the Government, which included:

- Establishment and ongoing operation of ongoing air charter services to Australia following the collapse of Norfolk Jet Express;
- Allocation of an additional \$400,000 to promote Norfolk Island as an attractive tourist destination;
- Major changes to telecommunications to improve services, decrease costs to the community and improve Norfolk telecom profitability;
- Significant expenditure savings through revamping public service conditions, leave and overtime and a recruitment freeze; and
- Restarting rock crushing operations and establishing of a major new stockpiles of rock to meet future crushing needs.

The Chief Minister said that the Government believed that the Norfolk Island economy was sustainable and that planned Australian Government changes were unnecessary, provided that some changes were made to government revenue and asset management.

The Norfolk Islander had planned to publish the Chief Minister's full statement this week, but production problems have forced us to defer publication until our next edition. Printed copies of the statement are available from the Secretary to Government at the Legislative Assembly (telephone 22003) or from the Government website at www.gov.nf

17th March 2006