

**NORFOLK**



**ISLAND**

## **THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Update on Kingston Pier refurbishment**

The Chief Minister, the Hon Geoff Gardner MLA, said today that through good preparation and thorough investigation, the Kingston Pier refurbishment project is progressing well, and is currently on schedule. However, it is likely that some variations will cause the practical completion date to be extended beyond the currently approved date of 5th September 2006. Due to shipping delays, the pile-driving hammer is not expected to arrive until early April 2006, and the stainless steel reinforcement from France is due in May 2006.

Mr Gardner said that he has been advised that work completed to date includes 60% of the mini piles, 20% repairs to pier face, 85% temporary strengthening of existing sheet pile wall and 25% of grouting voids in the boat ramp.

The Chief Minister said that the request for tender for the project had highlighted the need for the contractor to employ local people and to utilise local plant and equipment. These matters were included in the Tender Evaluation Plan and given a particular weighting. Six local people have been employed full time, in addition to three Geotech Pty Ltd personnel from Australia. A number of local sub-contractors have also been engaged as required. During the major concrete work items (capping beam, deck, ramp etc) planned for mid-year, additional local employment will be generated.

The Heritage Architect has been consulted on a number of issues and the Resident Archaeologist has been taking more than a passing interest in the construction. Weekly site meetings are being held between Geotech Pty Ltd, Patterson Britton & Partners Pty Ltd and the Administration to ensure that formal and informal communication opportunities are maximised. Mr Gardner said that he would provide further reports to the community as the work progressed.

Geoff Gardner  
**Chief Minister**

17<sup>th</sup> March 2006