



THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Sustainable Water Resources Strategy for Norfolk Island

Members of the community should have recently received a letter in the mail about the upcoming groundwater monitoring programme which aims to gain an understanding on the current health of our groundwater reserves. This programme forms part of a Natural Heritage Trust funded water resources project, which aims to develop a sustainable water management strategy for Norfolk Island.

We all know that the Island's groundwater resource is invaluable and we should be protecting it in as many ways as possible. Some suggestions already received from interested members of the community include subsidies for rainwater tanks, increased rainwater harvesting from Administration buildings and recycling water from the Island's wastewater treatment facility. These are all excellent suggestions and will be considered fully alongside other options available.

However, to fully understand the best range of options for Norfolk Island, we first have to gauge the current health of our groundwater resource. To do this, we need to gather information on current water use practices and take samples from the Island's bores to check groundwater level and quality. These results will be freely available to the owner of that particular bore.

As mentioned in the letter, you will be contacted by either Nicole Diatloff or PJ Wilson to arrange a suitable time to visit your property. PJ has just completed his first year of an Environmental Engineering degree at Griffith University and these skills in data collection will help him through the second year. His local knowledge has also been of great help in undertaking this complex task.

Once more, we emphasise this is not a criticism on current water use practices; it is simply the first step to determine the future management of Norfolk Island's water resources in a sustainable way.

Further information is available from Nicole Diatloff on 23 595.

10th January 2007