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MEDIA RELEASE

Toon Buffet Environment Trust grant applications invited

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Stephanie Jack MLA, has announced that applications are being invited from the Norfolk Island community for the first grants to be issued by the trust established to honour the memory of the late Ivens (Toon) Buffett.

“The establishment of the Ivens F (Toon) Buffett Environmental Trust has been an outstanding example of cooperation between the Commonwealth and Norfolk Island Governments”, Mrs Jack said. “All of the grant funding has been made available by the Commonwealth after it decided to donate all the proceeds from the sale or conversion of Commonwealth crown leasehold land to the Toon Trust to pay for environmental works in Norfolk Island. I am most grateful to the Commonwealth for its generosity and to the Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, the Hon Jim Lloyd MP, for his wholehearted support of a project which I know would have brought great satisfaction to Toon if he were still with us”.

The Ivens F Buffett Environmental Trust (“the Trust”) has agreed on funding guidelines and has invited members of the community to lodge applications for grants of up to \$25,000. Activities which can be considered for funding, which must not be existing projects, include initiatives relating to environmental protection, heritage protection, natural resources management and land management.

“Grants for a wide range of activities will be considered”, Mrs Jack said. “For example, the Trust will welcome applications for projects which involve native vegetation planting to stabilise soil or control active erosion. Equally, applicants may wish to propose initiatives to protect habitats, to manage access to coastal areas, to improve public parks or reserves and many other related areas”.

The Trust has produced detailed funding guidelines and a list of eligible activities. Full details and application forms for grants are available from the Conservator, Fred Howe, at the Land Use and Environment Office, 11 Quality Row. Mr Howe can also be contacted by telephone on 23588 or by email on fhowe@admin.gov.nf. Applications for funding close at 4.30 p.m. on Friday 16th March 2007.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment

9th February 2007