



NORFOLK

ISLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Mobile phones set to start on 19th March

Minister for Finance Neville Christian has announced that testing of the new GSM mobile phone network is almost complete and that the service will be available to the public from Monday 19th March. “This is a big step toward bringing modern telecommunications to the community and to our visitors”, Mr Christian said. “There has been overwhelming support from business and the community for this move, which is essential to support growth in the tourism industry and the economy generally. While I know that some people still have reservations about the intrusiveness of mobile phones, I remind everyone that they can be switched off!”

Mr Christian said that Norfolk Telecom signal tests for the new network had produced excellent results at levels better than had been anticipated. The network had required the construction of only four small antennas which had been shown to provide mobile telephone access for all areas of Norfolk Island.

The Minister said that mobile phones were being introduced in two phases. The initial phase was the launch of the GSM prepaid network this month. Mobile phone users in Norfolk Island would be able to telephone and receive calls from numbers throughout the world. If they wished to use their mobile handsets outside Norfolk Island, they would have to purchase a relevant SIM card.

The second phase would be the introduction of global roaming and post-paid services around the middle of 2007. Once introduced, this would enable use of mobile phones outside Norfolk Island and the billing of calls to subscribers’ monthly accounts, rather than requiring prepayment of call credits.

Norfolk Telecom has advised that the public can gain access to mobile phone use from Monday 19th March by calling at its office in New Cascade Road any weekday between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. Norfolk Telecom will have two starter packs available:

- For persons already owning a mobile handset, a starter pack will be available at a cost of \$50.00. This pack will include a SIM card and \$30.00 of call credits.
- People wishing to purchase a new handset will be offered a starter pack for a cost of \$200.00, which will include the mobile phone, \$30.00 of call credits and a SIM card.

Recharge cards for mobile phones will be available from Norfolk Telecom and from six retail outlets – Paw Paw’s Pump Shed, Norfolk Video, Cascade Motors, the Trading Post, Foodland Supermarket and the Visitor Information Centre.

Mr Christian said that local calls to and from mobile phones would attract local call fees, but that there would continue to be no charge for local calls between numbers on the existing landline network. He also said that international calls made using the new mobile phones would be approximately 20% less expensive than current charges for such calls.

The Minister thanked all Norfolk Telecom staff who had worked hard to ensure that the GSM network was installed and tested. Thanks were also due to Ericsson, who supplied the equipment, which was installed by ComService with Argent responsible for the billing and prepaid platform.

Neville Christian
Minister for Finance

9th March 2007