

NORFOLK



ISLAND

## **THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Community consultation a key to strategic planning: Chief Minister**

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"Community input is a vital part of setting the priorities for the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly", Mr Nobbs said. "I plan to widen the range of opportunities to obtain community feedback, including more public events and meetings, increased use of radio and specific activities focussed on contemporary issues such as the recent combined main street discussion and radio forum on the GST". Mr Nobbs also provided an update on some current issues.

#### **World Heritage listing for KAVHA**

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#### **Tourism and Norfolk Air**

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He also said that the new Friday Norfolk Air services to Sydney and Brisbane are showing steady growth, although passenger loadings on the first two weeks or so of each service were quite low. Norfolk Air is directing marketing efforts into establishing and growing the Friday services, similar to the efforts made in 2006 which resulted in substantial and sustained increases in passenger numbers on Wednesday flights. Forward bookings on Friday flights show a sustained growth on those services. As well, Newcastle flights start on May 7 and bookings have already reached more than satisfactory levels. There will be services each Monday to and from Newcastle, and a number of flights are already near capacity.

**Revenue changes**

Implementation of the GST is generally going well. Mr Nobbs particularly thanked the many members of the business community who have cooperated in the necessary adjustments to their systems and the members of the Administration GST implementation team. He said that it was clear that there were some areas arising from feedback from the community and officers where tighter definitions and procedures were required. Further details on these matters is given in the announcement from the Minister for Finance in Saturday's *Norfolk Islander*.

**New CEO and strategic planning**

The Chief Minister welcomed the arrival of the new Chief Executive Officer of the Administration (Mrs Rhonda Wheatley), who has commenced duties and has already demonstrated a significant grasp of the financial management and workings of the public sector. Mrs Wheatley has coordinated detailed briefings for Assembly Members from a wide range of service delivery agencies and government business enterprises, which have proven valuable as a basis for the strategic planning and budget processes now commencing. Mr Nobbs said that he would be making a major statement to the Assembly meeting next Wednesday, setting out the main priorities of the Government for its term of office.

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