

NORFOLK



ISLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Ministers meet with Federal Minister

The Chief Minister, Andre Nobbs accompanied by the Minister for Finance, Hon Neville Christian, the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Hon Chris Magri, the Secretary to Government, Peter Maywald and the Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Rhonda Wheatley, met with the Federal Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads, the Hon Jim Lloyd, MP and senior members of his staff and senior officers of the Department of Territories and Regional Services at Parliament House on Thursday, 24 May 2007.

The Norfolk Island Government sought the meeting and set the agenda. The Chief Minister on his return said today that the discussions were productive and the information provided was well received by Minister Lloyd. The Chief Minister commenced the meeting by providing a summary of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly Strategic Plan Framework and the Legislative Programme.

The Chief Minister introduced the new Chief Executive Officer, who provided a summary of the action to be taken in terms of financial reform, improved systems and technical support to improve budgeting and financial reporting.

Other issues discussed included plans to upgrade the Norfolk Island Airport, expansion of air services, details of the consultancy which is underway in relation to Port and Harbour facilities, the proposal to have a 10 year programme for the upgrade of roads and road safety issues.

The Chief Minister said today "I was very pleased that Minister Lloyd made time during a very busy Parliamentary week to have discussions with the Norfolk Island Government about issues of importance to our economy and our community. I welcome the willingness of Minister Lloyd and his Department to consider joint programmes to deal with important infrastructure issues in Norfolk Island and his indication that there are a substantial number of Commonwealth programmes under which funding might be made available to Norfolk Island subject to approval of appropriate applications."

Minister Lloyd indicated a desire to establish a strong working relationship with the Norfolk Island Government and the Chief Minister invited him to meet with Members of the Legislative Assembly when he visits Norfolk Island in late July.

The Chief Minister indicated that representatives of the Norfolk Island Government would have regular meetings in Canberra and ongoing contact with the Minister and his Department.

25 May 2007