



## **THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **School trees made safe by trimming**

The Executive Director, Environment and Infrastructure of the Administration of Norfolk Island, Peter Davidson, said today that after commencing trimming of large trees at the school to remove dead and unsafe limbs, it was found that the majority of large limbs and trunk of the big camphor near the school canteen were hollow. Less than 150mm thickness of wood (not all of it sound) remained in one 600mm diameter hollow limb.

Consequently it was necessary to remove all of that tree's large limbs, reducing it to the main trunk. Although the remaining trunk was probably hollow, it was decided to keep it because it did not pose a safety threat and was expected to re-shoot. A smaller tree near the canteen had to be removed completely.

Mr Davidson said that trimming of one of the large trees near Cascade Road had been partly completed, with further work on this and other trees to be undertaken next school holidays. It was hoped that the large trees near Cascade Road (overhanging the car park and drive) would not need to be lopped as heavily as the trees near the canteen.

“It has been suggested that the cut limbs and other wounds on the lopped trees should be painted with water-based paint”, Mr Davidson said. “However it is understood that current horticultural practice is not to paint cut limbs because of the risk of trapping fungal spores in the wound”.

“It is clearly necessary to trim or lop the large trees at the school to reduce the risk from falling branches and wind-blown debris. We will do our best to minimise the amount of lopping, but will remove trees completely if they appear to present a risk”.

Peter Davidson  
**Executive Director, Environment and Infrastructure**

20<sup>th</sup> July 2007