

NORFOLK ISLAND



**THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Quarantine policy advisory group proposed**

The Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Stephanie Jack MLA, is seeking comment from the community on her proposal to establish a committee to advise on changes to quarantine policies and procedures.

“In establishing such an advisory group, I am seeking input from community members on how to move forward with a progressive quarantine system which will encourage the expansion of our horticultural industries while at the same time ensuring that we minimise all risks”, Mrs Jack said. “While I envisage that the committee will have an advisory role, it will have a close involvement with the Administration’s professional quarantine staff to ensure that its discussions are well informed and realistic”.

Mrs Jack said that other jurisdictions have advisory groups on quarantine to allow community members and industry representatives to have a role in framing quarantine policy. She said that she believed that Norfolk Island had significant horticultural potential and with the appropriate safeguards ornamental and production horticulture could benefit from infusion of new varieties and species. While the same applied to other potential areas of primary industry, Mrs Jack said that her initial intent was to focus on production horticulture.

An advisory committee could provide a means by which people could bring forward innovation in horticulture, while at the same time addressing and managing the risks associated with such innovations. The advisory group could also consider first hand the information provided by Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and NZ Biosecurity on a wide range of quarantine matters. This could build community capacity to address quarantine matters in an informed way and provide support role for both the minister and officers involved in the area

Anyone wishing to comment on the suggested establishment of a quarantine advisory group or to seek further information should telephone Fred Howe on 23588, email [fhowe@admin.gov.nf](mailto:fhowe@admin.gov.nf) or write to the Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, Old Military Barracks, Kingston 2899.

Stephanie V Jack  
**Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare**

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