



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

New fire fighting vehicles on order

Minister for Finance Neville Christian has announced that the Norfolk Island Government has placed an order for two new state of the art Rosenbauer Panther 6x6 fire tenders.

“After considerable research, we have chosen two new fire fighting vehicles that will enable us to meet all requirements for Norfolk Island Airport to be a Category 7 international facility”, Mr Christian said. “We are purchasing vehicles from the same manufacturer recently chosen by the Australian Government to supply it with around 50 similar vehicles. Ours will have some additional features designed to meet the special needs of Norfolk Island”.

Mr Christian said that the two new fire engines would cost around \$2.1 million in total and that the funds to pay for them had already been set aside. The vehicles were due to arrive in Australia by September 2008 and it was hoped that the RAAF would assist in delivering them to Norfolk Island shortly after that.

The Panther vehicles on order are all-terrain multi-purpose fire engines with the capacity to attend airport and domestic fires. They weigh 31 tonnes fully loaded, and can carry 12,500 litres of water, 1,500 litres of foam and 250kg of dry powder.

“We have deliberately chosen fire tenders with the capacity to deal with a wide range of situations”, the Minister said. “These vehicles can of course provide high levels of service at the airport, and are also suitable to deal with fires at other significant locations, such as the power house, Ball Bay fuel facility, hospital, school and the Burnt Pine commercial district. As well, they can perform regular fire fighting duties for domestic and rural fires”.

Mr Christian said that it was necessary to have two new fire engines to ensure that there was backup during periods of servicing or technical problems with one vehicle. He was confident that the new fire tenders would greatly improve response to fires in Norfolk Island.

Neville Christian
Minister for Finance

14th September 2007