



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Norfolk Island Ministers visit Australia

Minister for Finance Neville Christian MLA and Minister for Commerce and Industry Chris Magri MLA spent most of last week in Australia for important consultations. The Ministers met in Brisbane with Arch Bevis MHR, the Labor Shadow Minister for Territories to explain Norfolk Island Government's economic planning and priorities and to discuss the approach which Labor would take to Norfolk Island if elected to government.

"We had very open and useful discussions", Mr Christian said. "Mr Bevis explained that the Labor Party had no fixed view on whether the relationship between Australia and Norfolk Island should be changed. He undertook to enter into detailed consultations with us in future if any change was contemplated".

Mr Magri said that the meeting with Mr Bevis had been productive. "We were able to update Mr Bevis on progress made in implementing the strategies identified by Econtech", he said. "Mr Bevis has not visited Norfolk Island and did not have detailed knowledge of many of our programmes in areas such as health, welfare and education. We again invited him to visit the island and have agreed to provide him with more information on Norfolk Island Government policies and programmes".

The two Ministers inspected port facilities as guests of the Port of Brisbane Corporation and met with senior management for discussion on management models which might be adapted to facilitate development of a port in Norfolk Island. They also had discussions with senior business representatives about ancillary activities which could flow from development of a full port, including cruise ship visits, boat repair facilities and commercial fishing activities.

Mr Christian and Mr Magri had meetings in Sydney relating to the corporate structure for Norfolk Air. They also travelled to Canberra to meet with Civil Aviation Safety Authority officials to progress the Runway End Safety Areas project at Norfolk Island Airport.

"We had a successful and highly productive week", Mr Christian said. "This visit formed part of our ongoing commitment to work closely with Australian governments and businesses to achieve tangible results for the Norfolk Island community and economy".

Neville Christian
Minister for Finance

Chris Magri
Minister for Commerce and Industry

14th September 2007