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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Review of the Norfolk Island Plan

The Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Vicky Jack MLA, announced today the commencement of the review of the Norfolk Island Plan. The “Norfolk Island Plan 2002” has, as suggested in the title, been in existence for a number of years. The plan was several years in the making, and was finally approved in February of 2004. It has been amended only twice, in 2004 and 2005.

Mrs Jack said that the Norfolk Island Plan is a 108-page document with associated maps, which establishes the controls for land use, development and subdivision. Anyone wishing to build on or subdivide land, or change the use of a building or property, must apply for permission, and these applications are assessed against the provisions of the Norfolk Island Plan. The Plan aims to strike a balance between an individual’s right to use and develop their land, and the interests of the wider community of Norfolk Island in how their island is used and developed.

“Our planning laws require that the Norfolk Island Plan be reviewed at least once every five years, starting from February 2004”, the Minister said. “Although a review does not need to start until February 2009, the views expressed by people in the community make it clear that there is a need for a review now. As the executive member responsible for planning matters, it is my role to commence that review”.

The review process will officially start next month with a call for public comments on the effectiveness of the current Norfolk Island Plan. The whole process could take as long as 12 months, although this will be dependent upon the public response and the complexity of issues raised. Following this initial call for public comments, the responses will be tabled and considered by the Legislative Assembly. The Assembly is then expected to approve a set of draft amendments to the Plan, and these will be advertised along with a further call for public submissions, with responses to refer specifically to the proposed amendments. The Legislative Assembly should make a final decision on changes to the Norfolk Island Plan by September 2008.

The current Norfolk Island Plan is available for viewing at the Planning Office, No.11 Quality Row in Kingston, and is also available online at the following website:

<http://www.info.gov.nf/land&env/Norfolk%20Island%20Plan%202011-2-2005.pdf>.

“A notice will be published next month officially inviting comments on the Norfolk Island Plan review”, Mrs Jack said. “I encourage everyone to look out for this notice in the coming weeks and to start thinking about what changes to the Norfolk Island Plan you would like considered”.

Stephanie V Jack

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

14th September 2007