



THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Service of summonses and debt notices by post

The public are reminded that failure to collect mail from the Post Office, including accounts, debt recovery notices and summonses, is not a way in which to avoid action for non-payment of amounts due to The Administration of Norfolk Island.

The *Interpretation Act 1979* provides at Section 21 that service of documents "...shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting the document as a letter. Unless the contrary is proved, the service shall be deemed to have been effected at the time at which the letter would be available for delivery to the addressee in the ordinary course of post".

This means that an addressee in Norfolk Island is regarded as having received the relevant letter within a few days of it being posted, whether or not it has been physically collected from the Post Office. The Act provides that persons with an address in Norfolk Island who can prove to a court or tribunal that they were off the Island at the relevant time may be deemed to have received such letters on the day after their return to Norfolk Island, or an earlier day if so determined by the court or tribunal.

Anyone having difficulty paying an account to the Administration is urged to make contact with the relevant area as specified on invoices or reminder letters, to discuss what options are available to deal with the situation.

Rhonda Wheatley
Chief Executive Officer

18th October 2007