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THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Public meeting to discuss Draft Development Control Plan for advertising structures and signs

The Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare determined in early 2006 that there should be a review of Development Control Plan No.4 (Signs). The reasons presented for the need for a review at that time included:

- Some signs applied for did not fall into any category within the current Development Control Plan;
- There was no provision in the current Development Control Plan for signage for premises housing more than one business; and
- There was no prescriptive description on the number of permitted (as of right) signs that might be erected on any one portion - rather the plan sought to avoid "visual complexity".

The review process included the following stages:

- South Pacific Planning and Projects was contracted to undertake the review of the Development Control Plan in May 2006;
- A notice advertising the review of the Development Control Plan was published in February 2007. The notice included details of the issues raised to that time by Administration officers in relation to the current Development Control Plan, and sought comments from the community on what if any issues others may have with the Plan. A total of two submissions were received;
- A draft Development Control Plan to replace the current Plan was prepared, based on issues raised; and
- The Draft Development Control Plan was on public exhibition from 10 September 2007 initially for a period of four weeks, and extended until 12th October 2007. The exhibition was advertised extensively in the newspaper and on radio during that time;

Only a limited number of submissions were received during the five weeks of the exhibition. On Friday 19 October 2007, a submission was delivered, signed by 65 people, mainly business owners and operators in Burnt Pine. This submission raised issues with the controls relating to signs, and sought a public meeting in order that issues could be discussed.

The Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare has agreed that a public meeting should be held to discuss issues further, before a decision is made on a new Development Control Plan for advertising structures and signs.

A public meeting will be held on Wednesday 24 October 2007 at 5:30pm at the Supper Room at Rawson Hall, Taylors Road. Interested persons are invited to come and discuss the issues relating to signage and to put forward their ideas for how they think signs should be regulated.

For more information, please contact the Planning Officer Alan McNeil on 23595 or email planning@admin.gov.nf

Alan McNeil
Planning Officer

19th October 2007