

NORFOLK



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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Big news in telecommunications: Huge reductions in international phone call rates High speed fibre to the node broadband rollout

Minister for Finance Neville Christian announced today that there would be revolutionary changes to Norfolk Island telecommunications in the near future. "This is my Christmas present to the whole community", Mr Christian said. "Within the next few months, the Norfolk Island Government, through Norfolk Telecom, will deliver leading edge technology and huge reductions in prices. We are determined to ensure that our businesses have a competitive edge and to lower the cost of living and of doing business through providing better services and reducing prices".

Mr Christian said that the changes flowed from the telecommunications strategy developed by Price Waterhouse Coopers. This had resulted in new contractual arrangements for telecommunications, including a staged handover to a new carrier.

International direct dial telephone calls

From 1st March 2008, outgoing IDD calls to Australia and New Zealand will cost just 15 cents per minute from landlines. Calls to all other destinations from fixed services will cost only 35 cents per minute. There would also be significant reductions in the costs of international calls made from mobile services. The Minister said that a new schedule of Telecom charges would be issued as soon as all prices had been reviewed, and that it was likely that local calls from fixed phones would be charged at 10 cents per call on an untimed basis.

Rollout of fibre to the node broadband services

Mr Christian announced that Norfolk Telecom would commence a rollout of a complete fibre-optic network for the whole island from July 2008. The new network will be capable of delivering television and high-speed broadband services to the entire community. "This is a major advance in our telecommunications services" Mr Christian said. "The rollout is a major project and will be completed over a 12-month period. It demonstrates our strong commitment to ensuring that Norfolk Island is at the forefront in high-speed broadband availability".

Mr Christian said that he is very pleased with the performance of Norfolk Telecom, which will contribute a dividend of around \$500,000 to Administration revenues this financial year.

Neville Christian
Minister for Finance

21st December 2007