



The Government of Norfolk Island

MEDIA RELEASE

Possible changes to arrangements for the import and wholesaling of liquor in Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island Minister for Commerce and Industry, Chris Magri, said today that possible changes to the way liquor is imported to Norfolk Island would be consistent with the strategy of the Norfolk Island Government to focus on core business and on delivery of high quality community services, rather than on maintaining a wide range of commercial activities.

Mr Magri met with staff of the Norfolk Island Liquor Bond on Thursday to outline some options for issuing licences for the import and wholesaling of liquor, including the possibility of the sale by tender of two import/wholesale licences to provide competition in the distribution of liquor in Norfolk Island.

“As reported to the community numerous times in the first half of 2009, we have conducted an ongoing and comprehensive review of all of the operational budgets of the Administration and the Government Business Enterprises”, Mr Magri said. “The overall aim has been to ensure the long-term sustainability of a self-governing Norfolk Island, including effective and efficient use of all public assets and resources. We do not believe that the community’s resources should be tied up in commercial activities, especially when these could be satisfactorily operated by the private sector. This is reflected in the changes we have already instituted in relation to stock management and the tanalith plant”.

The Minister said that Administration had produced a costed options paper on changing arrangements for liquor retailing and wholesaling, which is now under consideration by Members of the Legislative Assembly. The options papers also addressed the issue of maintaining all or part of the revenue streams to government to ensure ongoing delivery of essential services such as health, welfare and education.

Mr Magri said that he would welcome comment from anyone in the Norfolk Island community about the best way to structure and regulate the import and wholesaling of alcohol in Norfolk Island by email to cmagri@assembly.gov.nf or by telephone to 22003.

Chris Magri
Minister for Commerce and Industry

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