

## **IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012**

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Bill is intended to remove immigration restrictions upon Australians and New Zealanders with the intent of facilitating tourism activity on the Island. Presently such visitors are generally entitled to a visitors permit deemed to be valid for 30 days and capable, on formal application, for extension to 120 days. It is anticipated that by extending the period of the deemed visitor permit to 120 days longer stays by tourists will be encouraged. The Bill is also in the spirit of the agreement with the Commonwealth government to remove immigration restrictions on Australian citizens and permanent residents entering Norfolk Island as tourists.

The Bill is divided into 4 clauses—

**Clause 1** provides the short title of the Act.

**Clause 2** provides for commencement upon gazettal of assent by the Administrator.

**Clause 3** defines the principal Act being amended.

**Clause 4** sets out a Schedule of amendments to the principal Act.

**Item 1** repeals the existing section 15 (Visitors Permits) and substitutes a new one. The new section 15 is substantially the same as before but provides for the standard visitors permit time to be 120 days in place of the existing 30 days.

7 May 2012