

NORFOLK



ISLAND

THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister calls for comment on Building Code

The Minister for the Environment, the Hon Stephanie Jack MLA, has responded to issues raised in a petition to the Legislative Assembly by inviting the community to comment on the standards set by the Building Code. The petition requested:

- 1. That the Building Codes on Norfolk Island be tailored to Norfolk Island conditions, customs and traditions and not to Australian standards as they are presently worded;*
- 2. That the current Development Application form be simplified and streamlined; and*
- 3. That the present process, which is complicated, cumbersome, expensive to the applicant, time consuming in process and creating unemployment in the private sector, be remedied.*

“A building code is essential in the public interest”, Mrs Jack said. “It establishes safety standards, protects people building, buying and selling properties and provides certainty about standards and procedures for builders and tradespeople. A properly enforced building code also ensures that structures are robust and safe, and that owners can obtain insurance cover. I am prepared to look at any reasonable suggestion for changing the Norfolk Island Building Code, provided that these important functions are still maintained”.

Mrs Jack said that she would welcome feedback from the community about changes or improvements to the Building Code. She invited any interested community member or business to provide written comments or submissions about any of the standards specified in the Building Code that were causing them concern. The Minister suggested that any submission should detail which specific standard was involved and could also include comments on how some other form of standard could be set and measured.

The full Building Code is available from the Administration Land and Planning Office at Number 11 Quality Row, Kingston or from the Planning and Environment website at <http://www.planningandenvironment.gov.nf/documents.htm#planningleg>.

Submissions or comments may be sent by email to executives@assembly.gov.nf, faxed to 23378 or mailed to:

The Minister for the Environment
Old Military Barracks

KINGSTON
Norfolk Island 2899

“There is an important balance to be achieved between public safety, protection of our unique environment and the ability of the community to receive approval for reasonable development proposals”, Mrs Jack said. “I am strongly committed to streamlining the way Development Applications are handled by reducing where possible the amount of paperwork involved and speeding up approval processes. I propose to introduce legislation at the April sitting of the Legislative Assembly to commence that process”.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment

23rd March 2005