

NORFOLK



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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister says that Natural Resource Management Plan is “a wonderful opportunity”

The Minister for the Environment, Stephanie Jack MLA, has welcomed the two-week visit of Michael Schultz as representative of two Commonwealth departments in the preparation and commencement of the Norfolk Island Natural Resource Management Plan.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our community,” Mrs Jack said. “I am thrilled with the positive reaction from the Natural Heritage Trust and the indication that the Commonwealth may be prepared to inject significant funding into the enhancement and protection of Norfolk Island’s natural resources. Mr Schultz’s visit is a very positive step toward achieving those objectives”.

Mrs Jack said that she encouraged interested members of the community to make contact with the Conservator, Fred Howe or Mr Schultz on 23588 or at fhowe@admin.gov.nf, as they are actively seeking public input to the natural resource planning process. Mr Schultz has been interviewed about the project on Radio Norfolk, and on Friday visited the school to discuss environment related activities with key staff.

The Minister said that the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan would result in positive action in a range of areas. Core elements of the NRM process include:

- Formalised partnerships at all levels
- Setting of standards and targets
- Good science and information
- Strategic investment in plan implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation of progress towards long-term resource condition targets
- Engagement with the whole community
- Focus on causes of problems, not symptoms.

Mrs Jack said that she was very excited at the prospects for real action to deal with resource management issues. The NRM plan would be based on long-term specific and measurable “condition targets” in areas including soil condition, native vegetation, water systems, coastal/marine habitats and significant native species and/or ecological communities. “I envisage widespread benefits from the funding which should become available once the Plan is implemented”, Mrs Jack said. “For instance, we could greatly enhance soil and water quality through programs to achieve greater recycling and reprocessing of waste materials such as glass and green waste.”

Mrs Jack encouraged all community members to make their views known on natural resource issues to assist the development of the Natural Resource Management Plan.

Stephanie V Jack
Minister for the Environment

8th April 2005