



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Consultant to report on KAVHA boundaries

Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Vicky Jack MLA, said today that she expects to receive a final report within a month on a consultancy study on the boundaries of the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA).

Mrs Jack engaged a specialist independent consultant, Ms Sheridan Burke, who has been in Norfolk Island for the last week to examine applications from some landholders in the KAVHA area to have the boundaries changed under the provisions of the Norfolk Island *Heritage Act 2002*. In order to undertake this important task, Ms Burke was appointed as a specialist heritage adviser to the Norfolk Island Planning and Environment Board and has met with the Board, landholders and other stakeholders in the KAVHA boundaries issue.

"The Norfolk Island Government has met its commitment to the landholders in KAVHA to have their applications for boundary changes independently assessed under Norfolk Island law", Mrs Jack said. "I now look forward to receipt of the final report, which I will refer to the Government and Legislative Assembly for decisions on what action, if any, is required".

The Minister reminded KAVHA landowners that the Norfolk Island assessment of KAVHA boundaries was not supported by the Australian Government and that its findings would not bind the Commonwealth. In a letter dated 23rd June 2008, which had already been circulated to KAVHA landowners, the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Bob Debus MP, set out the Commonwealth position:

The Australian Government does not support a review of the boundary of KAVHA. I note that there is no legal impediment to the Norfolk Island Government changing the boundary of KAVHA under the Heritage Act 2002 (Norfolk Island). However, the Australian Government would not support the exclusion of Crown leasehold land from the boundary of KAVHA under Norfolk Island legislation. Any variation of the boundary by the Norfolk Island Government may result in the Australian Government considering amendment or revocation of affected leases".

Mrs Jack said that she would make the report of the heritage consultant public as soon as it was received.

Stephanie V Jack

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

16 January 2009