



## The Government of Norfolk Island

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Comments sought on proposal for provisional driving licences

Norfolk Island Minister for Commerce and Industry, Chris Magri, has invited the public to comment on a proposal to introduce provisional driving licences, which would mainly affect younger and learner drivers.

At the Legislative Assembly sitting of 27<sup>th</sup> January, Minister Magri introduced a bill to amend the *Road Traffic Act 1982*. Debate was adjourned to the next sitting, scheduled for 16 February. Subject to the agreement of the Assembly, the major impact of the bill would be to introduce provisional driving licences, which could be issued to persons over the age of 16 years and 3 months. It would also provide the Registrar of Motor Vehicles with the power to determine for what kind of vehicle or vehicles such a licence might be issued.

If the proposal becomes law, there will be restrictions on holders of provisional licences as follows:

- that they must not drive with more than one passenger;
- that they must not drive a motor vehicle between the hours of sunset and sunrise;
- that a vehicle they are driving must show a prescribed sign to indicate that the driver is the holder of a provisional licence (that is, a "P" plate); and
- that they must not drive a vehicle of a type other than that of a kind that the holder is, in accordance with the licence, authorised to drive.

The amendments would also mean that it would be an offence for a holder of a provisional licence to drive with a blood alcohol level equal to or greater than 0.02. The penalty for this offence would be the same as that for the holder of a full licence driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.08 or more.

Further provisions of the bill are for the suspension of probationary licences where the licensee incurs four or more demerit points and for the Registrar to give the licensee notice of three months' suspension commencing 14 days after the date of such notice.

Mr Magri said that the proposal for provisional licences was put forward by the Road Safety Committee and was strongly supported by Norfolk Island Police. He said that he would welcome any comments from members of the community prior to debate on the bill in the Legislative Assembly on 16 February. Comments can be made direct to the Mr Magri or to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Allen Bataille on 22001 or email to [ikey@admin.gov.nf](mailto:ikey@admin.gov.nf)

Chris Magri  
**Minister for Commerce and Industry**

29 January 2009