



## THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **Proposal to allow new tourist accommodation unit developments in rural areas of Norfolk Island**

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, Vicky Jack, has invited members of the public to attend a third and final public meeting to discuss the review of the Norfolk Island Plan, and in particular the proposed amendment to make tourist accommodation unit developments “permissible with consent” in the Rural and Rural Residential zones.

“On Wednesday evenings over the last two weeks, we held public meetings to discuss the draft amendments to the Norfolk Island Plan”, Mrs Jack said. “These meetings were well attended and some constructive feedback was provided through discussion”.

Mrs Jack commented that there had been considerable discussion at this week’s meeting about the proposal to allow new tourist accommodation unit development in the Rural and Rural Residential zones.

“Under the current Norfolk Island Plan, new tourist accommodation unit development is not allowed in the Rural or Rural Residential zones, and the only way someone can potentially get permission for this is by applying to vary the Norfolk Island Plan”, Mrs Jack said. She explained that this meant an existing operator cannot presently increase the number of units at their property, for example from 4 to 5, unless the operator applies to vary the Norfolk Island Plan, which is a lengthy process.

“The proposal on the table therefore is to classify tourist accommodation units as ‘permissible with consent’ in the Rural and Rural Residential zones, but only as low-density development, covering no more than 30 per cent of any single property”, Mrs Jack said.

This amendment, if passed by the Legislative Assembly, would streamline the process for applying to develop new tourist accommodation units in the Rural and Rural Residential Zones, although Mrs Jack stressed that this amendment would still require the submission of development applications and a comprehensive assessment of the merits of each proposal.

“At the end of the public meeting this week, those present indicated a desire to have another opportunity to discuss the Norfolk Island Plan, and in particular the proposed amendment relating to tourist accommodation in the rural areas” Mrs Jack said. “I agreed to this request and for an alternative venue”.

The third and final public meeting on the review of the Norfolk Island Plan will be held on Wednesday 16 September at 5:30pm at the A&H Hall.

The week ending 18 September is the final week for public comments to be received on the draft amendments. The draft amendments are available for inspection at the Planning Office, the Post Office and the Public Library, during opening hours, and also available online at <http://www.info.gov.nf/land&env/> as the file "Draft Plan Amendments 120809.pdf". A full printed copy of the draft amendments may also be collected from the Planning Office.

The draft amendment dealing specifically with tourist accommodation in the rural areas is Proposed Amendment No.88 on page 46 of the document.

Any enquiries about the meeting or the draft amendments should be directed to the Planning Office at the Cell Block behind New Military Barracks, telephone 23595 or email [planning@admin.gov.nf](mailto:planning@admin.gov.nf).

Stephanie V Jack  
**Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare**

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