



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Development and building applications - what you need to know about planning requirements

Norfolk Island Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare, the Hon Vicky Jack MLA, said today that anyone intending to undertake a development, construct a building or make interior or exterior alterations should make themselves familiar with Norfolk Island planning requirements.

Mrs Jack said that the Planning Act and the Norfolk Island Plan set out what types of use or development of land require planning permission before they can happen. Anyone wishing to carry out a development or change the use of their land should check what, if any, planning requirements there are first. For example, planning permission is required for:

- new buildings, extensions and exterior alterations;
- demolition of buildings and structures;
- earthworks comprising more than 50 cubic metres of material (except in road reserves);
- subdivision of land and adjustment of property boundaries;
- changing the use of land or a building; and
- certain advertising structures and signs.

The Minister said that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all information required is provided and that it is accurate. It is particularly important that the land involved is correctly described, including the nature of title (such as freehold, Crown lease, leasehold etc.). In many cases, it is advisable that a survey be undertaken and included with the Development Application. The Planning Act allows for heavy penalties to be imposed for carrying out a development (such as those listed above) without permission. Anyone who is unsure of the requirements should check with the Planning Office first. In addition, interior or exterior alterations to structures may require approval under the Building Act. Advice on these issues is available from the Building Inspector on telephone 22609. The Norfolk Island Plan and related instruments are available online at <http://www.info.gov.nf/land&env/>

Stephanie V Jack

Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare

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