



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND
MEDIA RELEASE

Airport upgrade nears completion

Chief Minister David Buffett announced today that the Norfolk Island Airport upgrade project is now reaching its closing stages, after about four and a half years in planning and implementation. "It has been particularly pleasing to see so many local people employed, either directly by Boral, or indirectly, during the many phases of the project", Mr Buffett said. "The skills available on the Island are truly remarkable".

The Chief Minister said that the contract between the Administration of Norfolk Island and Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd was awarded in March 2005. The principal works entailed resurfacing the main runway, taxiway and a substantial length of the cross runway. During the asphalt paving phase, the Administration took the opportunity to extend and overlay the apron, which now has the capacity to handle two Boeing 737's, or a combination of similar aircraft.

The contractor had to overcome significant logistical problems leading up to the actual asphalt resealing work, which took only about two months. These included mobilising the asphalt plant, rollers, loaders, tankers, pavers, bitumen decanters, and other plant and equipment; importing by barge sand and lime from Brisbane and 7,000 drums of bitumen from Fiji; and overseeing the crushing of about 30,000 tonnes of good quality screened rock in Norfolk Island. Production of suitable crushed rock products for the project was completed in April 2006 and profiling (removing the top 10mm of pavement to provide a sound surface to which the new asphalt could adhere) commenced in early April.

Mr Buffett said that he had been advised that during the past week, Boral commenced the demobilisation phase of the project, loading the barge to take its plant and equipment back to Brisbane. Surplus bitumen, which is unsuitable for sprayed seals on the Island, will be returned to Brisbane on the next barge, scheduled for the beginning of August.

It is expected that grooving the runway and line marking will be completed by mid-August, bringing this important project to a successful conclusion.

The Chief Minister said that the project was marked by close teamwork between all the main participants, including the contractor Boral, project manager GHD, the Airport Enterprise and many areas of Norfolk Island Administration. He passed on his personal thanks to the many managers and staff who had worked so well together to ensure that the Norfolk Island Airport continued to be a world-class facility.

David E Buffett
Chief Minister

14th July 2006