



## **NORFOLK ISLAND CONVENTION, ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS CENTRE (NICESC)**

Dear Sirs/Madams of the Joint Standing Committee

- Thank you for the opportunity of outlining a tourism enhancement project for Norfolk Island. We are the Norfolk Island Convention, Entertainment and Sports Centre -NICESC working group. We are working towards the construction of a multi-purpose building allowing the island to house large conferences, events and indoor sports. This project specifically aligns with the scope of the JSC inquiry; "complements to tourism, such as agriculture, other industry or small-medium enterprises; and proposals and opportunities for niche industries".
- Norfolk Island is attractive to conference operators however, the lack of a suitable venues severely impacts on the size of conferences that can be catered for.
- Norfolk Island Tourism relies heavily on special interest events to boost tourism numbers. Events are limited in size for the same reasons outlined. A building such as is proposed would allow for bigger festivals, concerts and corporate events.
- Norfolk Island sports being offered are impacted in wintertime and wet weather. This building would allow year round, wet weather sports capability for local and visiting team events with such a building.
- Norfolk Island Central School currently has no meeting hall to fit all of the students let alone attending parents and visitors. They have no indoor sports capability at all. A building such as this would be of great benefit to our school.

This project is nearing completion of needs analysis. We have come up with a draft plan which will be honed once the analysis on the community needs is complete. We will then work towards getting formal plans done and seeking funding.

Thankyou for allowing me to discuss this project with you.

Best Regards

Louise Tavener

## **NORFOLK ISLAND CONVENTION, ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS CENTRE The Concept (NICESC)**

**NICESC** aims to provide Norfolk Island with a multipurpose building that can accommodate conventions, entertainment events, school utilization & events, indoor sports capability and community needs. The proposed site of this building is Cascade Road Portion 44a.

It is envisaged the uses for the building will be:

- Conventions
- Concerts & Festivals
- School assemblies & gatherings
- Indoor sports for the school, community and visiting groups
- Meetings
- Training
- Community events
- Music recording

### **Norfolk Island's current facilities**

There is currently only one aged and tired building - Rawson Hall which is large enough in Norfolk Island to hold events of up to 350 people in rowed seats:

- Rawson Hall has a tired appearance exterior and internally;
- Rawson Hall has poor acoustics and facilities;
- There is a reluctance of organizers to use it except as a last resort;
- Large internal columns prohibit safe sport side margins and the hall size limits it to one court capacity. The floor is polished timber which is slippery in play.

Private venues:

- Hold around 100 persons maximum capacity;
- Sports are not allowed.

The Marquee:

- The marquee can seat up to 700 or so people;
- Is expensive to erect and hire;
- Is not lockable so requires all night security staffing;
- Facilities are all added separately – stage, seating, toilets etc
- The marquee is aging and is tired looking and not up to standard for most conferences.

The restrictions of the venues on offer limit the size and types of events that can be here on the Island.

### **NICESC community benefits:**

Having a Convention, Entertainment and Sports Centre will allow:

- Larger conferences and corporate events;
- Indoor sports capability for a range of sports;
- Bigger numbers for festivals & events;
- School use for assemblies, presentations, indoor sports;
- Recording studio capability for visiting recording artists
- A building to be proud of, not ashamed as everyone is of Rawson Hall.

Conventions:

- Is the single most tourism direction most able to increase tourism numbers to Norfolk Island of higher yield clientele;
- Can benefit a wide proportion of the tourist industry;
- We would aim for conferences of a size 75-600 persons
- Norfolk Island currently can handle conferences up to 80 persons with ease, up to 350 if the marquee is used.

Norfolk Island currently has no **Indoor Sports Capability:**

- Wet weather forces to a standstill all Norfolk sports bar squash. Almost all of the sporting codes offer only fair weather facilities.
- Norfolk Island has a huge sporting event calendar with most clubs offering international events 1 or more times a year;
- The lack of an indoor facility impacts on our ability to pitch for large sporting events such as the Mini South Pacific Games, Pacific Cup events etc;
- The school is forced to keep the kids inside classrooms for recess and lunch. On wet sports days they let the kids watch movies as there is no indoor sporting facility available.

Norfolk Island currently has no **Recording Studio** capability:

- Norfolk Island has several music festivals on its annual calendar which bring big name and emerging artists to the island;
- These artists would likely stay on for recording if it was available;
- Costs for recording studios in Australia are \$ XXXX per day. This is money which could be earned by NICESC.

**Norfolk Island Central School:**

- The proposed site is conveniently located within walking distance across school grounds on the adjacent land portion to the school (Portion 44a);
- The school population is currently 320 children;
- The school currently has no building large enough to house the entire school population for assemblies or prize giving. Major prize-giving events must be held in Rawson Hall and there is insufficient seating for parents and kids to all get a seat there;
- The school is forced to keep the kids inside classrooms for recess and lunch on wet days;
- On wet sports days the school lets the kids watch movies as there is no indoor sporting facility available.

This building would be of enormous benefit to Norfolk Island' community and economy.

**The net benefit to Norfolk Island is:**

Conferences of 500 persons - \$2000.00 per person directly to the Island

Recording Studio – same average price as is found in Australia \$110 per hour/\$880 per day

Sports Facilities – court hire