



Submission 01
Norfolk Island Economy
Date: 13/04/2014

Parkland Estate Villas



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INQUIRY INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON NORFOLK ISLAND

My Dear Committee Members,

We wish to make the following submission on Economic Development on Norfolk Island.

At the outset we want to make it known that we are not whinging to you about the past 13 years, which are behind us, but would like to point out some pertinent facts as to the support we had for the project from the Planning Authority, General Public, Social Workers, Medical Superintendents of the Norfolk Hospital, Former Administrators, Care Groups. All of this we have on file and not the least was the encouragement from a former Minister for Community Services, the late Ivens Toon Buffett, who had some vision and assured us that we would get our Strata/Community Title and to proceed. Unfortunately we proceeded and most unfortunately, he met an untimely death.

All of this support was for Parkland Estate to operate as a Retirement Village under Community/Strata Title. Following on from public meetings and pushing our barrow etc., nine residents expressed their wish to enter Parkland Estate. Unfortunately one of the residents now resides on Norfolk down at the cemetery, the other eight are living in Retirement Villages on the mainland. To us that was sad, not from a commercial view point, but the view that we held was that we were contributing to a much needed Social and Economic Development to Norfolk Island. We still hold that view, apart from all the brick walls we have endured. All those people mentioned relocated because there was not a facility on Norfolk Island to cater for their needs and there are many more who have left Norfolk for the very same reason, or are considering it. If we can't stop the flow out, how can we attract a flow in?

Today Strata/Community Title still remains on the back burner even though it is part of the 'roadmap' and should have been implemented this last quarter. So if the Federal Government can't enforce agreed conditions to the 'funding agreement' what chance have we to create Economic Development, which will enable those wishing to remain on Norfolk Island with their loved ones, plus the economics of attracting new residents?

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The Norfolk Island Government recently set up a committee on 'how to broaden and expand the economy of Norfolk Island' dealing with Business and Infrastructure Development. Two of the committee, who are also members of the Legislative Assembly that came and inspected Parkland Estate applauded our efforts and said they were ashamed that we have not been able to complete the project due to inactivity on the part of the Norfolk Island Government. We have not been able to see their reports. We have been involved with Dr. Fogarty, Prof. Butt and Kathy Sherry. Simon Crean's Dept. applauded our efforts encouraging our participation in the consultative process ahead. So, we have had some colourful moments with heaps of frustration, which continue today.

To summarise, Parkland Estate comprising 5.018 hectares of centrally located land is the largest residential zoned block on Norfolk Island. It has already in place underground services such as power, sewerage, water, road lighting. Conforms to planning and zoning, has already been DA approved for a Retirement Village. But of course no Strata/Community Title, which is paramount importance for this type of project. It already has a completed duplex built under the rigid guidelines of the Australian Veterans Affairs ready to be lived in. A place of Assembly capable of seating 100 people fully fitted out that would be the envy of similar projects on the mainland is in place, A huge shade house already a show piece, which can be converted to an Administration building. Park like grounds are professionally set out and have been awarded as the 'most outstanding garden setting' by the Norfolk A&H Society.

We would love that you as members of the committee have the time to oversight what has been achieved at Parkland Estate or that we could meet with you during your coming visit. We wish you well in your endeavours.

Sincerely,

Gary & Lynne Richards
13 April 2014.

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