

NORFOLK ISLAND

BIO **CONCRETE** **LABORATORY** SUBMISSION 8

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Federal Parliament's External Territories Committee
Department of Transport and Regional Services
Canberra

Dear Sir,

I wish to make a submission regarding the inquiry into the delivery of services and the implementation of programmes, in the External Territories, namely Norfolk Island. My focus is land management and planning services on Norfolk Island.

I apologise that my submission may not be written along the guidelines suggested, but I have been unable to access either the web site, nor the e-mail address advertised in "The Norfolk Islander" our local newspaper, as my attempts to do so, have been returned with the message: "the recipients name is not recognised".

My submission is as follows:

There is continuing need for crushed rock on the island. This material forms the basis of all building and road work on the island. However the supply of crushed rock has been sporadic for a number of years.

During 1999/2000, the supply of this material was completely stalled. No crushed rock was available for purchase on the island. All work in the private community came to a standstill. Most affected were those dependent on concrete products, although public roading repairs were also severely affected.

The main reason for this predicament was the fact that no site for crushing rock existed on the Island, that was suitable in the eyes of the community. Personally, I have made application after application for a site, both at Cascade, and at the Airport, but neither the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly nor the Australian representative on the Island, the Administrator, appear to be able to reach a decision. This has resulted in emergency, short term solutions.

Finally the rock face at Cascade was quarried, and crushed at a temporary site, and transported to various storage sites on the island. This supply has now almost been depleted. Once again we are faced with the prospect of running out of crushed rock.

In the Norfolk Island Plan there is one site set aside for crushing rock. It is situated on Airport Land. This site still has to be approved by the community, have an environmental impact assessment completed, and go through a lengthy consultation process to reach conclusion. Meanwhile the island is in grave danger of once again running out of supplies.

I therefore ask that the Committee look into long term solutions for this problem, namely fast tracking the decisions to be made by our Administration, to provide sites for the crushing of rock on Norfolk Island, and allow crushing operators to get on with the job.

yours sincerely,

(Richard Cottle)