

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads

THE HON. JIM LLOYD MP

Wednesday 20 December 2006

NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Australian Government has decided that it will not proceed with changes to the governance of Norfolk Island, Minister for Local Government, Territories and Roads Jim Lloyd announced today.

“Because of concerns about the future sustainability of Norfolk Island, the Australian Government undertook extensive analysis to determine the best way forward to guarantee the future of the island and its community,” Mr Lloyd said.

“The Australian Government also consulted extensively with the Norfolk Island Government and with the community.

“The Government has taken account of the efforts of the Norfolk Island Government to increase revenue and to promote the growth of tourism to the island.”

Mr Lloyd said change to the governance arrangements of Norfolk Island could impose significant disruption to the fragile economy of the island.

“This would not be in the interests of Norfolk Island at this time as the island’s government works to build a long term future for its community,” Mr Lloyd said.

“The Australian Government has accepted the assurances of the Norfolk Island Government that it will continue its program of economic and financial reform and that it will seek to improve the transparency and accountability of governance on the island.

“I would like to thank the Norfolk Island Government and the people of Norfolk Island for their cooperation, patience and assistance during the last year and wish the community well.”

Ends.