



Australian Government

Commonwealth Grants Commission

THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF NORFOLK ISLAND

The Commonwealth Grants Commission has been asked by the Australian Government to report on the financial capacity of Norfolk Island to provide State and local government services comparable to those available in comparable communities in the States and Territories. We have been asked to have regard to the circumstances of the Island and to assume that the Island makes the Australian average revenue raising effort from State and local government revenue bases and operates at the average level of efficiency.

We will not be investigating what it might cost to deliver services normally provided by the Australian Government such as social security benefits, immigration or health insurance, nor how much revenue might be raised on Norfolk Island from Australian Government taxes, such as income taxes, customs duty or a goods and services tax.

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr Alan Morris, will be making a preliminary visit to the Island from 8 to 11 March 2006. He will be holding discussions with your elected representatives and other groups and individuals on the Island. He also proposes to conduct a public meeting during his visit (further details will be advertised shortly). At these meetings, he will explain how the Commission works and how it plans to approach the request from the Australian Government.

The draft terms of reference, the approach the Commission proposes to take to the inquiry, and guidance on how you might be involved in the inquiry is set out in an Issues Paper available from the Administration, the Official Secretary or from the Commission itself (please contact Catherine.hull@cgc.gov.au).

Any organisation or individual who would like to meet with Mr Morris should contact the Official Secretary, Mr Owen Walsh, to arrange an appointment.