

Land Capability Assessment for Food Security

Last week, Mr Jason Lynch, an Agronomist from Pinion Advisory, visited island to commence a Land Capability Assessment for Norfolk Island. This work will complement the Food Security Strategy currently being developed by Norfolk Island Regional Council.

Jason's visit was well received by the community, with extensive information collected to assist in developing the assessment report. Jason had the opportunity to meet a number of community members and groups, including existing growers, potential future growers, members of the agricultural community, retail store and restaurant owners, Norfolk Island Central School, the Commonwealth, and other general interest groups.

Through this visit, analyses of island soils and collection of additional information such as base mapping of soil types and topography, Pinon Advisory will produce a report to support the development of the Food Security Strategy. It is expected this will be finalised before the end of the year and a date will soon be set for Jason to return to island and present his findings. It is also hoped this will be an additional opportunity for growers on-island to meet with Jason to gain advice on cropping and other agricultural activities. It was pointed out during the visit that a vast amount of knowledge to successfully grow on-island already exists on Norfolk – an opportunity through visits, such as that from Jason, can bring like-minded people together to share their knowledge.



As part of a community meeting on the Land Capability Assessment last Friday, a number of growers and potential future growers stated their intention to help the island increase the amount and variety of the fresh produce. This includes initiatives such as use of vacant land, stock crop growing and the possibility to share knowledge amongst growers. The working name for this group is the Food and Farming Alliance, and if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Lachlan King or Pat Anderson. An announcement will be made via media shortly, including local radio, for the next meeting of the Alliance.

Council looks forward to continue working with local growers and other members of the agricultural community to finalise the Food Security Strategy and to identify priority areas for investment to support the growing of fresh product on-island.

Phil Reid
MANAGER PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

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