

NORFOLK



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THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Norfolk Island open for business: Chief Minister announces new air services

The Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, Hon Geoff Gardner MLA, has announced that agreement in principle has been reached for air services between Norfolk Island and the Australian mainland for the next 12 months.

“Since Norfolk Jet Express ceased operations last week, the Norfolk Island Government has been involved in intensive discussions to ensure continued availability of airline services to and from Australia”, Mr Gardner said. “We greatly value the contribution of tourism from Australia, and I am pleased to announce the details of arrangements which are now in place”.

The Chief Minister said that for the next week, flight schedules would be exactly the same as at present, with flights to and from Brisbane and Sydney on Saturday June 11, Sunday June 12 and Tuesday June 14 (schedule attached). All of these flights would be under charter from Alliance Airlines. Passengers with Qantas and Norfolk Jet tickets would be able to travel on these services.

Commencing on Saturday June 18, there would be a new schedule for the next 12 months, with services each Saturday and Wednesday utilising Boeing 737 aircraft under charter from Air Nauru. A full schedule of proposed flights is attached. While the schedule may be subject to future revision depending on ticket demand, notice would be given of any proposed changes.

Mr Gardner said that Qantas and travel agents would undertake ticketing, and he expected that full ticketing services would be available by commencement of business on Thursday June 9. He said that Qantas would notify holders of current Qantas tickets to advise of any flight changes and would be able to answer customer queries. Other ticket holders and anyone seeking further information should contact their travel agent or Qantas. Norfolk Island Tourist Bureau would also continue to operate its hotline on (+ 6723) 23909.

The Chief Minister said that it was heartening that many visitors continued to travel to Norfolk Island in the past week, despite some uncertainty over flights to and from Australia. “We are grateful to our new visitors and our old friends for showing confidence in Norfolk Island as a holiday destination”, Mr Gardner said.

“We believe that we offer a magnificent range of experiences for our visitors including spectacular scenery, a beautifully preserved convict-era settlement, cultural and historical tours, fine dining, excellent shopping, a wide range of tours and above all unequalled hospitality. I hope that the revised flight schedules announced today will allow for many more

Australians to take the opportunity to join us in Norfolk Island for a relaxed and enjoyable holiday”.

Geoff Gardner
Chief Minister

7th June 2005