



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND
MEDIA RELEASE

“Norfolk Air” to be new banner for Australian air services

Norfolk Island Chief Minister David Buffett announced today that the Norfolk Island Government has reached agreement with OzJet Airlines Pty Ltd to establish air services to and from Australia under the banner of Norfolk Air.

“In May we signed a long term charter arrangement with OzJet for operation of Boeing 737 flights” Mr Buffett said. “This aircraft is ideal for the Norfolk Island services, using Brisbane and Sydney as the gateways. The contract has options which will allow us to operate services in name of Norfolk Air and to have at least one aircraft painted in Norfolk Island colours. We have been well supported by Qantas over the last 12 months and Norfolk Air will continue to work with them by code sharing on the routes. Qantas opens up the world for us.”

Mr Buffett said that he expected that one 737 aircraft would be based in Norfolk Island from late August 2006. This would open up employment opportunities for Norfolk Islanders and provide greater flexibility for medical evacuations.

“Norfolk Island’s economy depends on tourism and this new initiative will guarantee a reliable, island-friendly service in the long-term”, Mr Buffett said. “Last month we celebrated 150 years of Pitcairner settlement and were able to bring record numbers to the Island on extra flights. The flexibility of the new arrangements will allow us to put on an additional Sydney service for the busy spring period, which is to commence in late August. This will bring incoming services per week to four for Sydney and three for Brisbane.”

Mr Buffett said that a detailed new flight schedule was now available for sale throughout the tourism and travel industries. This new schedule is summarised below. Some changes have arisen due to the aircraft being based in Norfolk Island, with every effort being made to minimise disruption to passengers already booked in advance. Passengers to and from Sydney and from Brisbane will still travel at the times established for several months in the core schedule. To enable these services to remain unchanged, it has been necessary to change the departure time for passengers to Brisbane, who will now be scheduled to leave at 6.00 a.m. instead of an early evening time. Mr Buffett said that the change to this early morning departure time was unavoidable, but will have the positive outcome that passengers will arrive in Brisbane in plenty of time to make same-day connections to other destinations.

The Chief Minister announced that John Carlos, a former airline executive with over 20 years experience in Pacific aviation, will oversee establishment of the new entity. Mr Carlos intends to work closely with Qantas and the Australian and Norfolk Island industry to increase visitor numbers to the Island. He added that Norfolk Air will use modern telecommunications and internet technology to a greater extent than traditional carriers have previously done. This will include the ability for passengers to book directly through an internet website.

“The new airline livery of norfolkair.com will appear after the busy spring period”, Mr Buffett said. “I hope that it will become a flying billboard prompting interest from those who have always wanted to visit our island home and rekindling the desire of those who come so often to return.”

David Buffett
Chief Minister

14th July 2006

Norfolk Air flight schedule commencing 18 August 2006

18 August – 28 October 2006

- **Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday** full flight rotations
Norfolk/Brisbane/Norfolk/Sydney/Norfolk commencing with first flight from Norfolk Island at 6.00 a.m.
- **Friday** Norfolk/Sydney/Norfolk departing Norfolk Island 9.00 a.m.

29 October 2006 - 24 March 2007

- **Wednesday and Saturday** Norfolk/Brisbane/Norfolk/Sydney/Norfolk commencing with first flight from Norfolk Island at 6.00 a.m.
- **Sunday** full flight rotation Norfolk/Sydney/Norfolk/Brisbane/Norfolk commencing with first flight from Norfolk Island at 7.00 a.m.
- **Friday** Norfolk/Sydney/Norfolk departing Norfolk Island 9.00 a.m. (This service will operate during the peak period up to 8/12/06, then recommence on 23/2/07).

From 25 March 2007

- Schedule from Norfolk Island remains the same, but arrival times in Australia will be affected by the end of daylight saving.