



Ozjet 737 To Take Over Norfolk Island Run

The Norfolk Island Government today announced it had reached agreement with Melbourne-based Ozjet to begin a regular 737 jet service from Sydney and Brisbane, beginning on Wednesday, May 24.

Chief Minister Geoff Gardner said the Ozjet aircraft would take over existing Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday departures operated by Air Nauru.

"The new service will continue to be booked and ticketed by Qantas but will offer much-needed extra capacity and greater continuity under a 12 month, renewable contract," Mr Gardner said.

Welcoming the new service, Norfolk Island Tourism General Manager Steve McInnes said the island could now look forward to a new era for its tourism industry.

"We've had standby arrangements in place since Norfolk Jet Express went into voluntary liquidation last June, prompting the search for a carrier with the equipment, experience and motivation to become a long term partner," he added.

"We believe we now have that with Ozjet, which ceased regular services in Australia in March to operate a charter operation drawing on the expertise of its UK-based parent airline, European Air Charter.

"At the same time we are delighted that Qantas has agreed to continue their ticketing and codeshare arrangement with us. We can now look forward to focussing our marketing efforts on building the growth we know exists out of our largest tourism market."

Mr McInnes said the Ozjet 737-200 would be configured for 108 passengers in a one-class arrangement, offering 20 per cent more capacity over the interim Fokker F100 service in use in recent months. Ozjet would also supply air and cabin crew and catering for the new service.

"Norfolk Island is ideal for couples and families seeking an away-from-it-all holiday with great food, intriguing tours, duty-free shopping and plenty of sporting and soft adventure activities. We're also a great place for small meetings and incentive groups, and we've got some keenly-priced fares and packages in the market place to keep us competitive with popular domestic destinations."

For general information visit www.norfolkisland.com.au.

Media contacts:

Bill Gray

Issued: May 15, 2006

MG Media Communications

02 9904 0011