



## **THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Passenger departure fee transitional arrangements**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Administration of Norfolk Island, George Plant, said today that the transition to new arrangements for passenger departure fees is proceeding smoothly.

Mr Plant said that the Norfolk Island Government has incorporated passenger departure fees into the airline ticket price effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October, therefore tickets purchased for travel after that date now incorporate the equivalent of \$20 per sector for the departure fee. The departure fee counter at the airport will continue to operate until September 30<sup>th</sup>, after which it will be closed.

Some departing passengers will hold return air tickets for travel back to Norfolk Island after 1<sup>st</sup> October. The CEO said that under current arrangements, an island resident departing now and returning after October 1<sup>st</sup> will have a \$20 charge on their ticket representing the equivalent of the departure fee on their return leg. If such passengers were to be charged \$40 at the airport booth on departure they will in effect be overcharged by \$20.

Mr Plant said that it has been agreed that the easiest way to solve this is for Norfolk Tourism staff at the departure booth to ask those people who have return tickets to present them at the time of paying their fee. If the return date of the travel is after October 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be assumed that the return leg already has the departure fee included in it and the departure fee payable will be \$20 (instead of \$40). Passengers returning before October 1<sup>st</sup> will be charged the normal \$40 fee.

Mr Plant thanked the public and the staff involved in collecting departure fees for their patience and assistance during the transition phase to the new arrangements. He said that the removal of the requirement for departing passengers to pay a fee at the airport after 1<sup>st</sup> October would remedy one of the grievances most often mentioned in Norfolk Island visitor surveys.

George Plant  
**Chief Executive Officer**

14 August 2009