

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

AIRLINE SERVICES BETWEEN AUCKLAND AND NEW ZEALAND

The withdrawal of the Auckland/Norfolk service by Air New Zealand was raised at the meeting of the Council on Wednesday.

Chair at the Council Meeting Mayor Adams said, 'As previously advised I received formal advice from Air New Zealand General Manager Richard Thompson on 16 December 2016 that for business reasons Air New Zealand would be withdrawing its Auckland/Norfolk Island service effective 21 May 2017. While acknowledging the impact that the change would have on the community, it was made quite clear to me that the decision was firm; and that re-instatement of the service was not on the agenda. Mr Thomson is however keen to have meaningful dialogue on the development and growing the remaining services to the Island from Australia going forward.'

Mayor Adams further advised that she has also received representation from Norfolk Island Airlines of their intention, subject to approvals being obtained, to operate a weekly Sunday Brisbane-Norfolk-Auckland return service to provide continuity for the Island's New Zealand visitors.

Council endorsed the following motion at its meeting this week:

That Council –

- 1) notes the willingness of Air New Zealand to meet with Council in February to have meaningful discussion on the development and growing of the services between Australia and Norfolk Island into the future; and
- 2) notes the proposal, subject to approvals being obtained, of Norfolk Island Airlines to commence a weekly Sunday Brisbane, Norfolk, Auckland return service in May.

'Council understands the community is very concerned at the loss of the New Zealand service as is Council', the Mayor said, 'and I thank those organisations who are sharing their concerns with me. At this time I can only give an assurance that we are exploring options and are continuing in discussion with the Commonwealth. Unfortunately with the Festive Season upon us and offices closing down I do not anticipate being able to be able to update the community until the New Year.'

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

'I wish everyone on Norfolk, both those who live here and those who are visiting, a wonderful Christmas, a relaxing and safe festive season and a 2017 that is filled with peace, happiness and love. Christmas is that special time we come together and bond as family, friends and community, so as we come together let us count our many blessings and stay strong and resilient as we move into 2017. God Bless us all', Mayor Adams said.