Airport Figures Continue to Bounce Back

Clare Martin
Chief Minister

There are new signs that the NT tourism industry is strengthening with the release of August / September passenger numbers. Chief Minister and Tourism Minister, Clare Martin said today.

“More than 140,000 passengers were recorded for August 2004, and more than 123,000 for September 2004 at Darwin International Airport - up on 2003 and 2002,” she said.

“This follows on from record numbers in July and is good news because more passengers mean more jobs and growth in our economy.”

In August 2004 there were 23,700 more passengers than in 2003 (up 20%) and 24,400 more than in 2002 (up 21%). September 2004 saw 25,100 more passengers than 2003 (26%) and 21,700 more than 2002 (21%).

Breaking the figures down, 115,500 domestic passengers used the Darwin terminal in August 2004 and 100,200 in September 2004, a significant increase of 16,900 (17%) on August 2003 and 16,200 (19%) on September 2003. International passenger numbers were also up.

Alice Springs Airport saw 59,100 passengers in August 2004 which is down 1,400 on 2003 but up 4,700 on 2002. In September 2004 there were 53,000 passengers, down 300 on September 2003 but up 2,000 on 2002.

“There has been a significant increase in passenger numbers in Alice Springs for August and September 2004 compared to 2002, however, there were slight drops compared to 2003 because a number of international charters landed in town during that period,” she said.

“To attract more passengers to Alice, we have developed special packages for the new Virgin flights until March and will launch the national Destination Alice Springs campaign in April.”

CEO of NT Airports, Ian Kew, said the passenger numbers reflect an upswing in the local economy and the proactive measures taken to increase the level of airline services to the NT.

“Our partnership with Government, through the NT Tourism Commission, to create the role of the Aviation Development Director is really starting to deliver tangible results,” he said.

Ms Martin said the increased passenger numbers support Government’s decision to increase the NTTC marketing budget by a record $27.5 million over three-years.

“We are heading in the right direction with Territory tourism and with positive news about cruise ships and the second Ghan service, 2005 is set to be another strong season,” she said.