Northern Territory Tourism Minister, Paul Henderson expects Tiger Airways Australia's decisions on which routes it will introduce will not be made until the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) has issued the new airline an Air Operators Certificate.

“Tiger Airways Australia is keeping its cards close to its chest but I remain upbeat that the Territory will benefit from Tiger Australia’s plans,” Minister Henderson said.

“Until CASA issues Tiger Airways Australia an Air Operators Certificate it can’t commence flights.

“The competitive environment of the discount airlines industry means that it’s very unlikely Tiger Airways Australia will flag its flights well in advance of it being in a position to start operations.

“I am advised that the CASA process could take an estimated 3-5 months.

“Today’s announcement that Tiger Airways Australia will be locating its headquarters on the eastern seaboard is in line with industry expectations.

“The Territory put to Tiger Airways Australia a strong proposal that it should put flights, preferably during the day, and its headquarters into the Territory.

“We received positive feedback from Tiger on our pitch for the headquarters; however the eastern seaboard locations have advantages particularly in terms of scale which are attractive to a discount airline like Tiger.

“The Territory’s discussions with Tiger Airways Australia about introducing routes in the short and medium term are ongoing.

“I remain upbeat that the merits of the Territory’s strategic location and other assets will put us on Tiger’s map,” Minister Henderson said.

Contact: Matthew Henger – 0439 817 256