Airport Figures Continue to Bounce Back

Clare Martin
Chief Minister

24 September 2004

The Northern Territory’s tourism industry continues to strengthen with increased traffic numbers reported at both Darwin and Alice Springs airports.

A record number of passengers used Darwin International Airport in July this year with more than 148,000 domestic and international passengers recorded, which is the highest number ever recorded for a single month.

Total passenger traffic this July eclipsed the previous monthly high, recorded in July 2000, by nearly 9000 passengers. The 2004 July figures were also an increase of 21,600, or 17 per cent, on passenger traffic for July last year.

Breaking the figures down, some 121,800 domestic passengers used the Darwin terminal in July, an increase of 12,400 on July of last year. International passenger figures were up 53 per cent from 17,200 in July last year to 26,400 this July.

At Alice Springs Airport around 20,000 more airline passengers arrived in 2003/04 than in 2002/03 and Qantas has forecast a 14% increase in capacity into Alice for November 2004 from Sydney and a 24% increase from Brisbane compared to November 2003.

Chief Minister and Minister for Tourism Clare Martin said the figures highlighted the recovery in Territory tourist numbers following last year’s record $27.5 million increase in Government funding over three years for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission.

“These figures indicate we are heading in the right direction with tourism in the Territory. While the domestic figures are particularly strong I am encouraged by the growth in international passengers,” Ms Martin said.

“Figures like these help fill out the picture of the successful tourist season we have just experienced in the Top End and forward bookings for the coming months in the Centre are also looking strong.

“While we are encouraged by this positive news we now have to focus our efforts on attracting additional carriers, both domestic and international.

“At the domestic level we have initiated discussions with budget carrier Jetstar and we have also put our business case to several international airlines.”