

JETSTAR EXPANDS DARWIN FLIGHTS



Darwin will enjoy daily Jetstar flights to Melbourne and Singapore.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT today welcomed the announcement by Jetstar to introduce a new daily flight between Melbourne, Darwin and Singapore from April 17 this year.

The expansion of services will provide travellers an alternative daylight flight between Melbourne and Darwin and a late afternoon flight from Darwin to Singapore.

The new flights will double the Jetstar seat capacity from both Melbourne and Singapore, offering an additional 250,000 seats into Darwin each year.

The announcement comes less than two months after Tiger Airways began their daily Melbourne to Darwin flights, which have already successfully attracted additional visitors to the Northern Territory.

Figures released by NT Airports showed that an extra 20,000 passengers boarded in Darwin in December 2007 than they did in December 2006.

NT inflation the lowest in nation

DARWIN has recorded the lowest Consumer Price Index (CPI) rise of all the capital cities in the December 2007 figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Acting Treasurer Chris Burns said the easing of inflation is encouraging news for Territory families.

"This is the fourth consecutive decline of the inflation rate for Darwin at a time when it is growing nationally," he said.

In the December quarter the CPI increased by 0.3% in Darwin while increasing by 0.9% nationally.

Darwin's annual inflation rate is 2.9% now compared to the national figure of 3%, the lowest in the country.

The low inflation figures follows the announcement by international credit rating agency, Moody's Investors Services that they were giving an AA1 credit rating to the Northern Territory, describing the economy as 'booming'.

Moody's said a range of factors, including increased capital spending and improved financial performance, attributed to the rating.

Labour force figures released by the ABS showed a very active jobs market and a strong Territory economy.

Matilda delivers production boost

MATILDA MINERALS LTD, Australia's only mid-tier mineral sands producer, has ramped up operations at its Tiwi Islands project, with a 50% boost in production during the last quarter.

Matilda's Managing Director Bruce Maluish said that following the addition of the new feeder system to the processing plant, mineral sands production for the December quarter 2007 had increased sharply, exceeding original expectations.

Total production of concentrate for the quarter was more than 8,600 tonnes, an increase of more than 50% from the previous quarter's production of approximately 5,500 tonnes.

"The project is currently operating at steady-state production, with more than 15,000 tonnes of high quality concentrate stockpiled ready for shipment." Mr Maluish said.

Sitzler wins Alice housing contract

CONSTRUCTION company Sitzler Brothers has won a \$1.2 million contract to build the infrastructure for a new housing subdivision in Alice Springs.

The Mt John Valley subdivision will bring 70 new residential blocks to the market.

Construction is expected to be finished by June.

Logos Group opens in Darwin

THE LOGOS GROUP, one of the world's largest privately owned translation companies with a turnover of US\$50 million, has opened a new office in Darwin.

A major project management operation is planned in Darwin to take advantage of English and multilingual resources to be recruited locally that will support the existing Logos network.

For information about Logos services and positions offered visit www.logos.net or call 0421955282.