



Scott Bacon, MP

Minister for Tourism

Sunday, 30 October 2011

Qantas Dispute

The Tourism Minister, Scott Bacon, today said the State Government is closely monitoring the affects of the Qantas airline dispute on Tasmania.

Mr Bacon said both himself and the Premier will be contacting the Federal Government to ensure the concerns of Tasmania's tourism operators are heard and understood.

"It's important to note that most passengers are still arriving and departing from Tasmania as usual," Mr Bacon said.

"Jetstar, Qantaslink and VirginBlue account for the vast majority of flights in and out of the State, and aren't affected by the dispute.

"However, the three Qantas services into Hobart have been affected, and we obviously want this issue resolved as quickly as possible.

"I'm in regular contact with tourism stakeholders, and fully understand their concerns," he said.

Mr Bacon said he's also receiving regular briefings from the TT-Line, which is monitoring the situation carefully.

"I'm advised cabins on tonight's Spirit of Tasmania sailing to Devonport have been fully booked-out for some time, but southbound cabins are available from Monday," Mr Bacon said.

"If demand becomes high enough, the TT-Line will consider making cinema seats available for extra passengers, as it did when the Chilean volcano ash cloud disrupted flights earlier this year.

"We'll continue to liaise closely with tourism stakeholders and the Federal Government, to assist wherever possible," he said.

Further information: Rowan Dix - 0457 542164