

**Barton Deakin Brief: Northern Territory Aviation Issues Paper**

**14 August 2014**

The Northern Territory Minister for Transport, the Hon Peter Styles MLA, has announced an issues paper on the future of the aviation sector in the Territory.

The NT Government sees developing aviation access into the Territory, and within the Territory, as vital to many sectors and is seeking feedback from a wide range of stakeholders.

Improving aviation in the Territory also links more broadly to the development of Northern Australia and to the Australian Government's Developing Northern Australia agenda.

**Aviation Issues Paper**

The [Propelling the Territory Forward as Australia's Northern Aviation Gateway](#) paper is a root and branch review of aviation issues.

The paper is investigating how Darwin can be developed as the northern aviation gateway to Asia, including as a stop-over. It is also looking at how to increase air services – charter flights or regular passenger Transport Services (RPTs) – to support the Territory's tourism sector.

The paper is also seeking feedback on:

- Minimising the cost of airport security services;
- Where skills shortages in the aviation sector lie;
- Suggestions for expanding airfreight services;
- Business or economic development opportunities that might be unblocked through improved aviation services and infrastructure; and
- How sustainability and growth of international and domestic services can be enhanced.

The paper is also looking at the steps that can be taken to maximise the viability and sustainability of the Territory's regional and remote air services, as well as the role that the government should play in improving affordable access to commercial aviation services into regional locations.

Feedback from the issues paper will contribute to developing a five-year *Aviation Industry and Services Strategy*, which will aim to position the Territory as Northern Australia's aviation gateway to Australia, Asia and the rest of the world.

Submissions can be made to [policy.transport@nt.gov.au](mailto:policy.transport@nt.gov.au) by Wednesday 24 September.



## Aviation Strategy

In December 2013 the Territory Government announced it would develop an *Integrated Transport Planning and Investment Roadmap* to provide a long-term, over-arching plan for the delivery of transport links. A key component of the roadmap is the *Aviation Industry and Services Strategy*.

The strategy will position the Territory as the aviation gateway for Northern Australia, supporting economic and social development over the next five years. It will be developed through the latter half of 2014, following the feedback process around the aviation issues paper.

## NT Regional Air Service trial

The Northern Territory Department of Transport is also currently seeking expressions of interest from commercial operators for the provision of a trial air service (or services), for an initial two-year period. The service will link Katherine and Tennant Creek to Darwin and Alice Springs.

The following routes will be considered (but are not limited to):

- Darwin - Katherine return;
- Tennant Creek - Alice Springs return;
- Darwin - Tennant Creek - Alice Springs return;
- Darwin - Katherine - Tennant Creek - Alice Springs return.

Commercial operators can email [trailairserviceNT@nt.gov.au](mailto:trailairserviceNT@nt.gov.au) to obtain the expression of interest requirements and to register an interest. Respondents can put forward a proposal for one or more services.

Proposals must be submitted by 3pm on Monday 8 September.

## Further information

- View the Aviation Issues Paper [here](#).
- Read the Minister's media statement on the aviation issues paper [here](#).
- Read more about the Issues Paper, Aviation Strategy and NT Regional Air Service trail [here](#).
- Read Barton Deakin's brief from December 2013 about the consultation process for the *Integrated Transport Planning and Investment Roadmap*, [here](#).
- Read Barton Deakin's brief about the Developing Northern Australia process [here](#).

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