

Press Release
14 July 2010



Sharp Airlines to provide Tasmanian Services

Sharp Airlines will take over flight services of Airlines of Tasmania from the 1st September 2010, making Sharp Airlines one of the fastest growing regional airlines in Australia.

Sharp Airlines began operations in Victoria in 1990 and in South Australia in April 2008. Offering services from Hamilton, Portland, Avalon, Essendon, Adelaide, Mildura and Port Augusta, as well several Fly-in Fly-out (FIFO) contracts for the Mining and Resource Industry.

Airlines of Tasmania will continue to operate the weekly Cape Barren Services in the interim and Par Avion Wilderness Tours.

“Sharp Airlines will become one of the important providers of regional airlines services throughout South East Australia”, said Sharp Airlines Managing Director, Mr Malcolm Sharp.

“We are very excited about this expansion, we currently carry 55,000 passengers per year to seven ports throughout Victoria and South Australia, and we looking forward to providing services for almost 20,000 passengers who travel with Airlines of Tasmania each year”, stated Mr Sharp.

Mr Donald Wells, Managing Director of Airlines of Tasmania said “Our Company has provided the Flinders Island Community with a reliable airline service for a number of years; I am comfortable that the service will continue to the same standard with Sharp Airlines. With aircraft based in both Melbourne and Launceston, the frequency of flights, particularly from Melbourne, they will be able to provide additional passenger seats and assist the island with their tourism ambitions”.

“Having spent some time with Sharp Airlines operations, I am confident the local community will be happy with this announcement, as our two companies share the same philosophy when it comes to safe and reliable airline operations”, said Mr Wells

“We plan to build on the current successful services, we will provide an additional service that will benefit Flinders Island, we plan to start with the introduction of a Sunday service to Melbourne from September” said Mr Sharp

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Media Contact: Ms Heidi Sheil Jarvis – 0438 778 161

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Airlines of Tasmania have been operating in Australia for 30 years providing essential services to remote destinations such as Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island, through to Launceston and Melbourne.

Mr Sharp said, "The Wells Family have operated a safe and successful business for many years to Flinders Island and we plan to keep utilising this successful model with some minor changes".

"I would personally like to thank the Wells family for their cooperation and support during this takeover. Don Wells in particular has been a very strong supporter of services to Flinders Island and he has insisted Sharp Airlines look after the people of Flinders Island. Don will remain in the background to ensure it is a smooth transition" said Mr Sharp.

Sharp Airlines will begin operating the previous Airlines of Tasmania routes from September 1st 2010, this is subject to approval from the regulators.

Sharp Airlines will be utilising the Fairchild Metroliner for these services which is the world's most successful 19 seat regional airliner. The aircraft is fast and reliable and the fully pressurisation cabin and cargo area allows the aircraft to climb above most weather.

Booking for these services can be made from August at www.sharpairlines.com.au for updates on these services please check the website.

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Sharp Airlines

2010 is the 20th Anniversary of Sharp Airlines, since commencement in Hamilton 1990 they have grown to be a successful regional airline servicing Victoria's south west and South Australia, carrying 55,000 passengers a year between seven locations.

Sharp Airlines is a regional airline which began operations in Victoria in 1990 and in South Australia in April 2008.

Sharp Airlines produces some of the Australia's best pilots through their First Office cadet Program, the longest running program in Australia, with a staff of over 50 employees, they provide charter and Fly in-Fly out services all over Australia for mining, shipping, oil exploration, emergency services and remote construction industries.

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