

Fiji welcomes Jetstar arrival

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An announcement made by the International Air Services Commission that it has granted Jetstar and V Australia capacity on the Fiji route was welcomed by the tourist industry in Fiji. Tourism Fiji Chairman,

Patrick Wong, said the open sky policy by government was aimed at long term benefits for the industry. According to international reports, Qantas Group was awarded 852 seats of capacity per week which must be used no later than April 2010, while V Australia was awarded 907

seats capacity per week. The carrier must launch services by December 31. “Low cost carriers have greater flexibility when it comes to operational costs, pricing, planning with encouragement of airline carriers venturing, flying out of non mainstream ports as well as opening up better connectivity and

additional new regions for Fiji,” Mr Wong said. He said Fiji’s National Carrier, Air Pacific, has to be recognised for its contribution towards Fiji’s Tourism Industry. Mr Wong said Branding Destination Fiji requires securing seat capacity which opens up emerging markets for

better market operation. “In addition, securing additional airline seats is a key performance for increasing visitors’ arrivals in our tourism development plans,” Mr Wong added. The commission said it expects Jetstar and V Australia to compete strongly on the leisure market.