



## About Table Talk

Table Talk is published monthly by the Australian Association of Timetable Collectors Inc. (Registration No: A0043673H) as a journal of record covering recent news items. The AATTC also publishes The Times covering historic and general items. Items for publication in Table Talk can be submitted to the Editors. Members' News is on page 20.

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## TOP TABLE TALK



### Bye heavy rail, now for a north-west metro

**THE** multibillion-dollar rail expansion pledged by the former NSW premier, Bob Carr, has been wiped from the drawing board and the Government is instead poised to announce a new subway-style metro line to Sydney's north-west.

A \$7 billion plan for a second harbour crossing and heavy rail line through the congested north-west to Rouse Hill has been superseded by planning for a single-deck metro system that would run independently of the trouble-prone CityRail network.

It would mean the Metropolitan Rail Expansion Plan, pledged in 2005 and almost ready for construction, will go by the wayside. Many years of planning would be required before the metro could become a reality.

It is not clear whether the cheapest and most advanced of the three rail expansion plan lines, the South West Rail Link, will still be built, but the two more expensive arms have been all but shelved.

The \$1.8 billion Rail Clearways program is also under review. Some of its projects that have not yet begun are expected to be dumped. Many of the other \$2.8 billion in rail capacity upgrades promised in the 2006 Urban Transport Statement have also been put on the back burner indefinitely.

Instead, the Premier, Morris Iemma, is expected to reveal details of an extended metro line between the CBD and the Hills District via Victoria Road and West Ryde.

Phil Davey, a spokesman for the Minister for Transport, John Watkins, said the Government remained committed to the North West Rail Line and "a second harbour crossing".

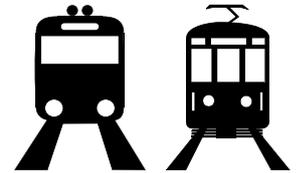
But he added that "the Government has made it very clear that metro rail is the future of public transport in Sydney".

Any announcement in coming weeks will be seen as a blow to the Treasurer, Michael Costa, who had tried to halt expansion of the transport network. In the closing moments of a cabinet budget committee meeting on December 18, he tabled a motion demanding that all government transport projects be put on hold pending a Treasury-led review.

The move was seen as an ambush of Mr Watkins, who was in Europe examining metro systems in Paris and London. The NSW Co-ordinator General, David Richmond, responsible for bringing together feuding transport agencies, was also absent.

Treasury officials have warned transport chiefs that even with the \$10 billion from the proposed sale of the state's electricity generators, there may not be enough money to fund both the M4 East toll road, also yet to be announced, and a metro line.

**Sydney Morning Herald 26-Feb-2008**



## RAIL AND TRAM

### GSR PLATINUM CLASS

A new level of service will be introduced by Great Southern Rail on the Ghan targeting the top end of the market. New Platinum Service cabins are currently being built by a luxury boat builder to a completely new floor plan inspired by the world's most luxurious trains. The cabins will be twice the size of standard Gold Twin product with each room offering double beds, ensuite and 24 hour room service. In conjunction with the new product, a Platinum VIP Club has been launched giving members priority booking on the service. The details of Platinum Service are still under wraps as final preparations are being made. The first journey on the Ghan offering Platinum Service is expected to take place in late 2008.

### QR AFFECTED BY FLOODING

The following long-distance QR Traveltrains were cancelled on account of the severe flooding in North Queensland:

- 1400 Townsville – Mt Isa Inlander 17 Feb
- 1500 Mt Isa – Townsville 18 Feb
- 1825 Brisbane – Cairns Tilt Train 18 Feb
- 855 Brisbane – Cairns Sunlander 19 Feb
- 835 Cairns – Brisbane Sunlander 19 Feb
- 815 Cairns – Brisbane Tilt Train 20 Feb
- 1400 Townsville – Mt Isa Inlander 21 Feb (replaced with a bus)
- 1500 Mt Isa – Townsville 22 Feb (replaced with a bus).

### QR TRAINS AT CHRISTMAS 2008

The following long-distance QR Traveltrains will be cancelled at Christmas 2008:

- 1825 Brisbane – Cairns Tilt Train 24 Dec
- 815 Cairns – Brisbane Tilt Train 26 Dec
- 1255 Brisbane – Cairns Sunlander 25 Dec
- 835 Cairns – Brisbane Sunlander 25 Dec
- 1100 Brisbane – Rockhampton Tilt Train 25 Dec
- 1700 Brisbane – Bundaberg Tilt Train 25 Dec

- 500 Bundaberg – Brisbane Tilt Train 25 Dec
- 725 Rockhampton – Brisbane Tilt Train 25 Dec
- 1400 Townsville – Mt Isa Inlander 25 Dec
- 1500 Mt Isa – Townsville Inlander 26 Dec
- 1915 Brisbane – Charleville Westlander 25 Dec
- 1815 Charleville – Brisbane Westlander 26 Dec.

In addition, the Westlander which would normally depart Brisbane at 1915 on Tuesday 23 will instead depart on Monday 22 Dec, and the Westlander due to depart Charleville at 1815 on Wednesday 24 Dec will instead run on Tuesday 23 Dec.

### SYDNEY SUNDAY OVERLOAD

On Sunday 24 February Sydney's public transport coped successfully with a multiplicity of events:

- Cunard liners *Queen Victoria* and *Queen Elizabeth 2* meeting in the Harbour,
- A Mardi Gras party,
- Australia v. India one-day cricket commencing at 1415, and

Central Coast Mariners v. Newcastle Jets soccer commencing at 1700.

To cater for patrons from Newcastle and the Central Coast, the usual weekend frequency is hourly from Newcastle and half-hourly from Wyong. Cityrail scheduled additional trains from Newcastle at 1200, 1245 and 1305 plus a standby train at Newcastle and two standby trains at Gosford. For return travel, the 2045 Sydney-Gosford was extended to Newcastle, plus standby trains as required.

### VICTORIAN RAIL FREIGHT RECEIVES A REPRIEVE

Victorian Premier John Brumby announced on 26 February a \$20 million package for Victoria's rail freight industry to keep container and export grain freight on rail. The two-year Rail Freight Support Package will provide a temporary rebate for container freight carried on rail services to and from Warrnambool, Horsham, Mildura, Shepparton and Tocumwal. The package will also extend a new rail access fee rebate for domestic grain to include export grain to further support the industry.

Mr Brumby said "These measures will provide vital short-term support to ensure rail freight is a viable alternative to road freight as the industry restructures and major government rail projects to improve the network

are implemented. Victoria's rail freight network has faced challenges – the drought has led to declined freight volumes, severely affecting intermodal terminal operators and grain handlers. This package is about supporting continued rail freight services. The state's regional freight network is an important part of the economies of many regional communities and the Victorian Government is committed to developing a network that is sustainable. That's why we have worked closely with the industry to develop short-term initiatives to provide support through this transitional period. This package is an essential step to ensure the future of rail freight in Victoria”

For earlier article on rail freight services in Victoria see the January and February 2008 editions of *Table Talk*.

## MELBOURNE SOUTHERN CROSS PLATFORMS

Southern Cross station platform names were changed from Friday 8 February. Platforms formerly referred to as N (north) and C (central), are now **A** or **B**. Platforms with an A next to the number (e.g. 3A) are located between Collins Street and the Bourke Street bridge. Platforms with a B next to the number (eg.3B) are located north of the Bourke Street footbridge. The exception is platform 8S which is now platform 8 South.

## ALBURY TRAINS SLOWED DOWN

In contrast to the welcome news recorded in last month's *Table Talk* of additional and faster services on Victoria's Stony Point line, this month we have to report a significant deterioration of passenger train services in Victoria.

Due to the condition of the track between Seymour and Wodonga, all V Line Broad Gauge passenger trains have been slowed down from 115 kph to 80 kph, imposing time penalties of from 30 to 45 minutes. Major maintenance is required and the speed limits will remain until works are carried out. But plans to undertake significant maintenance work are awaiting a State Government decision about the future of the line. The Government is considering either maintenance to retain the line in its current form as a broad gauge track; or a major conversion to a standard gauge track. The Government is in negotiations with the Australian Rail Track Corporation. It is interesting that V Line explicitly states on both their web site and on the new timetable state that the slowdown is because they are awaiting a decision by the State Government.

V/Line introduced the new Albury line timetable from Monday 25 February. Because of the slower running beyond Seymour, down trains can no longer arrive at Albury in time to form the next up service. Hence, most trains are replaced by buses between Wangaratta and Albury and vice versa. The evening down (which does not form an up service until the following morning) and the morning up services remain as trains throughout. Down trains maintain their former schedule between Melbourne and Seymour. However, the slower running means that up trains have different schedules even between Seymour and Melbourne (with the exception of the Sunday evening up). This also means that the for-

mer 1525 Monday-Friday Seymour-Melbourne local train loses its path and moves to a 1534 departure. This then means it loses a good path through the suburban area and thus loses a few more minutes.

There are two minor consolations. The 900 Mondays only Albury-Seymour bus and 1600 Mondays only Seymour-Albury bus (with train connections to and from Melbourne) will now run every day Mondays to Fridays. As well, there will be a bus from Wangaratta for Albury at 730 and a bus return from Albury for Wangaratta at 1845. These appear to be placement runs, but are advertised.

The timetable for the truncated service appears on our cover.

## V LINE BRIGHT BUS

Commencing 21 January, for a trial period of six months, the 550 Wednesday and Friday Bright to Wangaratta V Line bus will also run on Mondays. The Bright – Wangaratta bus service is the most unusual bus service under V Line's banner, as a significant number of **services operate only on certain days of the week.**

## BY V LINE TO THE PICTURES

Additional services provided by non-urban railways for special events are rare these days. (The annual trains by Countrylink to the Bathurst car races and the Elvis festival at Parkes are notable exceptions). A one-off event occurred on Saturday 2 February when V Line advertised travel to Moonlight Cinema at Elmore. Forward travel from Bendigo was by regular Echuca trains at 1125, 1420 or 1915. Return travel was by an additional service at 2320 from Elmore to Bendigo. However, (there is always a “however”), this was in fact the regular late night empty working of a sprinter DMU from Echuca to Bendigo, with its time at Elmore delayed by just six minutes.

## MILDURA LINE WORK

In early February work began at Gheringhap on stage two of the \$73 million Mildura line upgrade. In this stage work will continue towards Ballarat. The first stage of track works has already been completed in Mildura. The upgrade is a joint project, with expenditure of \$53 million from the Victorian Government and \$20 million from the Commonwealth AusLink program. The works will allow freight trains to run at speeds up to 80km/h, reducing travel times between Gheringhap and Mildura from 14 hours to less than ten. Currently speeds are restricted to 50 kph on a third of the track. Over 300,000 new sleepers and 190,000 tonnes of new ballast will be installed and drainage improved. Almost one in every two sleepers along the 525 km line will be replaced.

## MELBOURNE ROLLING STOCK

Melbourne is to get five 5-unit Citadis trams, leased for five years until December 2011. The first left Europe about 5 January and all five are expected to be in service by September. These trams were built for Mulhouse, France, but are apparently not required for that

city. The quantity of five seems small, but originally it was expected to be considerably more. They are to be used on route 96. On arrival the trams will undergo some minor modifications to traction equipment, details unknown, and will get additional air-conditioning.

Minister for Public Transport, Lynne Kosky said "While patronage growth on trams remained relatively steady at 3 per cent over the past decade it climbed to 5.3 per cent in the 12 months to September last year. When the rare opportunity to lease these trams arose we acted quickly to secure them."

Yarra Trams' French shareholder Transdev, operates Mulhouse's tram network. The trams are equivalent in size to the longest trams currently operating in Melbourne and can carry about 240 passengers. Ms Kosky said allocating the five new longer trams to Route 96 would mean other trams currently being used on the route could be re-allocated to other routes, providing more capacity across the tram network.

The State Government has ordered 18 six-car Xtrapolis trains from Alstom. This is a short term measure to respond to increased traffic, ahead of a major fleet renewal which is a year or two away. The trains are additional, not replacements for the remaining Hitachi trains which will be around for at least five years, maybe more. These trains will be built in Italy and imported complete, not assembled at Ballarat as were the previous Xtrapolis trains.

## BURNLEY GROUP SHUTDOWN

*Table Talk* does not usually report weekend closedowns of lines in Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane for work. They are now so frequent, as not to be news. However, a closedown affecting the inner portions of the Burnley group of lines in eastern Melbourne on the weekend of 1 and 2 March is so unusual as to be worth mentioning. Firstly, closedowns do not usually lead to the suspension of services here because of multiple tracks (four lines to Burnley and three as far as Box Hill). However, on this occasion all be closed from Darling and Camberwell to Melbourne. Secondly, the replacement buses will not run to and from Melbourne, but rather from Jolimont on the Clifton Hill line.

## NEWMARKET STATION, AUCKLAND

New Auckland timetables have been introduced effective from 27 January 2008.

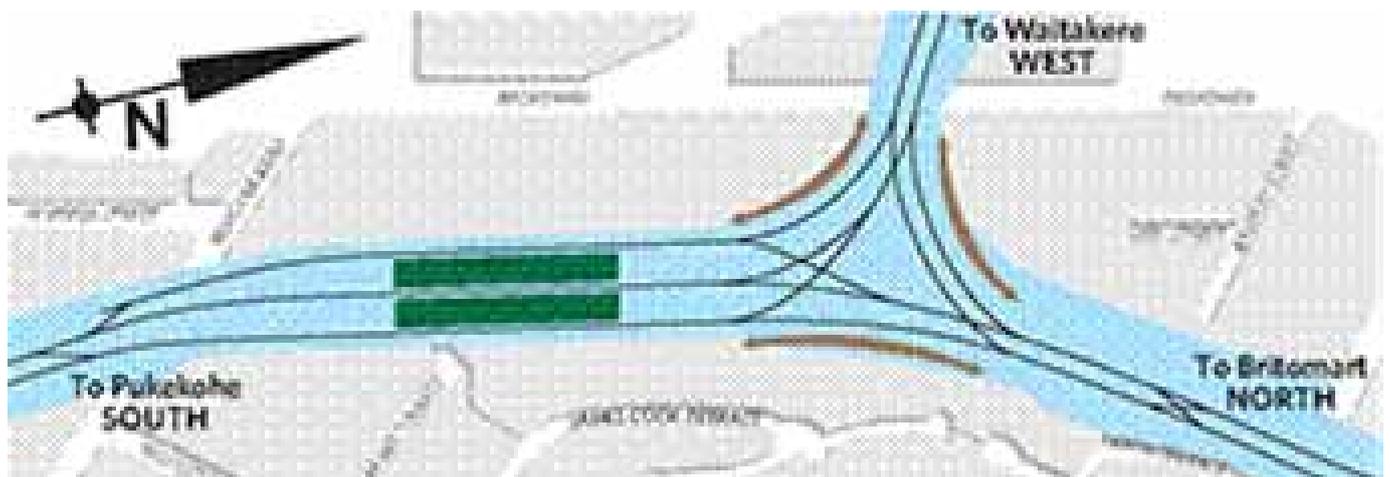
This is a result of Newmarket Station getting a major upgrade as part of major and on-going development of the Auckland suburban railway system. The redevelopment will be built over the next two years, and includes a major track redesign and a new station which will link into Newmarket's retail and business area. From Friday evening 25 January the existing Newmarket Station was closed. From Tuesday 29 January 2008, trains will use two temporary stations located at Newmarket West (Kingdom Street) for Western Line services to New Lynn/Waitakere, and Newmarket South located off Remuera Road for Southern Line services to Papakura/Pukekohe.

Newmarket station is the second busiest on the Auckland network after Britomart and is a key junction. The current track layout creates a bottleneck and a major track redesign is needed to ensure trains keep running smoothly. Once redeveloped, the increased station and junction capacity will improve service reliability, and allow trains to run more frequently. Newmarket station will be rebuilt with twin island platforms and three tracks. This will give the flexibility needed for more frequent passenger and freight services. The new track layout will allow a wide range of service options including a direct connection between Britomart and the west, and possible west to south services. Newmarket used to be notorious for Western line trains requiring to do a double shunt.

All work will be done to enable future electrification of Auckland's rail network. ONTRACK (the NZ rail infrastructure owner) began work on this major project in July 2007 and it will be completed in 2009. The future layout will be as shown at the foot of this page.

## AUCKLAND ROLLING STOCK

The Auckland Regional Transport Authority has called tenders to build 33 Electric Multiple Unit carriages, to build twelve electric locomotives (to haul existing carriages), to build a depot for EMUs, and to operate the EMU fleet.



## THE EXPANDING WORLD OF UK TRAIN OPERATORS

Another open access passenger train operator is to commence in Britain. Wrexham & Shropshire Railway, (owned by Laing Rail which is owned by Deutsche Bahn) is the latest to identify an area not well served by the main operators. In northern Spring 2008 it will commence services from Wrexham (North Wales), Ruabon, Chirk, Gobowen, Shrewsbury, Wellington, Telford Central, Cosford, Wolverhampton (set down or pick up only), Tame Bridge Parkway, Banbury (set down or pick up only) to London Marylebone. Plans are for five services on Mondays to Fridays, four on Saturdays and three on Sundays. Laing Rail also owns Chiltern Railways which operates from Marylebone to Birmingham and (a restricted service) to Stratford-on-Avon. Deutsche Bahn also recently bought EWS, the main British freight operator.

## VIA CANADA DEVELOPMENTS

Last year the Canadian Federal government appropriated \$C691 (approx. \$A700) to invest in improving services of VIA, the national passenger train operator. In December 2008 \$100 million was contracted to upgrade its F 40 locomotive fleet VIA is now seeking contracts for upgrading 98 LRC (Light/rapid/comfortable, Leger/rapide/comfortable) passenger cars used in the Québec

City-Windsor corridor. New electrical and mechanical systems will be installed and improvements made to lighting, heating and air conditioning, leading to new energy savings. The interiors will be renovated. Work should start in 2009 and take four years to complete.

The Company plans to direct more than \$200 million specifically towards network infrastructure, a major portion between Québec City, Montréal, Ottawa, and Toronto. Once the work is completed, this Corridor will accommodate more than one million additional passengers – an increase of 32 percent over 2007.

The governments of Canada, Quebec and Ontario recently announced a new study on the feasibility of a high-speed train between Québec City-Montréal-Ottawa-Toronto-Windsor.

VIA Rail Canada introduced changes to some services in Ontario and Quebec from 14 January 2008. An additional daily (sixth) train will operate from Montréal 1305 to Ottawa 1457, and from Ottawa 1300 to Montréal 1449. There are also a number of minor changes involving additional stops and altered departure times for a number of trains in Ontario.

(Thanks to Tony Bailey, Steven Haby and Victor Isaacs for Rail and Tram News).

Western Canada				Ouest du Canada			
TORONTO • WINNIPEG •				JASPER • VANCOUVER			
TRAIN	KM	1		TRAIN	KM	1	
NAME / NOM		Canadian / Canadien		NAME / NOM		Canadian / Canadien	
DAYS / JOURS		2,4,6		DAYS / JOURS		3,5,7	
<b>Toronto, ON</b> ET / HE (Union Station / Gare Union)	0	DP	0900	<b>Winnipeg, MB</b> CT / HC	1943	DP	1655
<b>Washago</b>	42	↓	1108	<b>Portage la Prairie</b>	42	↓	1805
<b>Parry Sound</b>	42	↓	1258	<b>Brandon North</b>	42	↓	1915
(CP station / Gare CP)	241			<b>Rivers, MB</b>	42	↓	1940
<b>Sudbury Jct.*</b>	42	↓	1558	<b>Melville, SK</b>		↓	2230
<b>Capreol</b>	444	AR	1635	<b>Watrous</b>	42	↓	0040
		DP	1700	<b>Saskatoon</b>		AR	0205
<b>Laforest</b>	42	↓	1752		2702	DP	0230
<b>McKee's Camp</b>	42	↓	1800	<b>Biggar</b>		↓	0345
<b>Felix</b>	42	↓	1816	<b>Unity, SK</b> CT / HC	42	↓	0446
<b>Ruel</b>	42	↓	1827	<b>Wainwright, AB</b> MT / HR	42	↓	0517
<b>Westree</b>	42	↓	1840	<b>Viking</b>	42	↓	0606
<b>Gogama</b>	42	↓	1920	<b>Edmonton</b>		AR	0805
<b>Foleyet</b>	42	↓	2040		3221	DP	0855
<b>Elsas</b>	42	↓	2128	<b>Evansburg</b>	42	↓	1010
<b>Oba</b>	42	↓	2258	<b>Edson</b>	42	↓	1124
		AR	0025	<b>Hinton</b>	42	↓	1234
<b>Hornepayne</b>	921	DP	0100	<b>Jasper, AB</b> MT / HR		AR	1405
		↓	0151		3600	DP	1530
<b>Hillsport</b>	42	↓	0245	<b>Valemount, BC</b> PT / HP	42	↓	1634
<b>Caramat</b>	42	↓	0315	<b>Blue River</b>	42	↓	1802
<b>Longlac</b>	42	↓	0349	<b>Clearwater</b>	42	↓	1959
<b>Nakina</b>	42	↓	0454	<b>Kamloops North</b>		AR	2210
<b>Auden</b>	42	↓	0532		4038	DP	2245
<b>Ferland</b>	42	↓	0545	<b>Ashcroft</b>	42	↓	0016
<b>Mud River</b>	42	↓	0650	(CN Station / Gare CN)			
<b>Armstrong</b> ET / HE	42	↓	0625	<b>Boston Bar</b>	42	↓	0243
<b>Collins</b> CT / HC	42	↓	0703	<b>Hope</b>	42	↓	0402
<b>Allanwater Bridge</b>	42	↓	0716	<b>Chilliwack</b>	42	↓	0442
<b>Flindt Landing</b>	42	↓	0730	<b>Abbotsford</b>	42	↓	0504
<b>Savant Lake</b>	42	↓	0905	<b>Vancouver, BC</b> PT / HP (Pacific Central Station / Gare Centrale du Pacifique)	4466	AR	0750
<b>Sioux Lookout</b>	1537	AR	0925				
		DP	1025				
<b>Richan</b>	42	↓	1054				
<b>Red Lake Road</b>	42	↓	1119				
<b>Canyon</b>	42	↓	1151				
<b>Farlane</b>	42	↓	1213				
<b>Redditt</b>	42	↓	1237				
<b>Minaki</b>	42	↓	1259				
<b>Ottermere</b>	42	↓	1302				
<b>Malachi</b>	42	↓	1303				
<b>Copeland's Landing</b>	42	↓	1311				
<b>Rice Lake, ON</b>	42	↓	1316				
<b>Winnitoba, MB</b>	42	↓	1321				
<b>Ophir</b>	42	↓	1336				
<b>Brereton Lake</b>	42	↓	1416				
<b>Elma</b>	42	↓	1545				
<b>Winnipeg, MB</b> CT / HC	1943	AR					

42 Stops on request with a 48-hour advance notice.  
Arrête sur demande avec préavis d'au moins 48 heures.

\* Sudbury Jct., ON is 10 km from Sudbury, ON. No shuttle service.  
Sudbury, ON à 10 km de Sudbury Jct., ON. Aucun service de navette.

# BUS



## New South Wales – Sydney

### Sydney Private Buses

New **Hillsbus** route: Route 619 - Castle Hill to City via Macquarie Park.

Starts outside Westpac Bank on Old Northern Rd (same stop as Route 610). The new timetable, due to commence on 25th February is combined with Route 610. The Sunday frequency for the two routes from Castle Hill is now half hourly and later departures from the City are provided.

### Veolia [Bankstown: Route 925 Alterations](#)

From 17th December, Route 925 was altered to operate via Ethel Street and Eldridge Road to improve links with Bankstown Trotting Club, instead of using the corresponding portion of Simmat Avenue and Yanderra Street. Departure times are unchanged.

Veolia Bankstown Depot timetables for Routes 900/913/914, 909/911 and 912/915 have been issued on the web site in Veolia colours, replacing previous timetable issues that were still in Transit First colours. Effective from 18 September 2006 - Reprinted February 2008. The paper copies of the Veolia Bankstown Depot timetables for Routes 900/913/914, 909/911 and 912/915 in Veolia colours are now in circulation. Route 915 (Lidcombe – University shuttle) has been moved from the 909/911 leaflet to the 912/915 leaflet.

## New South Wales – Regional

**Bowmans Coachlines** of Goulburn are to start a new Goulburn – Canberra bus service in March. This was last tried unsuccessfully by Transborder of Canberra a couple of years ago. The following is from the “Goulburn Post” website:

A NEW daily "express" bus service to and from Canberra will be operational from March 3. The Goulburn and District Chamber of Commerce and Bowmans Coachlines proposed the scheme last year. The timetable is now out and Bowmans will operate three services a day, the first departing Goulburn at 6.30am and returning at 9.30am. The second starts at 3.10pm and returns at 6.20pm. (Ed: There is no mention of the third service in the newspaper article).

**Newcastle Buses.** There are two new Newcastle timetables: Route 322 Jan 08 v11 and Route 363 Jan 08 v12

**Rover Motors, Cessnock:** New TT's for all services commenced on 23 January. Noted timing changes are mainly with Cessnock to Maitland services, the half hour service between 3pm and 4pm cut back to hourly to provide a later service to Maitland and return. The last weekday trip departs Maitland Post Office at 7.45pm.

## Queensland – Brisbane

**Brisbane Transport** The new services include:

[137 \(new Rocket\) Calamvale - City](#)

New high frequency peak hour rocket operating between Sunnybank Hills Shopping Centre and CBD via Mains Rd. Operates non-stop between QEII park n' ride and City. Operates every 10 minutes between 6.20am and 8.30pm (14 inbound trips/weekday) and between 4.04pm and 6.04pm (13 outbound trips/weekday). Introduces articulated buses on this route. Route 137 will increase capacity by 2,349 passenger trips per weekday - a significant boost to address overcrowding in the busy Mains Rd corridor easing pressure on the popular 130.

### [200 Carina - City](#)

Additional short tripper services from Carina departing at 7.16am, 7.37am and 7.57am. Additional outbound services from Cultural Centre busway station departing at 5.40pm, 6.10pm and 6.30pm.

### [204 \(all stops\) Carindale - City](#)

Additional outbound trip at 5.05pm

### [207 Carina - City](#)

Introduces evening peak services. Route currently only operates in the morning peak.

### [444 Moggill - City](#)

Reduced morning peak frequency to every 10 minutes, instead of every 8 minutes, to help fund a faster, new rocket service from Moggill (route 443). Extra outbound trip at 5.40pm. Routes 443 and 444 combined will provide a combined peak frequency of every five minutes and an extra seven morning peak trips and six evening peaks trips.

### [443 \(new Rocket\) Moggill - City](#)

New peak period rocket between Moggill and CBD, operating every 10 minutes. Route 443 will provide a faster trip compared to route 444, providing travel time savings of 10 minutes. Route 443 will operate non-stop between Chapel Hill and the CBD.

### [169 Eight Mile Plains - University of Queensland St Lucia](#)

Commence services from Eight Miles Plains at 6.45am. Increase morning peak frequency from every 10 minutes to every 7-8 minutes until 10am. Commence evening peak 10 minute frequency at 1.56pm. Provides an additional eight morning peak trips and four additional evening peak trips.

### [412 University of Queensland St Lucia - City](#)

Four on-demand buses during Semester 1 to provide sweeper services as demand warrants.

### [109 City - University of Queensland St Lucia](#)

Services from City commence at 6.50am. Increased morning peak frequency from every 8 minutes to every 5 minutes until 10am. Off-peak 10 minute frequency from 10am instead of 10.20am. Additional four trips from University of Queensland at 1.55pm, 2.05pm, 3.55pm and 6.05pm. In total eight additional morning

peak trips and four additional evening peak trips are provided. Running-time adjusted to some peak trips to improve service reliability.

#### 160 Garden City depot - City

Additional three inbound trips at 7.28am, 7.48am and 8.08am. Additional three outbound trips at 5pm, 5.10pm and 5.20pm.

#### 150 (BUZ) Browns Plains - City

Introduced articulated buses on route 150 all day. Inbound 10 minute peak frequency commences at 5.30am instead of 6.20am (additional 2 trips). Extra four additional outbound short trips from Cultural Centre busway station commencing at 3.35pm, 3.55pm, 4.35pm and 4.55pm.

#### 156 (Rocket) Fruitgrove - City

Introduced articulated buses on route 156 all day. Commence extra short trips from Fruitgrove at 7.07am, 7.17am, 7.49am, 8.08am and 8.20am.

#### 186 (Rocket) Wishart - City

Additional trip at 8.02am. Move existing 8.10am trip to depart at 8.17am to provide an even spacing between trips. Running-time adjusted to improve service reliability.

116, 117, 120, 124, 125, 129, 131, 135, 136, 155, 161

Various minor timetable adjustments to improve service reliability.

## Queensland – Regional

**TransLink** is continually improving services on the Sunshine Coast, and proposes to introduce the new route 603 (Caloundra to West Caloundra - loop service) in April 2008.

Route 603 will service areas including Caloundra, Aroona, Bellvista, Currimundi, Little Mountain and West Caloundra.

Benefits will include:

public transport to West Caloundra for the first time services to key activity centres including Stockland Caloundra Shopping Centre, Currimundi Market Place and Corbould Park Racecourse connections to other services timetable reliability, punctuality and frequency of services.

## South Australia – Adelaide

The **Metroguide** has been revised and is now published as four A5 separate booklets. The maps are poor quality and are not as detailed as those issued in the former city-wide Metroguide. The booklets are:

Southern Metroguide dated December 2007

Northern Metroguide dated December 2007

East-West Metroguide dated December 2007

Hills Metroguide dated December 2007

**Trans Adelaide:** [Additional weekday 618 services](#)

Commencing Monday 11th February 2008, 2 additional a.m. services will operate from Aberfoyle Hub to Marion Shopping Centre.

In addition 3 services will run during the day from Marion to Aberfoyle Hub. This is in response to the considerable number of complaints from travellers over the major cutbacks to this service in the January 13th changes to TT timetables.

## Victoria - Melbourne

### **BUS REVIEW UNDERWAY IN WYNDHAM AND HOBSONS BAY**

Minister for Public Transport Lynne Kosky has announced that a comprehensive review of local bus services in the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay region is underway.

“Feedback during the review will be used as the basis for improvements to local bus services, which could include longer hours of operation, more frequent services or extended routes, introducing new routes or restructuring existing ones, and improving linkages with connecting trains.”

Editor’s comment: It is noted that the new Sunday frequency on Route 471 is 50 minutes – and could easily have been hourly to better connect with the 20 minute train frequencies at each end of the route.

All metropolitan bus routes in the City of Wyndham - which takes in the suburbs of Werribee, Werribee South, Hoppers Crossing, Wyndham Vale, Tarneit, Truganina and Point Cook, are included in the review. Routes operating on the western side of Hobsons Bay, including Altona Meadows, Laverton and Seabrook, will also be reviewed. Those listed are within the Routes 400 to 416 and 436 to 445 range.

**Dyson’s** Route 566 Lalor to Northland, and **Reservoir Bus Co** Routes 555 and 556 Epping Plaza to Northland have been upgraded to run until 9pm every day.

**East West Bus Co** Route 561 Reservoir to Macleod

Posted on the Reservoir Bus Co. website: New Expanded Services

East West Bus Company is pleased to advise that, commencing Monday, 26 February 2008, the service on route 561 will be significantly expanded.

Weekday service frequency will be improved so that a 20 minute service is provided between 7:00am and 7:00pm and the service will then continue to 10:00pm every evening at a 30 minute frequency.

Buses will also provide service to Dunvegan Estate on weekdays on each trip up to 7:00pm

Saturday service will remain unchanged.

[Ivanhoe Bus Co: Additional Route 551 Heidelberg Station to La Trobe University trips](#)

Commencing from 25<sup>th</sup> February, additional trips were introduced on a trial basis. These extra services result in a 15 minute frequency from 7.20 am until 11.00 am and from 4.10 pm until 7.10 pm.

**Panorama** [Route 580 Diamond Creek - Eltham changes from 4th February, 2008.](#)

Extended operation hours & now operates 7 days a week. Mon to Fri before 6am to 9pm (every 30 mins).

Sat & Pub Hol. also before 6am to 9pm (every 30 mins). Sun, Good Fri & Xmas Day before 9am to 9pm (every 60 mins). All buses now wheelchair accessible low floor buses (with blue wheelchair symbols).

**Portsea** Route 788 minimum standards upgrade.

Notices at Frankston Station advise that Route 788 (Frankston - Portsea) will operate to an upgraded timetable from Monday March 3 2008.

Buses will now operate: 05:30 - 21:30 Weekdays (with two additional late night trips from Frankston on Fridays), 07:45 - 22:30 Saturdays and 09:00 - 21:30 Sundays.

#### [Sita Routes 454 & 471 Service Upgrade](#)

Timetables are now available on the Metlink website for the service upgrade for Routes 454 Sunshine to Sunshine West & 471 Sunshine to Williamstown which were due to commence on Monday 25 February. The timetables have new style maps.

Of main interest is the new Sunday service for the 471 which operate every 50 mins from 9.00am to 9.30pm in each direction. The 471 will now operate via the normal route daily without the existing Saturday diversions. Changes to the 432 are likely in June/July, which may be when general changes to services in the Footscray to Newport corridor are implemented.

#### [Westrans Sunshine: 406, 408 & 410 upgrades](#)

The Metlink website is showing new 406 (Footscray - Keilor East), 408 (Highpoint - St Albans) & 410 (Footscray - Sunshine) timetables that meet minimum standards levels and are due to commence on March 31 2008. Sunday services on Route 406 will be improved from 70 min to 40 min intervals (page 10), while the 410 will continue to run hourly. The 408 will also run hourly. The new 408 weekday timetable, with additional peak hour running times, is also shown.

#### [Westrans Werribee: Minor Changes](#)

The [Kefford website](#) advises timetable amendments from Monday 18th February 2008.

Route 439: The 6:40pm service will extend back to Werribee Station. From the corner of Duncans and Aviation Roads, it will travel down Duncans Road to Edwards Road then travel as normal to Werribee Station.

Route 439: The 1:00pm service will travel via the Werribee Mansion and Zoo on its outbound trip to Werribee South. The departure time from Werribee Mansion is approx 1:10pm and approx 1:15pm from the Werribee Zoo.

Route 440: This service will travel via Charinga Drive between Walls Road and Cambridge Crescent.

Route 443: The 3:20pm service will no longer operate in the reverse direction.

## Victoria – Regional

### Colac

An improved bus service (operated by **King's Coachlines**) offering 114 services a week, an increase from the 20 each week previously, was announced by Minister

for Public Transport, Lynne Kosky on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The new bus timetable commenced on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February with a free day of travel.

One additional route and extended services along Colac's two existing routes are provided.

The Colac City Bus Service will provide:

Three bus routes – West, East and South (Eliminyt)

Monday to Friday: 7 trips are provided on each route at 90 minute frequencies, 8.00am to 6.00pm,

Saturday morning: 3 trips on each route.

New Metlink style bus stops & timetable cases have been installed throughout Colac as part of the upgrade.

Ms Kosky said the new services would be reviewed after 18 months to ensure they were meeting the community's needs.

**Portland** An improved bus service offering more than 70 services a week was announced by Minister for Public Transport, Lynne Kosky on January 30. The new bus timetable was due to commence on February 11 with a free day of travel.

The Portland Town Service will provide:

78 bus services per week

Services from 9.30am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Services from 9.30am – 1.00pm, Saturday

Improved accessibility with a low-floor bus

Ms Kosky said the new services would be reviewed after 18 months to ensure they were meeting the community's needs.

Detailed route and timetable information on regional public transport services is available on the VicLink website.

**North East Victoria:** extra Bright to Wangaratta V-line coach service

A Monday service has been added to the existing Wednesday and Friday service on a six month trial. The new coach service will depart Bright at 5.50am, arriving in Wangaratta at 6.55am to allow passengers to connect with an existing 7.07am train to Melbourne.

"The new coach service will also allow passengers to connect to the Midland Link service to Latrobe University's Bendigo campus", Local MP Ms Candy Broad said.

The new service began on Monday 21 January

A six-month trial of an additional Albury – Seymour V-Line return coach service, Minister for Public Transport Lynne Kosky has announced. Under the trial, a popular existing Friday coach service has been extended to operate Monday to Thursday from 21<sup>st</sup> January.

"The new service will provide a crucial regional service and better connect the thriving Albury-Wodonga region to Melbourne," Ms Kosky said. "We are trialling this new coach service in direct response to the feedback received from the North East Community Cabinet last November. When meeting with the local community, we listened to concerns about the frequency of transport services along the Albury corridor."

The new coach service will depart Albury at 9.00am, arriving in Seymour at 12 noon to allow passengers to connect with an existing 12.10pm train to Melbourne.

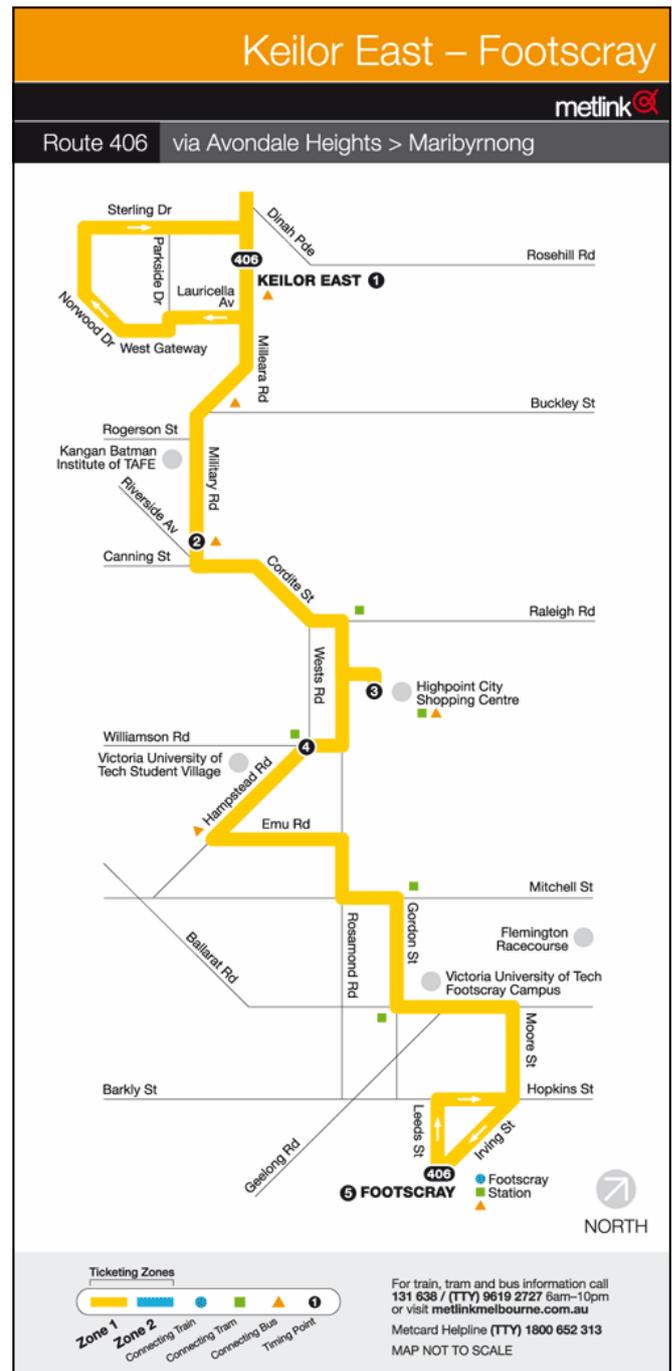
A return service will also operate via train and coach, with the train departing Melbourne at 2.33pm to connect with a 4.00pm coach service at Seymour, arriving in Albury at 6.55pm

(See also the item under Rail news for the revised train operation on the North East line).

## Western Australia - Perth

New timetables for bus routes Eastern 107 5/1/2008 and Circle route 23/12/2007. Also Armadale, Fremantle, and Midland Train 23/12/2007 together with a Timetable Guide 23/12/2007.

Thanks to Australian Transport Discussion Board, Adrian Dessanti, Matty G, Steven Haby, Craig Halsall, David Hutton, Victor Isaacs, Bradley Matthews, Michael Marshall, Ministry of Public Transport, Peter Parker, Len Regan, Lourie Smit and Roger Wheaton.



406 - Keilor East - Footscray (via Highpoint Shopping Centre)			
Direction of Travel:	Travel Date:	Time Period:	
To Keilor East	26-02-2008	7am - 10am	
You are viewing page 2 of 2 for time period 7am - 10am			
Stations / Stops		1	2
Footscray (Footscray Railway Station / Irving Street) (Bay 1)	9:10 AM	9:30 AM	9:50 AM
Footscray (Tarnan Street / Ballarat Road)	9:13 AM	9:33 AM	9:53 AM
Footscray (Ballarat Road + Gordon Street)	9:15 AM	9:35 AM	9:55 AM
Maidstone (Hampstead Road / Williamson Road)			
Maribyrnong (Highpoint Shopping Centre / Rosamond Road) (Bay 3)	9:32 AM	9:52 AM	10:12 AM
Avondale Heights (Riverside Avenue / Military Road)	9:37 AM	9:57 AM	10:17 AM
Keilor East (Sterling Drive / Norwood Drive)			
Keilor East (Sterling Drive)	9:45 AM	10:05 AM	10:25 AM

Th Service operates on Thursdays  
F Service operates on Fridays



# FERRIES and SHIPPING



For the visit of the cruise ship Queen Victoria and the ocean liner Queen Elizabeth 2, several organisations, including Sydney Ferries, ran ferries cruises for rubberneckers wishing to view these vessels. The Sydney Ferries brochure and timetable is illustrated below. Note the very early departure times of 5:30 a.m. for a couple

of the cruises. This is well before the commencement of normal services at 6 a.m. It is believed that few people bothered to farewell the QE 2, which was on its last visit to Australia, before being turned into a floating hotel. A portion of the Sydney Ports website timetable illustrating her departure also appears below.

**The Royal Rendezvous**

Be a part of cruising history aboard Sydney Ferries' **Lady Northcott** as we welcome the young **Queen Victoria** and farewell the grand and graceful **Queen Elizabeth 2**

### Queen Victoria's Arrival

Welcome the new addition to the Cunard royal family, as **Queen Victoria** sails through Sydney Heads for the first time.

You can experience this spectacular event on Sydney Harbour with jazz band Moondance aboard Sydney Ferries' **Lady Northcott**.

**Date:** Saturday, 23 February 2008  
**Departs:** Circular Quay, 5.30am  
**Returns:** Circular Quay, 8.00am

**Tickets:** Adult \$40.00\*, Child \$20.00\*  
 Your ticket includes a breakfast muffin and coffee or tea.  
 Strictly no smoking and no alcohol.

### The Royal Rendezvous

Be a part of Australian cruising history as you catch the awesome sight of **Queen Victoria** and **Queen Elizabeth 2** together for the first and the very last time on Sydney Harbour.

Enjoy this very special event with commentary, and entertainment from the band Blue Note Jazz. This is an event you should not miss.

**Date:** Sunday, 24 February 2008  
**Departs:** Circular Quay, 5.30pm  
**Returns:** Circular Quay, 8.00pm

**Tickets:** Adult \$60.00\*, Child \$35.00\*  
 Each cruise ticket includes a Panini sandwich and coffee or tea.  
 Strictly no smoking and no alcohol.

### QE2's Final Farewell

Bid your fond farewell to the grand lady of the sea, **Queen Elizabeth 2** as she departs Sydney Harbour for the very last time – 30 years to the day that she first arrived at Sydney shores.

Wave goodbye to the **QE2** on board the **Lady Northcott**, with music by Blue Note Jazz and commentary from Sydney Ferries' veteran Mel Mayer.

**Date:** Monday, 25 February 2008  
**Departs:** Circular Quay, 5.30pm  
**Returns:** Circular Quay, 8.00pm

**Tickets:** Adult \$45.00\*, Child \$20.00\*  
 Each cruise ticket includes a Panini sandwich and coffee or tea.  
 Strictly no smoking and no alcohol.

**BOOK NOW AT WWW. TICKETEK or 132 849**

\*Additional transaction fees may apply.

*explore ... experience ... escape ...* Sydney Ferries Corporation

*explore ... experience ... escape ...* Sydney Ferries Corporation

## Ship Schedule

### Sydney Harbour - Departures

Schedule Date	Berth	Vessel Name	Vessel Type	Destination
25/02/2008 00:10	Wharf 8(DH8)	SUN PRINCESS	Passenger Vessel	Port Chalmers (Dunedin Harbour)
25/02/2008 04:01	GLEBE ISLAND 1(GLB1)	SHENANDOAH HIGHWAY	Vehicle Carrier	Melbourne
25/02/2008 12:06	GORE COVE 1(GOR1)	WALNUT EXPRESS	Crude Oil Tanker	Singapore
25/02/2008 14:02	WHITE BAY 4(WHT4)	Harbour Trader	Other Non Trading	Sydney
25/02/2008 18:30	OVERSEAS PT(SCPT)	QUEEN ELIZABETH 2	Passenger Vessel	Hobart
25/02/2008 23:00	WHITE BAY 4(WHT4)	BOTANY TRIBUTE	Product Carrier - Tanker	Newcastle
26/02/2008 09:30	Wharf 8(DH8)	Sydney 2000	CHARTER VESSEL	Sydney
26/02/2008 18:00	GLEBE ISLAND 1(GLB1)	NORDIC SPIRIT	Vehicle Carrier	Brisbane
26/02/2008 19:00	BLACKWATTLE CEMENT(BWB-C)	CLAUDIA 1	Bulk Cargo Vessel	Sydney
26/02/2008 21:00	OVERSEAS PT(SCPT)	SAPPHIRE PRINCESS	Passenger Vessel	Melbourne
27/02/2008 07:00	GORE COVE 1(GOR1)	FORMOSA TWELVE	Crude Oil Tanker	Singapore
27/02/2008 12:00	WHITE BAY 4(WHT4)	ROYAL CRYSTAL 7	Bulk Chemicals Carrier	Brisbane
27/02/2008 23:00	GLEBE ISLAND 1(GLB1)	ATLANTIC SPIRIT	Vehicle Carrier	Melbourne
27/02/2008 23:59	OVERSEAS PT(SCPT)	CRYSTAL SERENITY	Passenger Vessel	Brisbane
28/02/2008 23:59	OVERSEAS PT(SCPT)	ORIANA	Passenger Vessel	Burnie
29/02/2008 16:00	Wharf 8(DH8)	PACIFIC DAWN	Passenger Vessel	Noumea
03/03/2008 23:00	OVERSEAS PT(SCPT)	BLACK WATCH	Passenger Vessel	Brisbane
07/03/2008 16:00	Wharf 8(DH8)	PACIFIC DAWN	Passenger Vessel	Port Vila
08/03/2008 16:00	OVERSEAS PT(SCPT)	PACIFIC SUN	Passenger Vessel	Darwin
09/03/2008 05:00	Wharf 8(DH8)	PACIFIC STAR	Passenger Vessel	Singapore
09/03/2008 16:00	Wharf 8(DH8)	SUN PRINCESS	Passenger Vessel	Brisbane



## DOMESTIC

**Qantaslink** has suspended some services because of a shortage of pilots. Six Newcastle-Sydney flights a week are cancelled, as are two Hervey Bay-Brisbane and a daily Mackay-Brisbane flights.

**Tiger Airways** commenced services from Melbourne to Canberra on 14 February with one daily return flight (Melbourne 855-Canberra 1000, Canberra 1030-Melbourne 1135).

Tiger has established a network of routes from Melbourne to a number of destinations. They are, however, unlikely to serve Sydney, due to high landing charges. The airline is flying to Williamtown (Newcastle) to serve northern Sydney, the Central Coast and the Hunter region.

**Virgin Blue** has recommenced flights on the Canberra – Sydney route. Unlike their unsuccessful earlier attempt, they now recognize the high proportion of business, rather than leisure, travelers on this route. They have frequent schedules and have opened a lounge at Canberra and are attempting to target the public service market. Virgin has eight return flights on weekdays and seven on weekends.

After successfully launching the Kuala-Lumpur – Gold Coast service with \$99 fares, **Air Asia X** is looking at expanding its operations in Australia by flying into Melbourne. The large Malaysian student population in Melbourne is one of the reasons for developing the base there. Although the airline is currently in talks with Avalon and Tullamarine airports, Avalon has been tipped as the most likely home for the budget carrier. Air Asia X has enjoyed 80 percent capacity on its Gold Coast route and expects similar rates for the new Melbourne service. Services are expected to commence once Air Asia X receives its second aircraft in September.

Due to a shortage of pilots, **Regional Express (Rex)** is suspending its Melbourne-Griffith service, possibly will reduce its Sydney-Griffith service, postponing the start of its Brisbane-Maryborough service, and delaying the resumption of its Sydney Cooma service from May to June. Rex has now started its own pilot school to offset the shortage.

**QantasLink** has been granted additional capacity from the

Queensland Government in a five-year deal. Among the major increases will be on the Weipa route where the carrier will get an additional 736 seats a week, a 59 per cent increase. Horn Island will get an extra 540 seats, up 39 per cent with services to Longreach, Barcardine and Blackall rising 18 per cent, or 159 seats. Roma and Charleville services will also rise 18 per cent, adding 451 weekly seats.

Queensland based carrier **MacAir** has won regional contracts with expanded capacity to Oakey, St George, Cunnamulla and Thargomindah. Some airports will need upgrading.

## INTERNATIONAL

February 23 saw start of the home stretch of e-ticket compliance by airlines with the International Air Transport Association announcing 100 days to go until total compliance. The industry will save over \$US 3 billion each year by offering only e-tickets. When the project began in 2004, e-tickets were used in roughly 18% of the market globally, now the figure is over 93%. When the project began over 28 million paper tickets were issued each month. It is now less than 3 million,

US and Australian governments have signed an open skies aviation agreement which will allow airlines from both countries to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand without limitations on frequencies. It also removes restrictions on capacity and pricing and opens the way for cooperative marketing arrangements and codeshare deals between US and Australian carriers. There is speculation that **V Australia** (Virgin) will begin operations to the US.

**OzJet** has been granted permission to operate to both New Zealand and Indonesia. The International Air Services Commission has granted the carrier unlimited capacity to NZ. It plans to commence flights from Palmerston North to Brisbane and Sydney on 31 March. The IASC also granted OzJet 306 seats per week between Perth and Denpasar, with the carrier required to utilise the capacity by 1 April.

From 2 February, **Cathay Pacific** will fly 25 times a week between Sydney and Hong Kong. This is four times daily on Tue, Wed, Fri & Sun and thrice daily on other days.

(Thanks to Tony Bailey, Tris Tottenahm and Victor

The screenshot shows the OzJet website's flight search interface. On the left is the OzJet logo and an image of an aircraft. The main search area contains the following fields and options:

- Departing From:** Select (Newcastle)
- Destination:** Select (Norfolk Island)
- Departure Date:** Wed 27 FEB 2008
- Return Date:** Wed 27 FEB 2008
- Departure Time:** Morning
- Return Time:** Morning
- Ticket Type:** Lowest Available
- Return:**  Return  One Way
- Adults:** 1
- Children:** 0
- Infants:** 0

At the bottom of the search area are navigation links: HOME, SERVICES, FLYING WITH OZJET, CHARTERS, TRAVEL AGENTS, ABOUT US, CONTACT US.