



Jetstar and Hobart Airport

The Tasmanian Freight Logistics Council today raised concerns at Jetstar's recent announcement that it may reduce its number of flights in and out of Hobart Airport if the owners of Hobart Airport increase its landing charges by as much as 50% from 1 July 2010.

The Council's CEO, Rob McGuire, responded to the announcement by saying that it is bad news for Tasmania and one which would not be welcomed by Tasmanian businesses who rely on Jetstar to move their products to the mainland and the world. Most discussion since the announcement has centred on higher passenger ticket prices, lower capacity and a drop in tourist numbers, however, very little has been said about the impact on exporters who rely on air travel to get their high-value perishable products – particularly live seafood - to interstate and overseas markets. Any reduction in capacity to provide reliable air freight services between Tasmania and Victoria that suit international flights immediately rings alarm bells for the Council.

"Live seafood such as abalone and lobster must be flown from Tasmania to arrive on the mainland as close as possible to international departures so that the fish survive the entire export journey." Mr. McGuire said. "Fewer flights will mean less freight capacity and will result in exporters having real concerns on their ability to maintain their market share and compete in a global market."

McGuire warned that Jetstar's concerns should be taken seriously in the wake of the withdrawal of a Jetstar service between Brisbane and Rockhampton which was blamed on airport pricing.