

MEDIA RELEASE

15 October 2026

Council seeking additional community feedback on proposed Sydney flight changes

CONSULTATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS FRIDAY

6 NOVEMBER 2026

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on the proposed change to the Sydney-Norfolk Island-Sydney service, moving from a Sunday operation to a Monday.

The proposal was initially raised to explore potential cost-saving opportunities for Norfolk Island's tourism operators, accommodation and business proprietors, which remains a vital contributor to the island's economy and local employment. The anticipated savings arise from lower award pay rates applicable on Mondays compared with Sundays.

To date, Qantas has received approximately 30 responses, with community sentiment almost evenly split between those who support the change and those who oppose it. Should the proposal proceed, the change would not be implemented before March 2027.

Given the mixed feedback received so far, the consultation period has been extended to hear from more members of the community before determining whether there is sufficient support for Qantas to formally approach the Commonwealth Government to seek a variation to the current agreement.

If you have not yet shared your views, we encourage you to do so. Your feedback will play an important role in helping inform the next steps and ensuring the community's perspective is clearly represented.

Council is supporting this extended community consultation by assisting Qantas to gather feedback on the proposed schedule change. The views received will help inform discussions about the proposal; however, any decisions regarding flight schedules, fares or other commercial matters are made by Qantas.

Please submit your feedback by email before 4:00pm on 6 November 2026 to customercare@nirc.gov.nf

BACKGROUND

Following a recent Norfolk Island industry briefing, a proposal was raised to move one of its regular air services between Sydney and Norfolk Island to a Monday.

Under the proposal, the existing Sunday service would move to Monday, while departure and arrival times would remain unchanged:

- Sydney to Norfolk Island
 - Depart Sydney: 9:55am
 - Arrive Norfolk Island: 1:25pm
- Norfolk Island to Sydney
 - Depart Norfolk Island: 2:30pm

- Arrive Sydney: 4:20pm

Input is sought from residents, businesses, tourism operators, visitors, community groups and other stakeholders to better understand the potential benefits and impacts of this proposed change.

Feedback may include considerations such as:

- Travel convenience for residents and visitors
- Tourism and accommodation impacts
- Business and freight requirements
- Medical, educational or government travel needs
- Any benefits or concerns associated with moving the service from Sunday to Monday

ENDS