



NEWS RELEASE

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OUR AIRLINE TO SUSPEND FLIGHTS INTO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

OUR AIRLINE has announced that its flights to Majuro in the Marshall Islands will be suspended from the 4th of July.

The last flight into Majuro in the current schedule period will occur on Monday the 2nd of July, with the return flight from Majuro to Tarawa, Nauru, Honiara and Brisbane operating the next day.

From the 4th of July OUR AIRLINE flights from Australia will turnaround in Tarawa in the Republic of Kiribati rather than continuing on over the last sector to Majuro on the inter island service.

Chief Executive Officer of OUR AIRLINE Mr. Geoff Bowmaker said "since recommencing services to the Marshall Islands in October last year, the loadings into and out of Majuro have been too low and the service has not been financially viable.

We have tried many initiatives to build the business on the route including inter island fares as low as \$89 and return fares between the Marshall Islands and Australia as low as \$490.

Whilst there has been increases in passenger numbers and substantial growth in freight into and out of Majuro, unfortunately these increases have not been enough to maintain the service with a 130 seat jet aircraft."

Mr Bowmaker also mentioned that a big problem for the airline is due to it being denied rights to operate from Tarawa in the Kiribati Islands to Fiji after having successfully operated that service for over 25 years.

He said that the Fiji route provided an "*inter island through service* that was of great benefit to the people of the Solomons, Nauru, the Marshalls and Kiribati, and today's announcement to withdraw from Majuro is a direct consequence of not being able to operate that through service."

Mr Bowmaker said that the decision to suspend flights into Majuro was necessary for financial reasons and he expressed great regret for people who would be affected by the decision. He said that the airline would continue to look for ways to resume services into Majuro in the future if circumstances change.

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