



Date: Wednesday, 28 September 2016

AUSPAC and SOUTH PAC partners upgrade services to fixed day and enhance regional and global connectivity to weekly.

Dear Valued Clients

The *AUSPAC* consortium, made up of Neptune Pacific Line, Pacific Direct Line, Pacific Forum Line and Sofrana Unilines, is pleased to announce the upgrade of its Pacific islands service from Australia to fixed-day-fortnightly.

The upgraded *AUSPAC* service will provide the best direct connections from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to the South Pacific ports of Noumea, Port Vila, Lautoka, Suva, Apia and Pago on the vessels *Capitaine Tasman* and *Forum Pacific*. The Kingdom of Tonga will be serviced via Auckland through our enhanced *SOUTH PAC* service.

Through negotiated windows in the main Australian and Island ports, the fixed day pattern will be ideal for our clients trading between Australia and the islands, but also for inter-island connections from Fiji.

Beyond the improvement of the *AUSPAC* dedicated service, the partners announce they will be enhancing the connectivity of their *AUSPAC* and *SOUTH PAC* networks. The latter, also fixed day, is operated by the same partners offering the Southern Lily fortnightly from New Zealand to/from Nuku'alofa, Apia, Pago and also the weekly service New Zealand to/from Fiji.

By coordinating our respective schedules and port windows, we will provide all our clients in the islands, as well as our Main Line Operator partners, with improved connections through three strategic hubs: Brisbane for the *AUSPAC* service, Auckland for the *SOUTH PAC* service and Suva for the outer islands services (Wallis, Futuna, Funafuti, Nauru, Tarawa, Majuro). We will alternate the *AUSPAC* and *SOUTH PAC* loops in Western and American Samoa to deliver **weekly** arrivals.

Neptune will be upsizing one of their two ships, *Capitaine Wallis* & *Capitaine Cook*, in the already weekly *FIJI FEEDER* and will introduce an alternating weekly call into Nuku'Alofa into this service.

Combined, the services of the regional carriers will be **weekly in Fiji, both Samoa's and Tonga.**

The improved *AUSPAC* service will start from November 2016. The *AUSPAC* partners have extended the employment of the two 13,000dwt geared "R Class" vessels. Both vessels provide 2 x 40T cranes and 100 reefer plugs.

The NZ based changes will also be phased in from November.

The regional carriers are creating a south pacific network without peer and, together with partners' other services, will connect the South Pacific markets to the rest of the world with the fastest and most frequent sailing options available.

Service highlights include:

A Robust service framework providing 26 round voyages per annum for each of *AUSPAC* and *SOUTHPAC* services, in addition to the 52 Fiji sailings.

- Only direct service from Australia to Western and American Samoa
- Enhanced weekly connectivity to both Samoa's and Tonga
- Enhanced global connectivity through the coordinated *AUSPAC*, *SOUTHPAC* and *FIJI FEEDER* loops together with use of the three strategic hubs of Brisbane, Auckland and Suva
- Improved, market leading frequency and transit time from Australia and New Zealand to the islands and all inter-island trades

Yours Sincerely
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