

**HEADLINE:** More cash and cheap petrol stir the holiday spirit

**AUTHOR:** Lisa Allen

While the economic downturn has deterred consumers from booking holidays over Christmas this year, resort operators and airlines have had a surge in late bookings due to a fall in petrol prices and mortgage rate cuts. Noosa Nautilus Resort manager Denise Platt said the resort was receiving many last-minute inquiries. According to Jetstar there has also been an increase in late bookings to Bali. Wotif managing director Robbie Cook said the website had received strong traffic and sales and Takeabreak.com.au spokeswoman Jill Collins said booking were up 33 percent on last year. Tourism and Transport Forum executive director Olivia Wirth said however the outlook for Queensland in the new year looked difficult.

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**MENTIONS:** Noosa Nautilus Resort, Jetstar, Wotif, Takeabreak.com.au, Tourism and Transport Forum