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**WITH AN UPGRADED LIST OF FIRST-CLASS BILLERS  
BPAY® SIMPLIFIES HOLIDAY PLANNING**

**The Most Comprehensive Electronic Payment Service  
Extends Beyond Basic Utilities with 14,000 Billers**

Planning a holiday just became easier with the BPAY payment option being offered by more and more travel companies.

Operators such as Qantas.com, Flight Centre and Travelex are among the travel providers giving their customers a choice in the payment of their products and services by offering consumers the BPAY option.

According to BPAY General Manager Andrew Arnott, regular Internet banking users - more than five million Australians – are demanding a choice when it comes to bill paying, and companies are now responding.

Travel-related costs, such as flights, traveller's cheques, phone cards, foreign currency exchange and travel insurance can now be paid via BPAY, which combines the ease of Internet and phone banking with the security of a financial institution's banking system.

And while away, vacationers can top-up their pre-paid travel and money cards, like the Travelex Cash Passport or access foreign exchange services such as American Express' FX4You, by using funds from their Australian bank accounts via BPAY.

"Consumers quickly embraced the travel industry's shift to e-commerce options such as paperless tickets," said Arnott. "And with more and more consumers using the Internet as a travel planning tool, the BPAY payment choice makes holiday planning simply more efficient."

Consumers use BPAY because it is the hassle-free, time-saving option to pay bills any time of the day or night, on any day of the year, from anywhere in the world, through the security of their financial institutions' Internet or phone banking system.

Travellers on extended trips can log onto BPAY via the Internet to manage their finances back home and ensure that the household bills are paid.

For added convenience, consumers can choose from which of their accounts to make the payment (cheque, savings and for some bills credit card) that can be done immediately or scheduled for a later date, so they can have a relaxing holiday knowing that their bills were organised before departure.

To find out if a specific company offers the convenience of BPAY, consumers can visit [www.bpay.com.au](http://www.bpay.com.au) and check the biller database. Alternatively, consumers can check the paper copy of their bill or invoice, which will display the BPAY logo and biller code.

## **BPAY FAST FACTS**

- BPAY was set up in 1997 to provide consumers with a convenient and secure way to pay their bills and to create a more efficient collection service for billers and financial institutions.
- BPAY continues to grow in popularity with more than 171 million payments worth over \$10 billion processed last year - more payments than any other bill payment service.
- More than 14,000 biller codes covering companies, utilities and government departments now accept payment via BPAY, including Australia's top billers.
- Everyday around Australia, 650,000 BPAY payments are made, with 75 per cent of these paid over the internet.
- 100 per cent of Australian financial institutions that offer phone and Internet banking offer BPAY – which means more than 163 Australian financial institutions, ranging from banks to credit unions, covering about 90 per cent of the consumer banking market, belong to the scheme.
- Via the new BPAY View service over 350,000 Australians are now receiving their bills online through their internet banking site.

**-end-**

**BPAY Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cardlink Services Limited (CSL) which is owned by the four major banks, St George and BankWest. The Directors of BPAY Pty Ltd are appointed by these banks to supervise BPAY affairs. BPAY Pty Limited has no direct relationship with billers or end consumers.**

For more information, visuals or an interview, please call:

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