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Qantas reductions to air services are extremely disappointing

Tourism Minister Malarndirri McCarthy today expressed disappointment with the Qantas Groups’ announcement to reduce air services into the Northern Territory and said it is not good enough for Territorians.

“This a commercial decision of Qantas and Jetstar but it sends worrying signals to our regional tourism industry in a market that is already challenged,” said Minister McCarthy.

“I am seeking urgent talks with Qantas on their decision.

“The Territory Government works extremely hard to improve air services and to give Territorians increase travel options and any reduction to existing services is extremely disappointing.

“Central Australia is a vital part of tourism industry and Uluru is one of our national icons that we sell to the rest of world – especially through the Oprah experience in 2010.

“We also know that Indigenous culture is high on the list of experiences for visitors, and this decision is not good for our regional tourism industry.

“I am also concerned about Jetstar withdrawing one of its A320 aircraft and crew at a time when the Territory Government is working hard to grow our aviation industry.

“Despite these reductions the Government will continue to negotiate with Qantas and Jetstar to improve services for Territorians.”

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