Minister for Business David Tollner said today that the growth in air services to the Territory was a great boost for the economy.

“There are a number of new airline services coming into play which is good for business, good for tourism and good for supporting major projects coming on line in the Top End,” Mr Tollner said.

This Sunday, Philippine Airlines will commence its new daily service between Manila and Darwin and next week, Jetstar will start flying to Yulara from Sydney.

Airnorth, a Territory owned business that provides vital links to remote and regional NT, has added a fourth weekly service between Darwin and Townsville, and AirAsia will resume flights from Bali four times a week from 1 July.

“The importance of being able to offer connections by air to and from the Territory should not be underestimated,” Mr Tollner said.

“It’s vital for pursuing the vision of Darwin as an aviation hub and one of the reasons for the $60 million Darwin Airport expansion which began this month and includes new and expanded departure lounges.

“Wider economic benefits will also flow to Territory businesses supplying fuel, food, ground services and the other requirements needed to support the new and expanding flights.

“All of this is fantastic for business confidence and supports our major projects by providing greater accessibility across borders.

“These extra services also provide Territorians with greater travel opportunities and interstate travellers can enjoy a stopover in Darwin to explore the surrounds and connect to Asia.

“We will continue to explore further air services for the benefit of all Territorians.”

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