Minister for Tourism and Major Events Matt Conlan has welcomed the inaugural Jetstar flight from Sydney to Yulara today.

A colourful welcome and traditional Indigenous ceremony greeted the plane on the tarmac.

“The arrival of Jetstar will open up Uluru and make it more accessible to more travellers from Australia and around the world,” Mr Conlan said.

“The affordable airfares Jetstar offers will be attractive to holiday makers, families and international backpackers who want to tick this world heritage site off their bucket list.

“With the flying time between two of Australia’s greatest icons – the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Uluru – also being just three and a half hours, jumping on a Jetstar flight should be irresistible for many travellers.

“We now have a real mix of airlines flying to the Centre which together cater to various travellers and will help increase visitation to both Uluru and Alice Springs.

“The Northern Territory Government is investing in tourism and growing the sector in our regions to benefit local business and create more jobs.”

Minister for Business David Tollner said the arrival of the airline would bring in 1,400 affordable seats to the Red Centre each week and help with economic development in the region.

“The world renowned Voyages Ayers Rock Resort in the heart of the Territory provides an excellent base for visitors to Uluru from Australia and overseas as well as employment opportunities for locals,” Mr Tollner said.

“The number of Indigenous employees at the Resort has grown from 2 to 135 at the end of April this year, which represents 15 per cent of the total Indigenous workforce at the Resort. The arrival of low cost carrier Jetstar will bring more tourists to the Resort which will mean even more local jobs.”

Tourism NT is investing $100,000 in cooperative marketing activity with Jetstar to promote a two day $129 one way sale fare to Uluru on 4 and 5 June. It is also accompanying national travel media to familiarise them with the area, showcasing the range of activities available in and around the park.

Jetstar Airways will operate between Ayers Rock and Sydney four times a week – flying every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

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