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TIGER TERRIFIC NEWS FOR THE TERRITORY

Chief Minister and Tourism Minister Clare Martin said today’s announcement that low-cost carrier Tiger Airways was about to begin regular Singapore-Darwin services would be a major boost for Territory tourism.

Ms Martin said the news that Tiger planned four return services a week between Singapore and Darwin from December 19 was “terrific news” for the Territory.

“Increasing international air services into the Territory is a key Government priority.

“Extra air services between Darwin and a major international hub like Singapore creates huge opportunities for the Territory,” Ms Martin said.

“Today’s announcement means an extra 720 seats a week, or 37 000 seats a year, between Singapore and Darwin.

“This represents an increase of almost 40 per cent in weekly international seat capacity into Darwin and is the highest international seat capacity into Darwin since April 2001.

“There is no doubt an increase in seat capacity of this magnitude between Darwin and a major hub like Singapore will produce positive results for Territory tourism.”

At a press conference with Tiger Airways CEO, Tony Davis, Ms Martin announced that Tiger Airways and the Territory had agreed to a three-year joint marketing plan to promote the new service. The Territory has committed $350 000 a year over the three years to promote the new service.

“Tiger’s announcement means easier access for international visitors wanting to experience the Territory. It also gives Territorians a chance to take advantage of genuine low-cost fares to a range of exciting Asian locations,” Ms Martin said.

Mr Davis said Tiger Airways will provide the “boast factor” to people in countries such as Vietnam to say "I have been to Australia" when they travel to Darwin through Singapore.

“This is another significant step along the way to improving international airline access into the Territory. The bottom line is it means more visitors into the Territory and more travel options for Territorians,” Ms Martin said.

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