EXTRA QANTAS FLIGHTS FOR NT

18 January 2014

Qantas is continuing to show its confidence in the Territory with an increase in their domestic services to Darwin.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said this was great for the Top End and it showcases the rapid growth of Darwin and Northern Australia as a major tourism and business destination.

“Recent months have seen a significant increase in air capacity to the NT and with the five new airlines flying to the Territory in the past 18 months, Darwin is being recognised as a growing aviation hub,” Mr Giles said.

The additional Qantas flights represent an estimated 15 per cent increase in its existing frequency and a 10 per cent increase in its existing seat capacity to the Top End.

“The timings of the additional flights are anticipated to serve both the Darwin and inbound tourism markets and will further improve access between Darwin and the southern capital cities,” Mr Giles said.

NT Airports Chief Executive Ian Kew welcomed the faith Qantas was demonstrating in the growing capacity to the Darwin market.

“The additional capacity is timely and in line with the extra flights Darwin Airport will be providing through the terminal expansion program,” Mr Kew said.

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government worked very closely with NT Airports to improve aviation access and would continue to work closely with airline partners in an effort to secure sustainable growth in aviation capacity for the Territory.

“Recent months have seen a significant increase in air capacity to Darwin and confidence in the NT’s aviation industry is continuing to grow.”

The additional flights include:

- Darwin to Brisbane – an additional four flights per week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) with the increase taking full effect from 10 March 2014.
- Darwin to Melbourne – an additional three flights per week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) making this a daily service from March 2014.
- Darwin to Perth – from 7 March 2014, an additional two flights per week (Wednesday/Friday from Darwin, Tuesday/Thursday from Perth).
- Darwin to Sydney – one additional flight every Tuesday from 30 March 2014 taking it up to 14 flights per week in the peak period.

Media Contact: Bruce Cutler 0457 509 133