

Michael Gunner

Chief Minister of the Northern Territory



Media Release

## Alice Springs Flying High on Qantas Academy Shortlist

22 June 2018

Chief Minister Michael Gunner today congratulated Alice Springs on being shortlisted for the new Qantas Pilot Academy.

The Chief Minister said jobs are the number one priority of the Territory Labor Government, and the new Pilot Academy has the potential to create immediate jobs in the Centre, and support more jobs ongoing.

"This is a fantastic effort, with Alice Springs one of nine regional cities shortlisted out of a pool of more than 60 cities and towns.

"The Northern Territory is part of Qantas' past and it will be a big part of Qantas' future.

"There simply IS no Qantas without the NT and we know Central Australia demonstrates all of the criteria necessary to host the Academy, including access to uncongested airspace, a certain number of clear weather days per year and infrastructure to support and accommodate up to 100 students in the first year of operation.

"The Territory Labor Government has been actively lobbying and we will continue to work closely with Qantas, to host the management team when they visit Alice Springs in coming weeks.

"An Academy such as the Qantas Pilot Academy would be an incredible boost to the local economy, and would create employment pathways for locals as well.

"Qantas has indicated a second academy could also be established, following strong demand from aspiring pilots.

"In May this year, Qantas' newest Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner made its inaugural trip from Seattle to Alice Springs, bearing the iconic Indigenous livery of the late Northern Territory artist and senior Anmatyerre woman, Emily Kame Kngwarreye from Utopia.

"We know there is a strong connection between Qantas, the Spirit of Australia, and Alice Springs, the heart of Australia, and we will do whatever we can to make this Academy a reality in the Centre of Australia."

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