

Wednesday 23 January 2008

DARWIN AIRPORT HUB WELCOMES JETSTAR'S EXPANSION PLANS

In Singapore today attending the 5th Annual Asia Pacific Low Cost Airline Congress, Northern Territory Airports' CEO Ian Kew and Jetstar Airways CEO Alan Joyce jointly announced the commencement of a new Melbourne-Singapore via Darwin service, marking the first step towards Jetstar developing Darwin as its northern Australian hub.

The new services will commence 17th April 2008 and provide international and interstate visitors as well as Top End residents, with an even greater choice of travel options. The features of the new services include:

- Morning departures from Darwin to Melbourne, the first time any airline has offered daylight services on the Darwin-Melbourne sector;
- Midday departures from Melbourne to Darwin, arriving Darwin mid-afternoon. These services will compliment Jetstar's evening departure between Melbourne and Darwin;
- Afternoon departures from Darwin to Singapore, offering onward connections onto the Qantas and oneworld network; and
- Additional capacity on the Singapore-Darwin sector, providing much needed capacity for Jetstar to grow international arrivals to Darwin from Europe and Asia.

The new services will be operated with A320 aircraft, providing over 250,000 new seats per year between Darwin and Melbourne, and Darwin and Singapore. Jetstar will also continue to operate its existing daily A320 service on the Cairns-Darwin-Singapore sector.

Mr Kew said, "We have been working with Jetstar to determine their airport requirements and I am pleased that we have taken the first step towards building Darwin as Jetstar's northern Australia narrowbody hub. We will continue to work closely with them, with the aim of having based aircraft at Darwin in the future."

Jetstar Airways CEO Alan Joyce added, "Our latest international service could also provide the catalyst for a growing hub from northern Australia's air gateway in Darwin."

Jetstar's new Melbourne-Darwin-Singapore services will compliment existing evening services from Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide, as well as the existing Cairns-Darwin-Singapore services. The new services will also create exciting stopover options for travellers from Singapore and Melbourne. For the first time, Darwin will have the opportunity to tap into markets which have otherwise overflowed the Top End. "Darwin International Airport will work closely with the Northern Territory Government and the tourism industry to ensure that we have the right product offering for travellers to stopover and sample a taste of the Top End and to entice them to come back a second time for an extended stay", said Mr Kew.

Today's announcement follows record passenger numbers at Darwin International Airport for the month of December 2007. Mr Kew said, "The high growth in December was largely due to the additional flying on the Melbourne-Darwin sector by Tiger Airways and Jetstar. Passengers on this sector grew 175% on capacity growth of 179%. This demonstrates pent up demand on a sector that was historically under-served". From April 2008 there will be a total of 24 services per week on the Melbourne-Darwin sector, compared to 10 per week during the same period in 2007.

Ian Kew
Chief Executive, Northern Territory Airports

Media enquiries:

Ian Kew Chief Executive Officer
Jim Parashos Aviation Development Director

08 8920 1808

Summary of Jetstar operations at Darwin Airport (from 17 April 2008)

Sector	Weekly Frequency	Aircraft/Seats
Melbourne-Darwin-Melbourne	Daily	A320/177
Brisbane-Darwin-Brisbane	6 per week	A320/177
Adelaide-Darwin-Adelaide	5 per week	A320/177
Cairns-Darwin-Singapore v.v.	Daily	A320/177
<i>(NEW) Melbourne-Darwin-Singapore v.v.</i>	<i>Daily</i>	<i>A320/177</i>