



MEDIA RELEASE

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New flights to boost capital expenditure in the city

Movers and shakers from the nation's capital will have no excuse not to touch down in North Queensland with the announcement that Virgin Blue will begin daily flights between Townsville and Canberra. The flight was announced along with three other new flights within Queensland.

The new services will travel between Townsville and Cairns, the Gold Coast, Rockhampton, and Canberra. The flights will take off in April.

The airline has confirmed this is the first time an announcement of such magnitude has ever been made.

Townsville Enterprise Chief Executive Officer Glenys Schuntner welcomed the news as a great win for the region.

"The decision from Virgin Blue to redeploy some of their Embraer fleet into routes such as Townsville shows confidence in our business and leisure tourism travel into the city as well as our regional outbound market."

"It's great to have backing from a global company like Virgin for our region. This shows confidence in Townsville and that they expect the region's growth to continue."

"These additional flights will assist in tourism to North Queensland and give us more pull when it comes to hosting business events in the region."

"More services between the regional Queensland centres of Rockhampton, Gold Coast, and Cairns will give businesses greater opportunities to forge links with these cities – and will be great for people in those centres wanting to get into town for our wide range of events like the V8s, Troy Dunn International Extreme Bullride, Cowboys games, and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music."

“Daily flights to Canberra will be a great assistance to the city as we strive to build links with the Federal Government – not to mention a benefit for tourism from the nation’s capital.”

“We’re over the moon with this decision that will enhance our ability to promote Townsville and North Queensland as a great place to visit for a holiday or business event, invest, or live.”

Virgin Blue will begin the new service from the 6th April.

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