

1 February 2010

FIRST DIRECT FLIGHT CANBERRA TO DARWIN TAKES OFF TODAY

Qantas' first non-stop Canberra to Darwin flight took off today at 9:30am (Canberra time).

State-of-the-art, 168-seat Boeing 737-800s will operate the day-time services every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, returning to Canberra from Darwin at 6:50pm.

In welcoming the new flights, Matthew Brown, Manager Aviation for Canberra Airport said that:

"These new flights to Darwin mean that every State and Territory Capital is now linked by direct jet services to the National Capital."

"Overall, close to 900 direct airline services operate to and from Canberra Airport every week providing convenient flight schedules to travellers and connecting Canberra with 11 metropolitan and major regional centres around Australia", Mr Brown said.

The new direct services are expected to be popular with government and business passengers as well as holidaymakers.

"Significant numbers of people already travel between Canberra and Darwin for business and pleasure. This new flight means they will be able to travel between the two cities non-stop, without having to change planes in Sydney, Brisbane or Adelaide", Mr Brown said.

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