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**NEW DIRECT FLIGHTS TO DARWIN - EVERY STATE AND TERRITORY CAPITAL COVERED**

Canberra Airport is delighted by the news that Qantas will commence non-stop direct return services from Canberra to Darwin from February 2010.

Mr Matthew Brown, Manager Aviation for Canberra Airport stated that:

“With these new flights to Darwin every State and Territory Capital is now linked by direct jet services to the National Capital.”

Using state of the art 164-seat B737-800 aircraft, these new direct services are expected to be well patronised by 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.

“We expect that this direct service will also help stimulate business and tourism between Canberra and Darwin, providing a valuable support to the two Territories’ tourism, hospitality and accommodation industries at a time when people need to be encouraged to travel within Australia”, Mr Brown added.

The new Canberra-Darwin flight is a further vote of confidence in Canberra Airport after the recent introduction of daily direct services to Hobart and Townsville.

“The new direct services bring to eleven the number of destinations served direct from Canberra Airport.” Mr Brown said. “Never before has the Nation’s Capital been so well connected with the other cities in Australia.

Services depart Canberra for Darwin at 9.30am on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, returning to Canberra at 6.50pm.

**For more information contact Michelle Knighton 02 6275 2267**