

## **Direct Flights Canberra-Hobart and Canberra-Townsville start from today**

Canberra Airport today (Monday 6 April) welcomes Virgin Blue's first direct flights from Canberra to both Hobart and Townsville.

Both flights are operated every day with one of Virgin Blue's executive-style 78 seat Embraer 170 jets.

"These new direct flights are a vote of confidence in Canberra by Virgin Blue", Airport Managing Director, Stephen Byron said. "Last year we welcomed Virgin Blue's entry into the Canberra-Sydney market with its 8-daily 'Capital Jet' service, and these new flights are a further signal of the outstanding growth Virgin Blue is delivering in Canberra."

The commencement of direct flights to Hobart, expected to be popular with business and leisure travellers, means that as of today, Canberra is now connected by daily flights to every Australian state capital.

The new direct services to Townsville are expected to be welcomed by Defence personnel in both Canberra and Townsville, as well as to Canberra holiday-makers heading to North Queensland.

The new services are also a vote of confidence in Canberra's tourism industry. "The low fares these new flights deliver will encourage more Australians to take annual leave to visit their national capital, at the same time creating jobs in the local economy." Mr Byron said.

The flights to Hobart and Townsville bring to ten the number of destinations served from Canberra on a direct and daily basis, adding to services to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Gold Coast, Newcastle and Albury.

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