

1 November 2021

## **DIA Welcomes Restart of International Travel to London**

Darwin International Airport (DIA) has today welcomed the restart of international travel, with the first non-stop commercial flight operated by Qantas departing for London.

An event to celebrate the flight was held at the DIA terminal and attended by the Administrator of the Northern Territory Vicki O'Halloran, Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce and Group Chief Operating Officer Stephanie Tully (via link), NT Minister for Tourism Natasha Fyles and Airport Development Group (ADG) Acting CEO Tom Ganley.

The non-stop flight is expected to land in London just 17 hours and 20 minutes after take-off. Qantas has confirmed the Darwin to London route will operate 5 times a week until April 2022.

ADG Acting CEO Tom Ganley said "the reopening of this route is significant for both Darwin and Qantas, with our shared history dating back to 1935, when the first Darwin to London took off."

"As our country emerges from the restrictions of covid and international travel reopens, we are strengthening our ties further with the relaunch of this iconic route."

"Qantas has confirmed the Darwin to London route will be in place until April 2022 and we will be working closely with them and the NT Government to support the route."

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce said "today has been a long time coming for our passengers and our people and we are really excited to be back in the air."

"We are especially grateful to the Northern Territory Government and the team at Darwin International Airport for making our flagship Australia-to-London route possible."

"We hope to repay that support by bringing international tourists to the NT for a stopover when the time is right."

Quotes from NT Minister for Tourism and Hospitality Natasha Fyles:

"From Nightcliff to Notting Hill, this historic flight deal opens endless opportunities to Territorians."

"The Territory has been a national leader in safely repatriating Australians throughout the pandemic and due to the gold standard of the Centre for National Resilience, this exciting proposal has become a reality."

"Our number one focus will always be keeping Territorians safe, but we must plan for a time when overseas travel resumes so we can continue to lead the way as the Comeback Capital."

**About Airport Development Group (ADG)**

ADG is a Darwin-based private company established more than two decades ago. ADG own diverse assets across the Territory, including Darwin International, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek airports, the Novotel Airport Hotel and Mercure Airport Resorts, utilities and a significant property portfolio.

ADG is 100 per cent Australian investor owned by IFM Investors (77.4%) and Palisade Investment Partners Limited (22.6%), which contribute to the retirement funds of approximately 70,000 Territorians.

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