



**Gold Coast Airport**



**\*\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\*\***

Tuesday 20 May 2008

**GOLD COAST WELCOMES DAILY JAPAN SERVICE**

JETSTAR will be the latest low cost international carrier to fly into Gold Coast Airport following the official announcement of the Gold Coast - Japan service today.

From 1 October 2008 Jetstar will change it's current daily Sydney-Osaka-Brisbane service to operate via the Gold Coast in lieu of Brisbane.

The change in services will allow for access from both the Gold Coast and Sydney, with the carrier introducing an Osaka-Gold Coast\* daily service in addition to a five times weekly A330-200 tag service from Sydney. (\*flights subject to regulatory approval)

The announcement confirms the Gold Coast's continued advancement as a leading destination on both a domestic and international level, cemented by the strong support from the trade industry in both Australia and Japan.

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer, Paul Donovan said the announcement was extremely exciting and is symbolic of the future of tourism on the Gold Coast.

“This announcement is a logical step forward for the region in light of recent figures showing the vast majority of inbound Japanese passengers choose to end their journey on the Gold Coast.

“The commitment from Jetstar is a real boost for the region and signifies their belief that the future of international tourism on the Gold Coast is looking brighter than ever.

“The collaborative marketing efforts of our team, Gold Coast Tourism and the industry as a whole have contributed to a successful result in this instance.

“This additional service follows hot on the heels of Gold Coast City Council last week renewing their faith in the future of tourism on the Gold Coast and their support is crucial,” Mr Donovan said.

“We are thrilled we will soon be welcoming the Osaka service into the Gold Coast - it will not only provide additional low-cost services for international travelers, but also give locals yet another option for international travel.

**MORE**

“The terminal expansion currently underway, which will include international facilities targeted directly to the low-cost carriers for fast turnarounds, was an alluring prospect for Jetstar but ultimately it was the lure of the Gold Coast as a whole that finally clinched the deal,” Mr Donovan said.

Gold Coast Tourism spokesperson Ben Pole said the announcement would be a boost for the region’s tourism industry.

“Access is key for the tourism industry, we can create the desire for the destination but it is essential to have access such as this to convert interest into visitation, that has been achieved here,” he said.

“This is sure to assist our visitation from Japan which currently stands at 150,000 visitors and \$122.6 million in visitor spend, a market that has traditionally been one of our largest sources of international tourists but has suffered a decline in recent years, direct daily Jetstar flights will be a significant boost.”

“Following on from the renewed commitment of Gold Coast City Council to support the Five Year Plan for Tourism, commitments such as this from major players like Jetstar and Gold Coast Airport really strengthen the future of the Gold Coast’s most significant industry, tourism.”

Gold Coast Airport Pty Limited is a Queensland Airports Limited company.

**ENDS**

For more information please contact:

Melissa Pearce

Communications Coordinator

Queensland Airports Ltd

Ph: 07 5589 1107

Mb: 0437 331 557

Ben Pole

Public Relations

Gold Coast Tourism

Ph: 07 5584 6220

Mb: 0437 343 104

