



Gold Coast Airport

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 6am Thursday 2nd October 2008

FIRST DAILY JAPAN/GOLD COAST FLIGHTS PUT SPRING IN THE STEP OF TOURISM OFFICIALS

A perfect spring day welcomed the first daily Jetstar international flight direct from Osaka, Japan when it landed at Gold Coast Airport this morning symbolising a brighter future for inbound tourism on the Gold Coast.

Commencing today, Jetstar will operate a daily service Sydney -Osaka - Gold Coast - marking a change from its previous service that operated via Brisbane.

Greeted by Jetstar, Gold Coast Airport and an array of tourism executives the flight reinforced the Gold Coast's increasing popularity as a leading destination for both domestic and international low cost carriers - a sentiment supported by trade and industry personnel in Australia and Japan.

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer, Paul Donovan said the landing was extremely exciting and significantly boosted the local tourism industry's confidence in international tourism to the region.

"The majority of inbound Japanese passengers choose to end their stay in Australia with a stay on the Gold Coast so it really is a logical move for Jetstar to fly in here.

"A collaborative marketing effort from our team, Gold Coast Tourism and Tourism Queensland has contributed to this positive end result and I know I speak on behalf of them in expressing our appreciation to Jetstar for signifying a commitment to this region," Mr Donovan said.

"The addition of the Osaka service into the Gold Coast will give locals yet more options for international travel without the hassle of travelling to Brisbane - the list of outbound destinations is fast increasing which is good news for Gold Coasters," he said.

The daily flights from Japan are expected to significantly curb the recent decline in numbers from Japan - a market that currently contributes approximately \$122.6million in visitor spend.

Jetstar Group General Manager Customer Services and Airports, Mark Dal Pra said the fact that Gold Coast Airport was setting the benchmark as far as low cost airports was concerned and the future terminal expansion plans certainly played a part in their decision to move the service to the Gold Coast.

“This airport is leading the way and their work thus far in attracting international carriers coupled with continual increases in passenger movements augurs well for a bright future for the region,” Mr Dal Pra said.

Tourism Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Hayes said the Jetstar flights into the Gold Coast were indicative of their faith in the tourism industry and the potential for growth in the region.

“The runway extension and the impending completion of the Gold Coast Airport terminal redevelopment is literally bringing the world to the Gold Coast and with it we can expect an influx of tourists,” he said.

“It is an exciting time for the Gold Coast and I have no doubt with the commitment of Jetstar and continued marketing efforts of our tourism partners this region will flourish,” Mr Hayes said.

A \$100 million Gold Coast Airport terminal redevelopment commenced in August and is currently on schedule for completion by March 2010.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.goldcoastairport.com.au>

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

ENDS

Media enquiries:

Elissa Keenan

General Manager Corporate Affairs

Ph: 07 5589 1196

Mb: 0448 866 049

Melissa Pearce

Communications Coordinator

Ph: 07 5589 1107

Mb: 0437 331 557