



## Gold Coast Airport

### FLIGHT FROM JAPAN FOR MARATHON TO INITIATE GOLD COAST AIRPORT RUNWAY EXTENSION

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The Gold Coast Airport runway extension will welcome its first international flight in June when a JTB organised group of 220 Japanese runners arrive to compete in the Gold Coast Airport Marathon.

The regular Qantas flight to Melbourne will be diverted to the Gold Coast specifically for the marathon.

This is the first flight to arrive on the Gold Coast non-stop from Tokyo.

Gold Coast Airport Managing Director, Dennis Chant said the first flight to utilise the extended runway was exciting and the fact that it is an international operation attracted by the popularity of the Gold Coast Airport Marathon was a fitting initiation for things to come.

"The Gold Coast Airport team have worked long and hard to attract direct international flights to this region and Japan is one of our key target markets.

"We trust this flight will be the catalyst for many more and we will continue working with Queensland Events Gold Coast, Gold Coast Tourism and other stakeholders to increase Japanese and other visitors to the Gold Coast," Mr Chant said.

Gold Coast Airport Marathon Chairman, Kerry Watson said Queensland Events Gold Coast has been working closely with Gold Coast Airport to maximise the benefits of having the extended runway at Gold Coast Airport for major event visitation.

"We are extremely pleased that, this year, the Gold Coast Airport is able to facilitate direct flights from Tokyo in time for the 1 July, Gold Coast Airport Marathon.

"This will be a major asset for major events on the Gold Coast into the future with increased direct international services from a variety of markets," Mr Watson said.

The Gold Coast Airport runway was extended from 2,042 metres to 2,500 metres enabling direct routes from Japan and other possible destinations including China, the Middle East, India, Singapore, Taiwan and Korea and as new technology aircraft become available, the US West Coast.

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