

## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 5 June 2008

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### **TTNQ REACTS TO QANTAS AND JETSTAR CANCELLATIONS**

TTNQ received word from the Qantas Group earlier today that Jetstar will cancel its Cairns-Osaka-Nagoya service in December 08 and will replace Qantas on one of the double daily services from Tokyo (Narita) to Cairns. The second Qantas service will also be cancelled.

This represents a loss of some 60 percent of our direct air access from Japan, and all of our service from Western Japan.

Rob Giason, TTNQ CEO says this is an incredible blow to the hundreds of businesses and thousands of jobs that are dependent on securing Japanese visitors to Tropical North Queensland.

"I am simply gutted by the news. We were not consulted but were told about these changes at 3:30pm today.

"It puts into jeopardy many Tropical North Queensland businesses which are facing the potential loss of 100,000 Japanese passengers annually who spend some \$125 million in the region," continued Giason.

"As gutted as I am by the news that flights between Cairns and Japan are being eliminated, I am at a loss to understand why at the same time Jetstar also announced new services from the Gold Coast to Japan. Canceling flights because of the high cost of fuel has an understandable rationale to it, but robbing Australia's Number One performing market in Japan to introduce a new service sector is indefensible.

"We have directly expressed our dissatisfaction to the Qantas Group representatives, but we now have a fight to preserve as much of our Japanese business as possible.

"We are immediately investigating alternative access options from Western Japan in particular, and Harry Nihori, our Director for Japan



and Emerging Markets, will travel to Tokyo Saturday to discuss other options with key wholesalers, airlines and other stakeholders.

TTNQ continues its commitment to the region and is also in discussions with Tourism Minister Desley Boyle, Tourism Queensland and other key stakeholders.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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