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Anger at Jetstar hold-ups



MORE than two weeks after Qantas decided to drop its Cairns to Tokyo flights, replacement Jetstar services still cannot be booked online.

Qantas announced earlier this month it would slash 14 weekly Cairns-Tokyo flights, replacing them with daily services from budget carrier Jetstar from December.

But yesterday, Tokyo was not even a listed destination on Jetstar's website, nor were new direct flights advertised with Qantas.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief executive Rob Giason said delays could damage advance bookings.

"We are very disappointed ... and urge Jetstar to fix this immediately," he said.

Jetstar spokesman Simon

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Westaway said travellers would be able to book online within days and next week, there would be a commercial sale on the Cairns-Narita (Tokyo) route.

"Next week we will be able to actively market the Cairns-Narita service, subject to final regulatory processes," he said.

Advertising had been delayed while new flights were organised for Qantas passengers.

Tourism industry leader Charles Woodward said the changeover should have been better handled.

Jetstar is also negotiating a "code sharing" deal to allow passengers to book Jetstar flights through Japanese Airlines.