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VIRGIN AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES DAILY SYDNEY SERVICES

- **Virgin Australia lounge in Darwin**
- **Partnership with Singapore Airlines and SilkAir**
- **Frequent flyer program co-operation**

Darwin International Airport has welcomed Virgin Australia's announcement that it will commence a daily Sydney-Darwin service from April 2012. The new services are in addition to Virgin Australia's current Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth services, all of which will offer a new Business and a new Economy class fit out from January 2012.

Today's announcement also includes a number of additional initiatives which will see Virgin Australia expand its presence in the Northern Territory, including the launch of SilkAir's full service offering between Singapore and Darwin, reciprocal arrangements on frequent flyer benefits and the opening of a Virgin Australia lounge in the to be expanded Darwin Airport terminal.

These long term investments by Virgin Australia in the airport follow the recent approval of its alliance with Singapore Airlines, and complements today's announcement that Singapore Airlines' full service subsidiary Silk Air will commence Singapore-Darwin services in early 2012. Virgin Australia has forged a strong global airline alliance with partners Air New Zealand, Delta Airlines, Etihad Airways and now Singapore Airlines, providing improved access to key inbound markets from Europe, Asia, North America and New Zealand.

The launch of new daylight operations to Darwin highlights the strengths of the local economy and tourism sectors.

"Virgin Australia's focus on the government and business sectors is a good fit for Darwin's growing economy, and will have significant flow on benefits to the Northern Territory's tourism sector. We have enjoyed close working relations with Virgin Australia over many years, and we hope that this announcement is just the first of many positive initiatives", said Ian Kew, Northern Territory Airports Chief Executive Officer.

Virgin Australia Group Executive of Alliances, Network and Yield, Merren McArthur said: "Darwin is the gateway to the Northern Territory's popular tourist destinations and is an increasingly important commercial hub. Together with Singapore Airlines we will be able to offer visitors from Singapore, Asia and Europe the opportunity to visit the Northern Territory and then travel onto Sydney and the East Coast of Australia. Our services will also be attractive to business travellers who will have the option of a quality business class service from Sydney to Darwin and onto Singapore and beyond."





MEDIA RELEASE

Virgin Australia's new Sydney services will offer 8 business class and up to 168 economy seats, operated by a Boeing 737-800 aircraft. Virgin Australia's Sydney services will also offer optimal connections to Darwin from key domestic and international markets on Virgin Australia services, as well as alliance partner services from Singapore (SilkAir/Singapore Airlines), Abu Dhabi (Etihad Airways), the USA (Delta Air Lines) and New Zealand (Air New Zealand).

Emma Andrew

Communications & Media | Northern Territory Airports Pty Ltd
T: 0402 088 141 | E: emma.andrew@ntairports.com.au

