



Media Release

26 November 2013

### **Tigerair Australia Announces Review Of North Queensland Services**

- ***Launch of new Sydney – Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) flights on sale today from \$84.95\* each way***
- ***Withdrawal of Sydney – Mackay flights***
- ***Additional Melbourne – Mackay flights***

Tigerair Australia today announces a number of changes to its North Queensland flight schedule which will take effect in early 2014, in response to customer demand.

A new route between **Sydney and Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine)**, the only direct service available, will commence operations from 01 April 2014 with fares on sale from 1 pm today (AEST) from **\$84.95\* each way**. Three weekly return services will deliver Sydneysiders to the Whitsundays' doorstep every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, providing 56,000 additional visitor seats annually through Whitsunday Coast Airport.

At the same time the airline announces some changes to its Mackay schedule. Services between **Melbourne and Mackay** have recently benefited from increases over the peak summer travel period and will continue to increase again from April 2014 as part of the new season schedule.

Flights between **Sydney and Mackay** will continue over the peak Christmas, New Year and entire January period and will cease operations from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014.

Tigerair Australia Commercial Director, Carly Brear, says.

"We have witnessed overwhelming demand from budget travellers wanting to gain easy access to Airlie Beach and surrounding areas. Our decision to introduce the new Sydney – Whitsunday Coast route, whilst removing the Sydney – Mackay service, is based on consumer demand. A direct service between Sydney and Whitsunday Coast will be a coup for budget travellers, in particular the all-important backpacker market. We look forward to working with the Whitsundays community to provide a much needed boost to local tourism and we're confident residents will welcome the direct flights to Sydney as well."

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Cr Jennifer Whitney is ecstatic at the news Tigerair will be commencing services between Sydney and Whitsunday Coast Airport in the New Year.

Cr Whitney said that "The new services are just what the region needs. Direct connectivity to Sydney by Tigerair will provide a welcome boost to the region's Tourism industry and broader economy.

"These new services will provide more than 1000 seats per week through Whitsunday Coast Airport providing a conservative economic value to the region by way of inbound passenger spend in excess of \$6M per annum, the multiplier effect throughout the region's economy will lead to further growth and job development across the region.

"The Whitsunday Coast Airport's growth and development is the number one priority for Council as owner operators of the facility and building a new partnership with Tigerair helps to achieve our goals for the region."

On Tigerair's Mackay services, Ms Brear continued: "Mackay continues to be a very important destination for Tigerair. We have increased services between Melbourne and Mackay as a result, where demand for budget travel has been very evident since our launch a year ago. We would like to thank Mackay residents and Rob Porter and his team at Mackay Airport for their ongoing support. On the tourism front, special mention should also go to Tourism Events Queensland for their partnership approach and we will continue to work with them to further stimulate travel to the region," she said.

Additional flights between Melbourne and Mackay have already been added on Saturdays over the peak summer travel period to cater for extra seasonal demand. From April 2014 onwards, Tigerair is adding two new weekly regular return services (every Wednesday and Saturday) as part of its new season schedule which extends from April – October 2014.

Passengers booked on existing Tigerair services between Sydney and Mackay from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 will be re-accommodated on Virgin Australia services at no additional cost. All remaining passengers travelling from 1<sup>st</sup> April will be given the opportunity to move to the new Sydney – Whitsunday Coast service or transfer to Virgin Australia's Sydney – Mackay flights, at no additional cost.

Flights between Sydney and Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) commence from 01 April 2014 with three weekly return services every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the below listed times.

The introductory fare of \$84.95\* is Tigerair's early-bird fare which is secured when booking 50 days or more in advance of travel on selected dates subject to availability. To secure the best value deals with Tigerair, it is always recommended that customers plan ahead and book in advance.

From 01 April – 05 April:

Depart Sydney at 08:15 to arrive at Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) at 09:45.

Depart Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) at 10:15 to arrive in Sydney at 13:25.

From 06 April 2014:

Depart Sydney at 08:15 to arrive at Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) 10:45.

Depart Whitsunday Coast (Proserpine) at 11:15 to arrive in Sydney at 13:25.

*(Flights to Whitsunday Coast are subject to regulatory approval at this time)*

\* 'Raw' domestic fares are the lowest available single price fares from Tiger Airways Australia for one-way travel with hand luggage and are fully inclusive of all taxes and charges. 'Raw' domestic fares must be purchased online using a MasterCard debit card issued by an Australian financial institution. The 'Raw' domestic fare does not incur the AUD8.50 booking fee or AUD9.00 for international credit card purchases (per flight, per sector). Click here for details.

*For further information*

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