

Thursday 3 March, 2016

SYDNEY WELCOMES NEW QATAR AIRWAYS SERVICES

The State's stunning beaches, world-class restaurants, and special events and festivals will be on show to international visitors as the first Qatar Airways daily service from Doha to Sydney arrived last night.

NSW Minister for Trade, Tourism and Major Events Stuart Ayres today welcomed the inaugural Qatar Airways flight to Sydney and the opportunity to showcase New South Wales to customers of one of the world's fastest growing airlines.

"I am delighted to welcome the first Qatar Airways flight to Sydney which will provide a valuable increase in aviation capacity from the Middle East and greater connectivity to Sydney and Regional NSW, particularly for travellers flying from the United Kingdom and Europe via Doha," Mr Ayres said.

"The NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, will be working in close partnership with Qatar Airways to promote travel to Sydney and the surrounding NSW regions from the United Kingdom and Germany.

"In the year ended December 2015, NSW welcomed around 51,000 visitors from the Middle East who stayed more than 2.2 million nights and spent \$192 million in the State.

Our State is Australia's home of international travel and the NSW Government is committed to working with the aviation industry to increase air travel to Sydney via airline partnership agreements."

Destination NSW Chief Executive Officer Sandra Chipchase said securing the new Qatar Airways service was another major achievement for Australia's premier tourism and events State.

"The new services will deliver a strong economic impact for the NSW tourism industry and we look forward to working with Qatar Airways to further highlight the fantastic tourism products, experiences and events in Sydney and Regional NSW."

Sydney Airport Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Kerrie Mather said: "We're thrilled to welcome three-time Skytrax Airline of the Year winner Qatar Airways to Sydney Airport, providing passengers with more choice and a quality product. This new airline and new route will also boost tourism, bringing people from around the world to Sydney and NSW."

The daily flights between Doha and Sydney will operate on a 335 seat Boeing 777-300 adding 245,000 seats to Sydney per year.