

MEDIA RELEASE – Saturday 28 September 2024

QANTAS PLANS A DISGRACE

Qantas plans to slash seven Devonport to Melbourne flights per week by March will hurt tourism and increase costs for local businesses, said DCCI president, Claire Connelly.

DCCI recently learned of Qantas plans to eliminate seven of its twenty seven weekly flights to and from Devonport. The new schedule is shown below, with discontinued flights shown in red:

OUTBOUND DEPARTURE TIME LEAVING DEVONPORT						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
630	630	630	630	630	630	630
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
1330	1330	1330	1330	1330	1330	1330
1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700
INBOUND DEPARTURE TIME LEAVING MELBOURNE						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
830	830	830	830	830	830	830
1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200
1530	1530	1530	1530	1530	1530	1530
2030	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030	2030

“We have so many concerns about this. Elimination of some of the 0630 flights out of Devonport, means that when our members travel for work, they will need to fly the day before, losing precious family time and incurring additional meal and accommodation costs in Melbourne. Similarly, returning Tasmanians and tourists will no longer be able to fly to Devonport late on Mondays or Sundays.” said Mrs Connelly.

“This impacts all north-west Tasmanians, and we’re being hit on several fronts. In addition to the impact on local businesses, this will affect locals travelling to Melbourne for leisure or medical treatment, and a less convenient flight schedule may also deter tourists. That’s without even considering the impact on connections through to other destinations.” Mrs Connelly said.

It is understood that the reduction in flights is associated with the introduction of larger aircraft.

“Unless larger planes delivers cheaper flights, there is no upside to this. We can only assume there will be no price reduction, because Qantas hasn’t spoken to our community about this. It’s very disappointing and Devonport deserves better from the so called ‘national ‘carrier’.” said Mrs Connelly.

Mrs Connelly heard about the change through an industry contact last week and raised her concerns with Devonport Mayor, Cr Allison Jarman and Senators Richard Colbeck, Anne Urquhart and Tammy Tyrell. The DCCI appreciates their advocacy on this issue.

The Chamber has written to Qantas CEO, Vanessa Hudson, seeking an opportunity to discuss the matter.

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