



## MEDIA RELEASE

14 April 2015 - for immediate distribution

### **Airnorth ceases Gold Coast services and expands Mount Isa flights to Darwin, linking McArthur River Mine.**

Airnorth has announced that from 16 April 2015, they will cease operating their Thursday service linking Mount Isa and the Gold Coast.

Michael Bridge, Airnorth's Chief Executive Officer confirmed this decision was not made lightly and has been the result of extensive review by the airline's Commercial team.

"In commencing services back in 2009, we were acutely conscious of the challenges that a single service provided with regards employee's rosters and their work/life balance. We continued to monitor business demand and in 2011 we increased our schedule to offer two weekly services in line with the then forecast growth in business traffic".

"Unfortunately the projected passenger numbers never fully eventuated and in 2013, the decision was made to reduce our schedule back to a single weekly service".

"Our analysis over the last six months has showed steeply declining business demand and weakening revenues, while also confirming that non business traffic is insufficient to support the financial viability of the route going forward. We were therefore left with little alternative other than to cease our Mount Isa – Gold Coast services from 16 April 2015," said Mr Bridge.

Airnorth will continue to monitor the financial viability of the Darwin to Mount Isa (via McArthur River Mine) operation from 23 April 2015 and hope that this service can remain sustainable.

The airline's commercial team are also looking at several initiatives for Mount Isa residents and we anticipate these will be announced over the next few months.

#### **NEW Airnorth schedule from 23 April 2015**

Day of Week	Airnorth Flight Number	Origin	Destination	Departure Time*	Arrival Time*
Every Thursday	TL120	Darwin	McArthur River	0705	0815
	TL120	McArthur River	Mount Isa	0845	1010
	TL121	Mount Isa	McArthur River	1040	1105
	TL121	McArthur River	Darwin	1135	1245

*\*All scheduled times are local*

ends.

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## ***Company background***

Established in 1978 and with its hub based in Darwin, Airnorth is now the premier airline based in Northern Australia and carries in excess of 350,000 passengers annually.

Airnorth is a full service carrier accommodating the needs of both business and leisure travellers, operating state-of-art regional jets through its interstate and international network and providing passengers with complimentary catering and a free baggage allowance.

The airline operates over 200 scheduled Regular Public Transport (RPT) departures weekly, serving 16 destinations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and Timor-Leste including:

<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>International</b>
Darwin	Kununurra	Cairns	Dili, Timor-Leste
Gove [Nhulunbuy]	Broome	Townsville	
Groote Eylandt	Karratha	Mt Isa	
Elcho Island	Port Hedland		
Maningrida	Perth		
McArthur River			
Milingimbi			

Passengers can also earn and redeem Qantas Frequent Flyer points on all Airnorth scheduled services.

Airnorth, through its partnership with Qantas Airways, offer seamless connectivity including through check in and interline baggage facilities, with Qantas code sharing on the majority of Airnorth's Jet services.

In addition to scheduled departures, Airnorth operates contract and ad-hoc charter services for a wide variety of companies undertaking oil & gas, mining, defence and government activity.

