MEDIA RELEASE

16 February - For immediate release

Airnorth takes off for Townsville

Airnorth flights to Townsville commence this Friday with the inaugural flight departing Darwin Airport tomorrow morning and its first load of North Queensland visitors scheduled to arrive in Darwin the same afternoon.

This new route opens up the North Queensland coast for Territory residents with non-stop, twice weekly flights to Townsville every Monday and Friday.

Offering more options for business travellers, Airnorth's new service provides easy and convenient flight connections from Townsville to Mackay and other North Queensland business centres including Rockhampton and Gladstone with shorter travel times than currently available.

"Airnorth is proud to launch our Townsville route today and have been pleased by the level of interest and support received since announcing this new service in November. Forward bookings on our initial services through to Easter are encouraging," said Airnorth's CEO, Simone Saunders.

This new service also offers a wide range of holiday options including quick weekend escapes for Territorians to visit the idyllic paradise of Magnetic Island and Airlie Beach, the gateway to the Whitsunday Islands.

Internet fares are on sale now at www.airnorth.com.au and start from $239*per person one-way, Darwin to Townsville. Bookings can be made by contacting Airnorth's reservations team on 1800 627 474, through your local travel agent or with Qantas who will code share on Airnorth's new service.

Schedule [all in local times]

Monday & Friday – from 17 February 2012				
TL182	Depart Darwin	07:00	Arrive Townsville	10:05
TL183	Depart Townsville	11:05	Arrive Darwin	13:20

* Fare quoted is for online bookings only, subject to availability at time of booking, for one-way travel per person and includes all taxes. Credit card surcharges apply. Fares are correct as at 15/11/11 and are subject to change.

ends.

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Company background – next page

Company background

Headquartered in Darwin, Airnorth is now the major airline based in Northern Australia and carries in excess of 250,000 passengers annually.

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

The airline operates over 185 departures weekly, serving 16 destinations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and Timor-Leste including:

Darwin	Dili, Timor-Leste	Broome	Elcho Island
Gold Coast	Groote Eylandt	Gove [Nhulunbuy]	Karratha
Kununurra	Maningrida	McArthur River	Milingimbi
Mt Isa	Perth	Port Hedland	Townsville

Passengers can earn and redeem Qantas Frequent Flyer points on eligible fares on all Airnorth 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.

Airnorth directly employs more than 200 staff in Darwin and provides indirect employment through the contracting of ground service operations across its destinations.

Airnorth was recently awarded as the **2011 NT Exporter of the Year** as well as receiving the **Large Services Award** at the Northern Territory's Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards that recognise the important contribution that NT businesses make to the local economy through job creation and increased prosperity in the community. As the NT winner Airnorth will now be entered into the Prime Minister's Exporter of the Year Awards in Brisbane in December.