

In Brief - International Aviation News

April 2008

Below is a brief of international news and updates received from Australian and international airlines servicing Queensland.



- Qantas has increased the frequency of its services from Los Angeles to Brisbane (up from five to seven frequencies per week). All services now terminate in Brisbane, with Qantas ceasing its once weekly Los Angeles-Brisbane-Sydney triangulation.
- Qantas is utilising larger aircraft on its twice daily Auckland-Brisbane services, compared with the Northern Winter 2007 scheduling period.



- Commencing April 2008, one Nagoya-Cairns service per week operated by Jetstar International will continue onto Sydney.



- In September 2007, Etihad Airways launched services from Abu Dhabi to Brisbane, operating via Singapore. From November 2007 to April 2008 the service was operated with a Boeing 777-300ER aircraft (supplying 1134 seats per week) and from April 2008 onwards an Airbus A330-200 aircraft will be utilised (786 seats per week).



- Thai Airways is now operating a smaller aircraft (B777-300) on its daily Bangkok-Sydney-Brisbane services (a B747-400 aircraft was utilised over the Northern Winter 2007 scheduling period).



- Emirates is utilising a smaller aircraft on its Dubai-Singapore-Brisbane-Auckland services from April 2008 (a B777-300ER aircraft compared with the B777-300 aircraft utilised between November 2007 and March 2008).



- Singapore Airlines has returned to 17 frequencies per week on the Singapore-Brisbane route (up from 14 flights per week, additional 969 inbound seats), and will operate three times daily from July 2008.



- Effective 31 March 2008, Air New Zealand absorbed subsidiary Freedom Air's flights, with the following changes noted:
 - The addition of nine new city pairs to the Air New Zealand network, including one new Australian port (Gold Coast) and two additional New Zealand ports (Dunedin and Hamilton);
 - An increase in weekly flights from Auckland to Gold Coast (+570 seats per week);
 - An increase in weekly flights from Christchurch to the Gold Coast (+150 seats per week);
 - A smooth rebranding of flights to the Gold Coast from Hamilton and Wellington with some minimal capacity increases;
 - An increase in flights from Dunedin to Brisbane from three to four per week (+160 seats per week);
 - Twice weekly Palmerston North-Brisbane services were not replaced (-300 seats per week).
- Compared with the Northern Winter 2007 scheduling period, Air New Zealand has also added more services between Auckland and Brisbane, Wellington and Brisbane, and Christchurch and Brisbane.
- An additional 300 seats per week from Auckland to Cairns have also been made available by Air New Zealand (compared with the Northern Winter 2007 scheduling period) through the utilisation of larger aircraft.



- Continental Airlines has reduced the frequency of its Guam-Cairns services from four to two flights per week, effective April 2008.



- From April 2008, Airlines of PNG reduced the frequency of its Port Moresby-Brisbane services from five to three per week.



- Air Vanuatu has increased the frequency of its services from Port Vila to Brisbane from two to three per week.



- SkyAirWorld launched services from the Solomon Islands to Brisbane in March 2008. The airline operates from Honiara to Brisbane five times per week using an Embraer aircraft with 70 seats.