

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier



Monday, 27 April, 2015

LABOR GOVERNMENT SECURES FUTURE OF AVALON AIRPORT

The Andrews Labor Government has guaranteed the future of Avalon Airport, signing an agreement with Jetstar that secures operations for the next ten years and expands passenger services.

Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Industry, Lily D'Ambrosio, visited Avalon Airport today to announce that the landmark partnership will save up to 200 jobs and prevent the airport from ceasing passenger services.

The previous Coalition Government's 18 month stop-gap deal was set to wind down at the end of this month, ending passenger services at Avalon.

The Labor Government's agreement marks a new partnership with Jetstar that will secure the future of Avalon and its workers for the next decade, and see the airline increase operations and expand to new routes to grow patronage.

As part of the agreement, over the next 18 months, Jetstar will increase the number of flights from five to seven per day and fly to two new domestic destinations.

This will lay the groundwork for a potential future expansion that will cement Avalon Airport as Victoria's second major passenger airport, including with future international carriers.

Avalon is an important gateway to popular tourist destinations such as the Great Ocean Road and the Bellarine Peninsula.

One-third of all arrivals in to Avalon are tourists and the extra services will see about 700 additional visitors per week arrive in the region, boosting the local tourism industry.

Victoria is the home to world-class events, including the Australian International Airshow held at Avalon Airport.

The show attracts over 150,000 attendees and generates over \$140 million in economic revenue for Victoria and generated \$1.4 billion for the aero defence industry in sales.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue working with Avalon, Jetstar and the Geelong community to enhance industry, tourism and major events in the region.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"We're securing a bigger and brighter future for Avalon and saving up to 200 local jobs."

"This partnership means more flights to more destinations, and will create jobs for Geelong and the region."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Industry, Lily D'Ambrosio

"By increasing services at Avalon we're bringing more visitors to Geelong and Victoria, boosting the local tourism industry."

"Victoria is the major events capital of our nation. The Australia International Airshow attracts 150,000 attendees and generates over \$1.4 billion for the aero defence industry – and now it's here to stay."