

SilkAir plans lift tourism

CHRIS CALCINO

chris.calcino@news.com.au

DAILY flights between Cairns and Singapore will kick off in June next year as SilkAir adds two extra services to the route.

The Singapore Airlines subsidiary's growth is tipped to deliver an extra \$20.6 million to the Queensland economy following campaigning by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Cairns Airport through the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund.

SilkAir chief executive officer Foo Chai Woo said the new flights would open up tourism opportunities from further afield than just Asia.

"The increase in flight frequency to Cairns will provide enhanced connectivity options for travellers, giving them greater choice and flexibility when planning their travel itineraries," he said.

"Through the Singapore hub, travellers from Cairns will be able to connect to other international destinations in the SilkAir and Singapore Airlines network, and we're glad to be able to open up even



GROWTH: SilkAir's Boeing 737 Max 8 welcomed at Cairns Airport.

more exciting opportunities for travellers between Cairns and Singapore."

Tourism Minister Kate Jones said demand for the service had grown significantly since the airline opened the route in 2015.

"These additional flights will attract up to 10,200 visitors over two years, supporting up to 240 jobs," she said.

"Singapore is a major international hub and this daily service will allow us to welcome more visitors not only from Singapore but also from all over Asia as well as Europe, helping us grow Queensland's market share."

Cairns MP Michael Healy said the new flights were proof of the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund's effectiveness.

"This positive announcement will encourage more investment in our region and provide greater access to more of our high-spending European clients," he said.

Cairns Airport chief commercial officer Paul McLean said the increase to daily services would open a wider range of options for visitors.

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