

# Sunshine Coast Airport MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Virgin Blue set to increase Sydney to Sunshine Coast flights**

The Sunshine Coast tourism and business operators received a significant boost today with the news that Virgin Blue has added another eight new flights a week between Sydney and the Sunshine Coast.

Sunshine Coast Regional Council Mayor Bob Abbot said he was delighted that Virgin Blue has increased the number of flights into the Region.

“The announcement is great news for local and Sydney based business operators as it provides them with even more flight options.

“It’s also a great shot in the arm for the local tourism industry giving visitors an opportunity to take advantage of cheaper flights and greater frequency to access our stunning local beaches, hinterland and cultural events,” Mayor Abbot said.

Sunshine Coast Airport General Manager Peter Pallot said the new flights would add much needed capacity onto the Sydney route.

“We are constantly seeking new opportunities to support the regional economy and improve access for both locals and visitors alike and with the introduction of the Virgin Blue Premium Economy product into the market the new flights add both capacity and choice.

Low airfares and robust competition provided by airlines like Virgin Blue continue to stimulate the market for both the business and leisure travellers.

“Today’s announcement of an additional 135,000 seats a year into Sydney is further proof of the Sunshine Coast’s ability to deliver an ongoing and sustainable business model for the airlines.

“It’s certainly an exciting time not just for the Airport but the whole Region as we head towards 1 million passengers this year,” Mr Pallot said.

The new flights will commence from 22 May 2008 arriving at 2.35pm and depart at 3.05pm daily with a further additional flight on Saturday adding to their existing daily Sydney flight. Virgin Blue also flies twice daily to Melbourne.

**End**

**Any further media enquiries on this matter, please contact the Sunshine Coast Airport Manager, Peter Pallot on 07 5453 1501.**