



## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 18 December, 2020

### **Great news for Mt Gambier travellers on important regional travel anniversary**

Adelaide Airport has welcomed today's announcement by QantasLink that it will start a five-weekly service between Adelaide and Mt Gambier, commencing 28 March, 2021.

Today's announcement also coincides with the 15-year anniversary of both QantasLink and Rex flying for the first time out of Adelaide in 2005, signalling a significant expansion of regional services in South Australia.

Adelaide Airport Managing Director, Mark Young, said today's QantasLink announcement would create greater choice for travellers to Mt Gambier, as well as opening up new tourism links to the Limestone Coast region. Rex currently flies daily to Mt Gambier.

"We welcome QantasLink flights to Mt Gambier, which creates greater choice for travellers to SA's second largest city," Mr Young said.

"We're confident the new service will further lift the profile of one of our State's premier destinations. Sitting in the heart of the popular Limestone Coast region, Mt Gambier is a great base for trips to Robe, Penola and the Coonawarra wine region. The city itself has wonderful attractions such as the Blue Lake, Umpherston Sinkhole and the crystal-clear Piccaninnie Ponds."

Mr Young congratulated and thanked both Rex and QantasLink for their ongoing commitment to South Australia's aviation market being the first two airlines to commence in Terminal 1 on 18 December 2005 – some 15 years ago.

"Our regional links are often the unsung heroes with new international services usually gaining all the plaudits, but they provide vital business, tourism and freight links to our cities and towns," he said.

"Many of our exports, for example seafood from Pt Lincoln, benefit from these services to enhance same day connections with international flights so their fresh produce and aquaculture can quickly reach markets across Asia.

"Flying to places like Pt Lincoln and Kangaroo Island is also significantly quicker than driving or catching the ferry, and the flight to Mt Gambier takes just 70 minutes compared with a 4½-hour-plus drive.

"We look forward to working with all our regional airlines to continue to improve air services across the State.

"I also congratulate Rex on securing CASA approval this week to operate Boeing 737s on its existing network, and we hope we may be part of this step change in Rex's operations in the near future."