



## MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday 28 March, 2021

### **Great news for Mt Gambier travellers as Qantas launches new service**

The first Qantas flight between Mt Gambier and Adelaide will land at Adelaide Airport today, marking the start of a new five-weekly service between the two cities. The flight will be operated by the airline's 50-seat Q300 turboprop aircraft, with upgraded cabin interiors, offering 500 extra seats per week.

Adelaide Airport Managing Director, Mark Young, said he welcomed the inaugural Qantas service from South Australia's largest regional city.

"Travellers will have more choice and greater flexibility when flying to our State's second biggest city. Mount Gambier is a vital economic centre and an ideal base for visitors experiencing the picturesque South East and Limestone Coast regions," Mr Young said.

"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.

"Our regional links provide vital business, tourism and freight links to our cities and towns. Many of our exporters benefit from these flights to enhance same-day international connections so their fresh produce and aquaculture can quickly reach markets across Asia."

SA Tourism Commission Chief Executive Rodney Harrex also welcomed the first Qantas flight linking Mount Gambier with Adelaide.

"These additional flights are going to be a great boost for local businesses in the South East, and further drive visitation to the Limestone Coast from Adelaide," Mr Harrex said.

"I congratulate Qantas on further committing to the South Australian market, helping our visitor economy bounce back and supporting the work of the South Australian Tourism Commission. We continue to encourage both intrastate and interstate travel in order to get visitors out spending again and building more confidence in the sector."