

## **VIRGIN AUSTRALIA, BRISBANE AIRPORT AND SKYNRG PLAN TO CREATE AUSTRALIA'S FIRST BIOPORT**

30 April 2013:

Virgin Australia, Brisbane Airport Corporation and the global market maker in sustainable jet fuel, SkyNRG, today announced a feasibility study into the creation of Australia's first "bio-port" at Brisbane Airport.

The three parties have agreed to enter a memorandum of understanding which will see them work together towards the ultimate goal of enabling aircraft to be fuelled with sustainable bio-jet fuel at Brisbane Airport.

The feasibility study will involve researching the locally available feedstocks in Queensland, sustainable and cost-effective methods for transporting them and the most appropriate technology for converting them into biofuel. It is anticipated that the feasibility study will take 12 months to complete.

Virgin Australia Chief Operating Officer Sean Donohue said: "Virgin Australia is committed to developing a local sustainable supply of biofuel for use in our aircraft and we have set ourselves the target of 5% renewable fuel use from 2020.

"South-East Queensland is an ideal base for this project because it is one of our largest hubs and hosts many potential sustainably harvested feedstocks for biofuel, including woody weeds, crop residues and bagasse.

"We are excited to be working with Brisbane Airport Corporation and SkyNRG on this pioneering study which has the potential to support local jobs and Australian innovation and reduce our reliance on fossil fuel", Mr Donohue said.

Roel Hellemons, BAC General Manager Strategic Planning and Development said: "Brisbane Airport aimed to be the greenest of Australian airports and takes an active approach in supporting its partners to help achieve their environmental goals.

"BAC is proud to be a part of this exciting project to promote the development of sustainable bio-jet fuels in Queensland and we look forward to working with Virgin Australia and SkyNRG to facilitate the planning and development of infrastructure to deliver sustainable bio-jet fuel to airlines in a safe and sustainable way," Mr Hellemons said.

Dirk Kronemeijer, Managing Director of SkyNRG said: "We strongly believe in Australia as potentially one of the best places in the world for developing sustainable jet fuels. We are therefore very pleased that our first announced bio-port outside Europe is going to be in Australia. We will do whatever it takes to turn this into a success by developing a local supply chain for sustainable jet fuel that is one day scalable and affordable."

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman welcomed the announcement and supported Virgin Australia's vision of using biofuel for its fleet.

24-hour media enquiries: 1800 142 467

“Today’s announcement is another vote of confidence in Queensland’s aviation and agricultural industries,” Mr Newman said.

“Queensland is a state that supports innovation and we congratulate Virgin Australia on undertaking this research to deliver a greener fuel source for commercial aviation.”

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#### **About Virgin Australia**

Virgin Australia (ASX: VAH) launched in 2000 and has since established itself as a contemporary, full service airline, with a reputation for exceptional customer service.

The airline employs more than 8,000 people in Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Virgin Australia has strategic alliances with four key airline partners: Air New Zealand, Delta Air Lines, Etihad Airways and Singapore Airlines, providing customers with access to over 400 destinations worldwide. Its domestic and international operations are complemented by Virgin Samoa, a joint venture airline with the Government of Samoa.

Virgin Australia operates a modern fleet of over 125 that include Airbus A330, Boeing 777, Boeing 737, Embraer E-Jet, ATR-72 turboprop aircraft, Airbus A320, Fokker 100 and Fokker 50 aircraft that fly to 44 Australian destinations and 17 international destinations including the USA, UAE, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

#### **About Brisbane Airport Corporation**

Brisbane Airport is the third largest airport in Australia on passenger numbers, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is Australia’s largest capital city airport (by land size) and has two major terminals providing services to 27 airlines flying to 43 national and 29 international destinations. In 2011/12FY Brisbane Airport welcomed more than 21 million passengers through its facilities.

Brisbane Airport is consistently recognised as a leading airport nationally and internationally. Some of the accolades have included being recognised as one of the best privatised airports in the world in the IATA Eagle Award in 2005 and the Skytrax Awards in 2009; and the best Australian airport for overall quality of service, standards and facilities for nine consecutive years as ranked in the ACCC Airport Monitoring Report.

#### **About SkyNRG**

SkyNRG develops and sells sustainable jet fuel for the global aviation market based on a unique low cost operating model. Our mission is to help create and accelerate development of a market for sustainable jet fuel. Fuel which is safe, sustainable and affordable.

For our partners we endeavor to deliver the environmentally attractive prospect of a reduced carbon dioxide footprint from fuel usage as well as a reduction in exposure to volatile fossil fuel pricing.

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