



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 21 April 2020

**AIRLINE MONOPOLY WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR STRUGGLING
ACCOMMODATION SECTOR**

Tourism Accommodation Australia has warned the loss of one of our two national airlines would be a disaster for an already struggling hotel accommodation sector – particularly in regional areas.

The CEO of the nation’s top tourism accommodation body, Michael Johnson, said domestic tourism would be the quickest road to recovery post COVID-19 and the two national airlines would be needed.

His comments come as Virgin Australia moves into voluntary administration.

“Initially, as we eventually move out of the COVID-19 crisis, the hotel sector will be heavily reliant on domestic tourism, with international borders expected to be closed for many months,” Mr Johnson said.

“There are very real fears an airline monopoly would take away the competitive edge needed to ensure corporate, conference and leisure guests are well catered for in our key recovery markets.

“Accommodation hotels in regional destinations in particular such as Cairns are heavily reliant on both Virgin and QANTAS and the existing competition between both. The last thing they need is for a national carrier to collapse.

“All accommodation hotels have been hard hit by the impacts of COVID-19 with in excess of 300 closing across Australia in the last few weeks alone.

“We need to do all we can to ensure we don’t take another hit with a loss of a national airline like Virgin.”

Media Contact: Jason Bartlett 0433 95 46 57