



WA's First A320 Arrives in Oz

15 December 2009

Strategic Airlines ("Strategic") is preparing to introduce the first Airbus A320 aircraft into the West Australian market, as the aircraft arrived on Australian soil for the first time last month.

The Airbus A320-200 (VH-YQA) is currently in Melbourne, undergoing final fit-out and application of the Strategic livery, prior to heading west where it will commence services immediately on Strategic's licensed Perth – Derby (Curtin) route.

Chief Executive Officer of Strategic Airlines, Mr David Blake, said that the introduction of this aircraft to the current service will provide greater benefits to the rural community of Derby.

"The A320 presents an upgrade in size and comfort to past services on the Perth – Derby route, as well as a long awaited increase in passenger and cargo capacity. These attributes allow for growth in the mining and tourism sectors, which are critical to Derby's local economy" said Mr Blake.

"Alongside the Perth – Derby route, we see many opportunities for this aircraft to be utilized for commercial and charter purposes in Western Australia. Already, we have received numerous enquiries from mining and tourism companies throughout the country, seeking both regular and ad-hoc charters," he said.

The aircraft will offer 12 business class and 144 economy class seats, featuring a spacious cabin and comfortable seating throughout.

"The Airbus A320 is an undisputed class leader for aircraft of its range and size, when compared to other aircraft in this market. We expect that its ample passenger comfort and cargo capacity will be well received in Western Australia," Mr Blake concluded.

Strategic currently operates an additional two A320s – one based out of Brisbane (under contract with Solomon Airlines) and the other out of Paris, which is dedicated to scheduled and ad-hoc charter for the European market. Strategic also operates an A330 under their Australian AOC, which is predominantly used for transporting Australian troops into the Middle East under contract with the Commonwealth Government.

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