



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications

# Assistance to the Aviation Sector

## Tourism Aviation Network Support (TANS) Program

March 2021

### Purpose

The Tourism Aviation Network Support (TANS) Program will help drive tourism demand for interstate travel, support jobs and have an economic multiplier effect, as travellers spend money on accommodation, food and activities in nominated regions under the Program.

It will also support increased domestic aviation activity, improving airline sustainability and increasing employment opportunities.

### Who

TANS will provide a 50 per cent reduction on over 800,000 economy tickets to and from a range of regions (see below) most reliant on tourism and impacted by COVID-19.

### Where

The TANS program will reduce the cost of flying to the following initial regions:

- Broome
- Avalon
- Kangaroo Island
- Lasseter and Alice Springs
- Merimbula
- Launceston
- Devonport and Burnie
- Gold Coast
- Sunshine Coast
- Tropical North Queensland (Cairns)
- Whitsundays and Mackay (Proserpine and Hamilton Island)
- Adelaide
- Darwin
- Townsville, and
- Hobart

### Design

Travellers will be able to access reduced ticket prices at the time of booking.

Tickets will be available through the usual booking channels including airline websites and travel agents, noting the distribution of tickets amongst these channels will be at the discretion of the airlines and the capability of their booking platforms.

To make it more convenient for travellers relying on routes with minimum connectivity, the Australian Government is also increasing flight frequencies to some of the targeted regions.

## Timing

Discount tickets will be available from 1 April 2021. Tickets will need to be booked by 30 November (unless sold out earlier) for travel by 30 November 2021.

## Contact

For more information, please contact [tans@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:tans@infrastructure.gov.au)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Which airlines are participating?

Airlines expected to participate include:

- Qantas and Jetstar
- Virgin Australia
- Rex
- Airnorth
- Alliance
- Fly Pelican
- Link Airways

Airlines will be able to offer discounted tickets on direct, interstate routes to the targeted regions that the airline served over the last two years, or that the airline had previously announced it would be operating during the program period.

### How were the regions selected?

The regions selected:

- Have been hit by the loss of international tourists;
- Are economically dependent on tourism – for jobs and GDP;
- Are dependent on aviation for tourists; and
- Are particularly reliant on tourism during the period April to September.

In addition, Kangaroo Island's tourism sector was impacted by bushfires prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and Merimbula's tourism sector was impacted by the bushfires and the Victorian border closures.

### Will more regions be added?

There is capacity to add to the list based on further consultation, consumer demand, the capacity of destinations and the success of the program.

#### How many discounted tickets will be made available?

Over 800,000 economy tickets will be available across the travel period until sold out, distributed among the participating airlines and eligible regions. Tickets under the program will be available for economy class fares only.

#### Are discounted tickets available in both directions? Does a return ticket need to be purchased?

Discounted tickets are available in both directions enabling consumers to book flights that are convenient to them, including choosing to fly with different airlines on different journey legs.

#### Will there be enough accommodation?

All the regions are heavily reliant on international and interstate tourism, and have been impacted by COVID-19. While accommodation infrastructure is in place, it is the responsibility of travellers to confirm availability.

#### What happens if borders close? Am I able to get a refund?

Tickets are sold with the airlines' usual terms and conditions. Travellers should carefully consider these conditions and take out travel insurance as appropriate.

#### How do airlines get involved?

Eligible air operators may apply for grant funding under the scheme at any time over the duration of the grant opportunity. Further details including program guidelines are available on the GrantConnect website at <https://www.grants.gov.au/>

#### How can I get my region included?

Regions who wish to be considered for inclusion in the program can email: [tans.regions@austrade.gov.au](mailto:tans.regions@austrade.gov.au)