



# Media release

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**Authorised by: DENNIS WELLINGTON, MAYOR**

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## **Reduction in air services a major blow for Albany**

The City of Albany is deeply disappointed in the State Government's unexpected decision to allow Virgin Australia Regional Airlines to significantly reduce the number of flights on the Albany-Perth route.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the reduction in air services did not make sense at a time when the City of Albany was actively seeking to develop its tourism industry, increase visitor numbers and grow Albany Regional Airport.

Mr Wellington said the 25% reduction in the number of flights left no room for growth, would affect the availability of seats and may lead to the market declining, rather than increasing.

"This is an extremely short sighted approach by Virgin, and it is very disappointing that the Department of Transport has not listened to the City of Albany's position on the matter," he said.

"We were very clear: the City understands air routes need to be commercially viable, but the City would only support a reduction in the number of flights if the overall passenger numbers remained the same, for example by switching some flights to Fokker 100 aircraft."

Mr Wellington said the Department's decision flew in the face of the State Government's recent trend of investing in the growth of Albany's economy and tourism industry.

"The State Government has contributed a lot to Albany, including significant investment in Anzac infrastructure and events, upgrades to our CBD, the recent purchase of the former Esplanade Hotel site, the ongoing push for a hotel on the Albany Waterfront, the upcoming upgrades to the Gap and Natural Bridge – the list goes on and on," he said.

"To provide all this and then turn around and reduce the numbers of passengers that can fly to Albany is absurd and illogical."

**END**

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