



**Hon. George Souris M.P**  
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing  
Minister for the Arts

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Wednesday 23 November, 2011

### **VIRGIN AUSTRALIA TO CREATE UP TO 250 MORE CABIN CREW AND SUPERVISOR JOBS IN SYDNEY**

Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality, Racing and the Arts, George Souris today welcomed Virgin Australia's announcement that it will expand its Sydney workforce, creating up to 250 new jobs.

Mr Souris said the cabin crew and supervisor roles, to be positioned on Virgin's domestic network, will enable the airline to expand its services across Australia and to enhance service levels for travellers.

"I welcome this news from Virgin Australia, which now employs over 7,000 people across its group," Mr Souris said.

"The choice of Sydney for these extra positions makes good sense given Sydney Airport is at the heart of the Australian air transportation industry and is the nation's busiest airport.

"Over 35 million domestic and international passengers travelled through Sydney Airport each year.

"Sydney Airport is also Australia's international air freight hub, accounting for almost half of all international freight tonnage handled by Australian airports."

Mr Souris said NSW Trade & Investment has worked with Virgin Australia over a number of years and these jobs are the latest result.

"The airline, named Australia's most attractive employer at the inaugural 2011 Randstad Awards in April, has been implementing its 'Game Change Program' focused on building corporate and government markets and inbound traffic from new international alliances and routes in regional Australia," Mr Souris said.

"Virgin Australia has created a global network of over 400 destinations through key alliances with Etihad Airways, Air New Zealand, Delta Air Lines and Singapore Airlines<sup>1</sup> which it says will drive more international traffic to cities around Australia, including regional centres."

"These new jobs for Sydney represent great news for NSW.

"Destination NSW, armed with \$400 million in funding over the next four years, has been set the target of doubling overnight tourism expenditure by 2020.

"It's a big job but with the Government's commitment and support, combined with the energy of industry members like Virgin Australia, it is a goal within our reach."

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to final regulatory approval