3 November 2026

Internal Air Services Commission
GPO Box 630
Canberra ACT 2601
Email: Contact@iasc.gov.au

Re: Reference: Indonesia - 2 October 2026

Dear Commissioners

On behalf of the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue (the Dialogue), I write to support Qantas' application for additional air services capacity between Indonesia and Australia, including new direct flights between Western Sydney and Denpasar (to be operated by Jetstar) from December 2026.

The Dialogue brings together government, business, education and community leaders to advance Greater Western Sydney, our partners include major local tourism operators and hospitality groups. We believe proposed services would deliver significant public benefits through greater consumer choice, improved access to international travel, and new opportunities for tourism, investment and employment.

Greater Western Sydney is home to 2.8 million people and with the recent opening of the new Western Sydney Airport, represents a substantial market for international aviation. For our region, the benefits of Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) depend on securing services that respond to local demand and connect residents and businesses directly with international destinations.

Proposed additional services to Denpasar would make a critical contribution to this objective.

Tourism and economic opportunities

WSI is a major national investment and the Dialogue along with other local advocates have long called for it to become a catalyst for economic development, local opportunities and new jobs.

The proposed service would strengthen connections between Western Sydney and Indonesia, supporting leisure and business travel for outgoing residents and an additional gateway for international visitors to Greater Sydney and regional New South Wales.

International visitors arriving through Western Sydney will create opportunities for the region's accommodation providers, hospitality businesses, attractions and tourism operators. Growing international services would also support employment across the airport and its surrounding economy.

Even excluding the local outgoing and incoming tourism market, the region also has a rapidly growing Indonesian community to take advantage of any additional capacity. The number of GWS residents who speak bahasa Indonesia at home grew more than 1,000% between the 2016 and 2021 census. These residents are likely to utilise services both for return visits and for visiting family and friends.

Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue
(02) 8318 8028
info@westernsydney.org.au
www.westernsydney.org.au
ABN 92 128 303 720

Dialogue Patrons
Cameron Clyne
Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO
Mike Mrdak AO
Dr Kerry Schott AO
Prof. Peter Shergold AC

While the region's hotel room capacity is continuing to expand and existing tourism operators have made significant investments over recent years, certainty about additional WSI capacity will help strengthen investment cases currently underway.

Greater choice and improved access

Direct services to Denpasar would also provide GWS residents an additional departure point for one of their most popular international destinations. For many passengers, departing from Western Sydney would also reduce the time and cost associated with travelling across Sydney to access international flights.

Industry estimates indicate that Western Sydney residents account for approximately 44 per cent of Australian trips to Indonesia (around 353,000 trips annually). Bali represents an estimated 80 per cent of this demand, equivalent to approximately 282,000 annual trips originating from Western Sydney.

Introducing services from a second Sydney airport would broaden consumer choice and support competition across the Sydney aviation market.

Realising the economic benefits of WSI

WSI is a major national investment and a point of regional pride. Qantas' proposed additional service would put this investment to productive use, establishing a direct international connection that responds to demonstrated demand within the airport's catchment.

Given that cargo is transported in the hull of the plane, these benefits extend beyond the immediate provision of passenger services as the cargo adds to the economic value of improved international connectivity.

WSI will operate without a curfew, meaning perishable exports produced in GWS and broader Western NSW are likely to benefit from expanded capacity to get to a significant and growing market. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resources Economics and Sciences (ABARES) predicts Indonesian food demand will quadruple by 2050.

A stronger international network will support Western Sydney's long-term development as a gateway for high value exports and a competitive and attractive place to live, work, visit and invest.

We encourage the Commission to give substantial weight to these public benefits and approve Qantas' application for capacity to operate direct Western Sydney–Denpasar services.

Kind regards

[redacted]

ADAM LETO | **CEO**

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