

Qantas and Virgin Fuel Updates

Virgin Australia

The TWU spoke to Virgin Australia representatives to clarify any potential impacts on members following media reports.

Virgin Australia advised that:

- The announced 1% reduction in scheduled flying for the short term will not have any material impact on workers' hours, and there are no route cancellations associated with today's announcement.
- Overall scheduled flying in 2026 will still represent a net increase compared to 2025.
- Virgin Australia's fuel hedging strategy has significantly reduced the impact of current fuel cost increases.
- The company has committed to notifying the TWU in advance of any future announcements, providing the opportunity for feedback on any potential negative impacts on members.

Qantas

The TWU has spoken directly with Qantas leadership about the measures being taken across Qantas, QantasLink and Jetstar in response to increased fuel prices.

Qantas has advised that it is reducing Qantas Group domestic capacity by around 5% across May and June, covering both Qantas and Jetstar's domestic networks.

According to Qantas, the majority of these reductions are being made on key trunk routes between major capital cities, where larger aircraft and higher frequencies are typically used. However, the reductions apply across the network, including regional routes. Qantas has stated that, where possible, capacity has been removed at off-peak times to minimise customer impact.

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Qantas has also confirmed the following temporary route suspensions:

Qantas

- Melbourne – Hamilton Island
- Melbourne – Coffs Harbour

(both suspended from 18 May to 28 June)

Jetstar

- Sydney – Busselton (18 May to 22 September)
- Darwin – Gold Coast (18 May to 12 October)

Separately, Qantas has made the decision to indefinitely suspend flights between Adelaide and Mount Gambier from 18 May. While this will not directly impact Qantas direct-hire positions, the flow-on effects for the aviation workforce and regional communities are clear.

This is a deeply disappointing decision and yet another example of regional communities being abandoned by Qantas in pursuit of potential marginal profit gains, in the absence of strong and effective aviation regulation.

That is exactly why the TWU continues to push for a Safe and Secure Skies Commission - to protect aviation jobs, regional connectivity, and the long-term sustainability of our industry.