



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

Trade Sub-Committee

## **MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 28 October 2014

*Chair: Hon Bruce Scott MP*

*Deputy Chair: Maria Vamvakinou MP*

### **Emirates flying tourists and cargo worth billions to Australia**

Emirates Airline, the largest foreign carrier operating in Australia, will discuss its role in growing Australian tourism and flying high-value cargo at a parliamentary inquiry into trade with the Middle East in Canberra tomorrow.

In 2013, the Dubai-based airline carried over 3.45 million passengers and 107,500 tonnes of cargo on its Australian flights to and from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - flying 84 times per week to Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide.

To meet growing demand from Australian exporters, Emirates' Sky Cargo also operates dedicated freighter services in Australia.

Last year Emirates signed a global aviation partnership with Qantas. Combined, the two airlines operate 98 services per week, linking 55 Australian destinations to the Gulf States and the rest of the Middle East/North Africa region.

Emirates' submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade would welcome a resumption of free trade negotiations between Australia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain. Emirates expect an FTA would liberalise trade with the Gulf states, boost Australian exports and also stimulate passenger and freight flows between Australia and the Middle East.

When Emirates launched its first services to Melbourne in 1996, Australian exports to UAE were worth A\$573 million and A\$1.42 billion to the member nations of the GCC.

By 2013, the increased number of flights to the Middle East had helped grow Australian exports to the UAE to A\$2.6 billion and to the GCC A\$6.97 billion overall.

The Emirates submission calls for an increased emphasis from Tourism Australia on promoting 'destination Australia' in the UAE and the GCC to attract more high-yield tourists and for the government to bolster Austrade's presence in the region.

#### **Public hearing**

Date/Time	Wednesday 29 October 2014, 11:05 am
Location	Committee Room 1R6, Parliament House, Canberra
Organisation	Emirates

Live audio broadcast will be available at [www.apf.gov.au/live](http://www.apf.gov.au/live)

**For media comment:** contact the Trade sub-committee Chair, the Hon Bruce Scott MP on (02) 6277 4949 (Parliament House)

**For background information:** Further details about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference and how to contribute, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.apf.gov.au/jfadt](http://www.apf.gov.au/jfadt) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313 or emailing [jscfadt@apf.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@apf.gov.au).