

Media Release

The Hon Natalie Hutchins MP
Minister for Jobs and Industry
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples
Minister for Women



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VICTORIA LANDS MORE NON-STOP FLIGHTS FROM CHINA

One of China's largest airlines will soon fly daily to Melbourne, creating more than 700 jobs, increasing export capacity and bringing thousands of tourists to the city, thanks to the Labor Government.

Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins today announced Sichuan Airlines will fly non-stop between Chengdu and Melbourne every day by September 2024.

The new flights will add an extra 63,000 seats coming to Melbourne each year – with the expansion set to accelerate the return of visitors from China and contribute more than \$125 million to the Victorian economy each year.

The additional flights will see the airline strengthen trade links and enable more exports – adding almost 2,500 tonnes of air freight capacity annually.

Daily flights will also encourage more students to study in Victoria, with China making up 22 per cent of international students across the state.

Sichuan Airlines is yet another major international airline the Labor Government has supported to increase the flights coming into Melbourne including Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines, United Airlines, Emirates, Etihad Airways, LATAM, Bamboo Airways, Scoot, VietJet and China Southern Airlines.

Quote attributable to Minister for Jobs and Industry Natalie Hutchins

“Having more flights coming in from Victoria’s largest trading partner will deliver significant economic benefits to the state and open up opportunities for businesses, tourism, students and jobs.”

Quote attributable to Melbourne Airport Chief Executive Officer Lorie Argus

“Chinese travellers are already back to being the largest group of foreign passport holder arrivals into Melbourne, and these extra flights will allow even more to discover Victoria’s incredible education and tourism offering.”

Quote attributable to Sichuan Airlines General Manager of Commercial Committee Mr. WU Deyun

“Sichuan Airlines will continue to work together with the Victorian Government to promote the prosperity of business, trade, tourism and education between China and Australia.”