

# Media Release

**Steve Dimopoulos MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Outdoor Recreation



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## JANUARY BREAKS RECORD FOR PEOPLE FLYING INTO VICTORIA

In another win for Victoria's booming visitor economy and local jobs, January was the busiest month in Melbourne Airport's history – with a record 3,393,977 passengers welcomed through the terminals.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos and Melbourne Airport Chief Executive Lorie Argus today celebrated the milestone at Melbourne Airport – shattering the previous record from December 2019 by more than 70,000 passengers.

The Allan Labor Government continues to secure a calendar of exclusive sporting, music and cultural events that attract people from around the world – with a massive 600,000 people walking off international flights in January.

A new single day record was also set – on Friday, 24 January more than 23,000 international visitors arrived at Melbourne Airport for the Australian Open and to enjoy Lunar New Year in Victoria, filling hotels and restaurants and backing local businesses and jobs.

Earlier this month the Labor Government secured a deal with Melbourne Airport for Delta Air Lines to deliver three new direct flights per week from Los Angeles to Melbourne from December this year.

The flights will bring thousands more tourists from the USA and Canada – typically outdoor and adventure seeking travellers, and Victoria is brimming with natural wonders for them to explore. Leisure travellers from the USA spent \$239 million in Victoria in the last year.

Overseas travellers continue to flock to Victoria and the latest data shows tourism spend has hit a record high of \$39.7 billion, with the international spend now surpassing 2019 levels.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos

*"We are the events capital and we continue to secure the best events in Australia. The Australian Open, the Formula 1 Grand Prix and the NFL – these events are only here in Victoria and they bring people from all around the globe."*

*"This is great news for the whole state – these record numbers of travellers are filling our hotels and restaurants, supporting tourism operators across the state, and backing local businesses and jobs."*

### Quote attributable to Visit Victoria CEO Brendan McClements

*"Victoria is Australia's cultural, culinary and sporting capital, and we're seeing that reflected in these record numbers as more people visit to see what makes our state 'Every bit different'."*

### Quotes attributable to Melbourne Airport CEO Lorie Argus

*"Since the Australian border reopened in 2021, we've been working closely with the Victorian government to rebuild international airline capacity into Melbourne, and we're now seeing the benefits."*

*"It's incredible to think that in just three years we've rebuilt international capacity from close to nothing, to the point where we are setting new records."*

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