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Qantas dispute: Government urges parties to return to negotiating table

The Northern Territory Government has called on all parties involved in the Qantas industrial dispute to return to the negotiating table in wake of the immediate grounding of all Qantas flights.

Tourism Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today said that Qantas' announcement this afternoon that it has grounded all its domestic and international flights is damaging to Territorians and to our tourism industry.

"I urge Qantas and the Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association (ALAEA), the Australian International Pilots Association (AIPA), and the Transport Workers Union (TWU) to return to the table and negotiate a solution," she said.

"As you'd expect, the immediate grounding of all Qantas flights had an instant impact on Territorians and travellers around the world, so we need an urgent solution to the dispute.

"The Chief Minister and I will meet tomorrow morning with Ian Kew from NT Airports, the Chamber of Commerce and the CEO of Tourism NT, John Fitzgerald to discuss the implications for the Territory.

"I have spoken to Qantas NT Manager, Julian Barry who has advised the following:

- the affected flights are the "red eye" flights Sydney-Darwin return – QF 737 and QF 767 – grounded;
- Qantaslink to Darwin-Nhulunbuy-Cairns, NOT suspended;
- Qantaslink Darwin-Alice Springs return NOT suspended;
- Qantaslink Alice Springs-Uluru return NOT suspended;
- Jetstar services in and out of NT are NOT affected;
- Virgin Blue are assisting with extra seats;
- Jetconnect and freight services NOT affected.

"The Territory Government will keep Territorians updated on this crisis."

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