



MEDIA RELEASE

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Airnorth flies over 130 bikes to Dili for Tour de Timor

Airnorth, Northern Australia's premier airline, is once again looking forward to the logistical challenge of carrying over 130 bikes to Dili, East Timor, for the start of the 2012 Tour De Timor.

Recognised as one of the toughest mountain bike races in Asia, Airnorth have been a major sponsor since the race's inception in 2009, and this year will see the airline provide over \$140,000 in sponsorship and support for the event.

Airnorth's CEO Mr Michael Bridge expects this year to be the best event yet.

"This is the fourth year of the Tour and each year we're able to further refine our processes to effectively manage the large movements of bikes and support equipment to and from Dili whilst continuing to meet the needs of our regular customers on this route, and their luggage and freight requirements," said Mr Bridge.

"As the only full service Jet carrier operating out of Darwin to Timor-Leste, we have the capacity and experience to move such a high volume of freight and have done so for Tour de Timor riders over the past few years," said Mr Bridge.

"We have been operating services to Dili for over a decade and are proud to be supporting this event during Timor's 10th Anniversary of the Restoration of Independence. We are very committed to continuing our support of peace and development for the Timorese community through sport and tourism as well as our established NGO program. Since 2004, our NGO program has provided assistance to over 400 charitable organisations and volunteers travelling to Timor-Leste for humanitarian purposes," he said.

The 2012 Tour de Timor will have around 400 international and local riders, who will test themselves over a gruelling 600 km, six day course from the 10-15 September. The course will showcase the rural areas of Timor-Leste as well as crossing the border into Indonesian territory this year to mark the nation's 10th Anniversary of Independence.

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Company background

Headquartered in Darwin, Airnorth is now the premier airline based in Northern Australia and carries in excess of 250,000 passengers annually.

Airnorth is a full service carrier accommodating the needs of both business and leisure travellers, operating state-of-art regional jets through its interstate and international network and providing passengers with complimentary catering and a free baggage allowance.

www.airnorth.com.au



The airline operates over 185 departures weekly, serving 16 destinations in the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Queensland and Timor-Leste including:

Darwin	Dili, Timor-Leste	Broome	Elcho Island
Gold Coast	Groote Eylandt	Gove [Nhulunbuy]	Karratha
Kununurra	Maningrida	McArthur River	Milingimbi
Mt Isa	Perth	Port Hedland	Townsville

Passengers can also earn and redeem Qantas Frequent Flyer points on all Airnorth scheduled services.

Airnorth, through its partnership with Qantas Airways, offer seamless connectivity including through check in and interline baggage facilities, with Qantas code sharing on the majority of Airnorth's Jet services.

In addition to scheduled departures, Airnorth operates contract and ad-hoc charter services for a wide variety of companies undertaking oil & gas, mining, defence and government activity.

Airnorth directly employs more than 200 staff in Darwin and provides indirect employment through the contracting of ground service operations across its destinations.

