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Local News

Good news lands in form of extra flights

IN A SIGNIFICANT step forward for the aviation industry on the Fraser Coast, Virgin Blue has announced an extension of its Hervey Bay to Sydney service.

Passenger capacity will be increased from May 11 with the return of the 737 aircraft to the Fraser Coast runway.

The change in scheduling will see the larger aircraft touching down and taking off on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

"This is terrific news for the Fraser Coast," said Anne Nioa, the Fraser Coast councillor with the tourism portfolio.

"It means an extra 312 seats per week on our Sydney route which



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is a fabulous step in the right direction.

"It clearly demonstrates that Virgin Blue has confidence in this route and in the Fraser Coast."

Ms Nioa said the Fraser Coast council had worked with Virgin officials on "a regular basis" since amalgamation in 2008.

"We have worked consistently with them to build a strong and fruitful relationship.

"There are great on-flow benefits for the region and I certainly



believe that it is a positive step for our fly market."

The positive news comes in the wake of last month's announcement that the council had hired an expert industry strategist to brief its members and staff on the region's aviation industry.

Ms Nioa has been working closely with Mark Woodberry who is almost half-way into a three-month contract.

A direct 737 jet service to Melbourne is high on Mr Woodberry's wish list. He confirmed last month that he was working on encouraging a national airline to introduce direct flights to Melbourne and a second airline to operate major freight flights.

Among the organisations he was due to meet were Jetstar, Qantas Link, Tourism Qld, Invest Qld and Virgin Blue.

NEWSBRIEFS

Man charged over glue theft

A 23-YEAR-OLD Maryborough man was arrested for stealing glue from Bunnings Warehouse in Maryborough on Saturday afternoon after he was reported by a concerned citizen who thought he was sniffing aerosol paint.

Sergeant Bob Baumann said Maryborough police received the stealing complaint about 4.40pm and the paint sniffing report about 7.10pm.

He said the man was arrested in Alice Street.

\$600 stolen from resort

OVERNIGHT on Saturday a room at the Quarterdecks Harbour Retreat in Moolyvir Street in Urangan was broken into and \$600 was stolen from a guest's wallet, according to Hervey Bay Police.

The spokesman also said Curves Hervey Bay gym in Pialba