

**Under strict embargo until FJT 4.10pm / AEST 2.10pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

## **Fiji Airways Soars into the Future with Latest Generation A350-900s**

**- Two New State of the Art Airbus A350 XWB to be Added to Growing Fleet -**

[Fiji Airways](#), Fiji's National Airline, has today revealed in a joint announcement with majority shareholder, the Fijian Government, that it will acquire two new Airbus A350 XWB aircraft as part of its widebody aircraft expansion plans.

The new additions to the airline's widebody fleet will be used to primarily service popular routes between the US and Australia, with exact schedules to be confirmed closer to launch. The announcement comes as Fiji Airways continues to put into practice its unrelenting commitment to passenger satisfaction and sustainability.

Combining the latest aerodynamics, new Rolls-Royce Trent XWB generation engines and use of lightweight materials, the A350 XWB brings a 25% advantage in fuel burn, operating costs and carbon dioxide emissions compared to previous generation similar-sized aircraft, meaning a significant reduction to the airline's carbon footprint and fuel cost.

Mr. Andre Viljoen, Fiji Airways Managing Director & CEO said: "We are extremely pleased with this selection and proud of the confirmed arrangements with Dubai Aerospace Enterprise (DAE) Capital as the lessor, and Rolls-Royce as the engine supplier. Our teams are currently customising the aircraft to our specifications, including our world renowned livery and designs which proudly represent the people of Fiji.

"Ultimately, a luxury, world-class destination, like Fiji, deserves a luxury, world-class travel experience and that's exactly what these aircraft will deliver. For our guests, the holiday starts the moment they board the aircraft," Mr. Viljoen continued.

The Airbus A350 will feature 33 B/E Aerospace Super Diamond, fully lie-flat Business Class beds, with each offering direct aisle access. While Economy Class will feature 301 Recaro CL3710 seats, which are ranked among the most comfortable long-haul economy class seats on the market.

The A350 XWB's Airspace by Airbus cabin is the quietest of any twin-aisle aircraft and offers passengers and crews the most modern in-flight products for the most comfortable flying experience. Not only will the aircraft provide the ultimate in luxury air travel to Fiji, it's also perfect for passengers taking long-haul connecting flights to other destinations. Boasting the latest generation AVANT inflight entertainment system from THALES and Wi-Fi connectivity, guests will be able to enjoy movies, tv and music on-demand, all whilst remaining connected in the air.

“Once the aircraft enter commercial service later this year, our customers will enjoy a truly world class onboard experience, supported by the authentic Fijian hospitality of our crews,” added Mr. Viljoen.

“Bula Vinaka to Fiji Airways’ stunning new A350s! We are truly proud to see Fiji Airways’ eye-catching livery on our A350 XWB which will make it the launch carrier from the South Pacific region. We also congratulate DAE Capital on becoming the newest Airbus customer to recognise the A350 – the only new high capacity intercontinental aircraft in the world – hardly surprising as its fuel efficiency, sustainability and passenger comfort are simply unmatched,” said Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer.

The two new A350 XWB aircraft will complement Fiji Airways’ existing widebody fleet of six Airbus A330s, with delivery set for November and December this year.

There are 257 Airbus A350s in the skies around the world today, flown by 24 operators. These include Fiji Airways’ partner oneworld airlines: Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Iberia, Malaysia Airlines and Qatar Airways. Other A350 operators include Hong Kong Airlines, Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines.

The order book for this aircraft type stands at 890 orders from 50 customers.

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**About Fiji Airways:** Founded in 1951, Fiji Airways Group comprises of Fiji Airways, Fiji’s National Airline and its subsidiaries: Fiji Link, its domestic and regional carrier, Pacific Call Comm Ltd, and a 38.75% stake in the Sofitel Fiji Resort & Spa on Denarau Island, Nadi. From its hubs at Nadi and Suva International Airports, Fiji Airways and Fiji Link serve 108 destinations in over 15 countries (including code-share). Destinations include Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, the US, Canada, the UK, Hong Kong (SAR China), Singapore, India, Japan, China, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The Fiji Airways Group brings in 64 percent of all visitors who fly to Fiji, employs over 1000 employees, and earns revenues of over FJD\$929 million (USD \$436m). Fiji Airways rebranded from Air Pacific in June 2013. Visit [www.fijiairways.com](http://www.fijiairways.com) for more information.

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