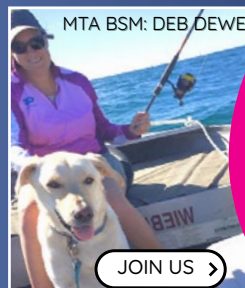


Travel Daily

First with the news

Tuesday 3rd June 2025



MTA MOBILE TRAVEL AGENTS

YOUR BUSINESS,
YOUR SCHEDULE
NEVER MISS A MOMENT
THAT *matters* ♥

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features eight pages of news, including our **Sustainability** page, plus full pages from:

- Viva Holidays
- Abercrombie & Kent

Sail with the fam

CARNIVAL Cruise Line is giving 12 agents the chance to sail on a Carnival cruise with their favourite people.

Entries close 13 Jun - find out more about the family-friendly famil opportunity **HERE**.

Ultimate LA famil

AGENTS can earn one of 10 spots on the 'Ultimate Los Angeles Famil' with Viva Holidays United Airlines, Air Tickets and My Way Travel and Events.

Find out more on **page nine**.

A&K ready for '26

ABERCROMBIE and Kent's (A&K) most epic small group journeys are back for 2026, including a 10-day exploration of Egypt and the Nile.

See the **back page** for details.

Newcastle links with Bali

JETSTAR will launch a direct route between Newcastle and Bali on 21 Oct, marking the NSW airport's first international route outside of Australasia.

The service will operate three times a week between Newcastle and Denpasar, and use the budget carrier's A321LR fleet to add 70,000 seats annually between the two destinations.

With a direct flight time of just over six hours, the upcoming route will enable residents of the Hunter region to avoid connecting flights from Sydney when travelling to Australia's top Asian leisure destination.

The route was secured with the help of the NSW Aviation Attraction Fund, and marks a milestone for Newcastle Airport, which is currently expanding its terminal and runways to spearhead a push to become a major international gateway.

"This route reflects what's possible when industry and government work together to back regional growth," Newcastle Airport CEO Linc Horton said.

Despite delays caused by supply chain issues, the hub's new

international terminal is on track to open in Aug, which will allow the facility to court int'l carriers from the Middle East and Asia.

The Federal Govt has already chipped in \$55 million to help Newcastle Airport be ready to cater for wide-body aircraft. **AB**

Qantas interline deal

TRAVELLERS booking with Qantas can now access FlyPelican flights through a new one-way interline agreement signed by the two carriers yesterday.

Under the terms of the deal, FlyPelican customers who buy flexible or corporate tickets will also have pre-flight access to the Qantas Club domestic lounges in Canberra and the Gold Coast.

MEANWHILE Qantas is seeking to increase services between Sydney and Vancouver from its three times a week schedule to seven times weekly in Jan 2026.

The carrier has requested the extra capacity during the busy holiday period, and if approved, will be operated by Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft configured with 236 seats.

Wendy Wu Tours

THE
BIG
DEAL SALE!

SAVE
UP TO \$4,000 PER COUPLE

OFFER
EXTENDED
NEW DATES
ADDED!



Summer 2026
Early Birds
OUT NOW!

DON'T MISS THE WEBINAR - THURS 5 JUNE

ALBATROSS
Tours



MOST
OUTSTANDING
SPECIALISED
TOUR OPERATOR

Room-Res.com
for WINNING AGENTS

Singapore
Passion Made Possible

SELL YOUR WAY TO THE SINGAPORE
FORMULA 1 GRAND PRIX

EARN DOUBLE ROOM-RES REWARDS ON ALL SINGAPORE PRODUCT BOOKINGS

Position Vacant

Business Partnership Manager - South Australia

Join a team of travel industry professionals in a dynamic, progressive and award-winning organisation.

TravelManagers is looking for an enthusiastic individual with a travel background, strong business acumen and leadership skills. The Business Partnership Manager assists with the growth, support, and business coaching of personal travel managers within South Australia.



2024
WINNER

For more information and a confidential
discussion, please call 0401 725 812 or
email julia.mclean@travelmanagers.com.au



TravelManagers
As individual as you are
join.travelmanagers.com.au

Airline profits take off

AIRLINE profitability is forecast to strengthen this year despite well-documented headwinds, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which has updated its 2025 airline industry financial outlook. Net profits are expected to hit US\$36 billion - up from the US\$32.4 billion earned in 2024, but slightly below the previously projected US\$36.6 billion - while the net profit margin is tipped to reach 3.7%, marking an improvement from the 3.4% earned in 2024 and the previously projected 3.6%.

Additionally, total revenues are anticipated to climb to a record high of US\$979 billion, up 1.3% on 2024, with traveller numbers also set to break records and hit 4.99 billion, which will represent a 4% increase on last year.

"The first half of 2025 has brought significant uncertainties to global markets," explained



Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General (pictured).

"Nonetheless, by many measures including net profits, it will still be a better year for airlines than 2024, although slightly below our previous projections."

According to Walsh, the positive outlook is being driven by the falling price of jet fuel, which has dropped 13% compared to 2024 and 1% below previous estimates.

"We anticipate airlines flying more people and more cargo in 2025 than they did in 2024, even if previous demand projections have been dented by trade tensions and falls in consumer confidence," added Walsh. *JM*

EST. 2011

Get Ready to Book & Win

Earn a \$100 Prezzy voucher per booking (13 May–30 June), plus weekly VIP Ricky Martin tickets for top sellers.

FCM new sales chief

KELLIE Howard has been named as the new Head of Sales for Australia at FCM Meetings and Events, the company announced.

Howard (pictured) brings nearly three decades of business events experience to her new role, and sees her return to Sydney after her most recent role as Director of Sales at Adelaide Oval.

"Kellie's expertise in new business development and client engagement will be invaluable as we continue to expand our footprint in both national and international markets," said FCM Meetings & Events Global General Manager, Simone Seiler.



Spiros makes Rich List



CONSOLIDATED Travel founder Spiros Alysandratos (pictured) has ranked 146th on the *AFR*'s annual Rich List, one of only a handful of travel and tourism-related business owners to make the cut in 2025.

With an estimated worth of \$1.13 billion, Alysandratos' wealth increased by around 3% from last year, according to the *AFR*'s List, spurred along by savvy property investments in Victoria, which alone are worth more than \$50 million.

Suzanne Walker and family also made the List with a wealth pot of around \$6.9 billion, with the family piling on 13% in value, partly driven by investment in mixed-use tourism developments.

SEE • HEAR • SMELL • TASTE • FEEL
THE KIMBERLEY

**FLY, STAY & CRUISE
2026 PACKAGE OUT NOW!**

**FLY, STAY & CRUISE
IN THE KIMBERLEY!**

2026 package now available including:

- ✓ 10-night luxury expedition*
- ✓ Return economy flights*
- ✓ 1-night accommodation & transfer*

From \$13,670 per person
in a Deluxe Stateroom with balcony*

Broombe to Darwin or reverse departing:
13 & 2 May; 2, 12, 22 & 29 June 2, 9, 12, 19 & 22 July;
1, 11, 18 & 28 August; 7 September 2026

1300 737 178 | au.ponant.com | reservations.aus@ponant.com



*Package offer valid on new bookings only for 2026 Kimberley Luxury Expeditions itineraries. More conditions apply. Visit au.ponant.com/kimberley2026 for full terms and conditions. Advertised price is in Australia dollars (AUD), per person in a Deluxe Stateroom Deck 3. Price is correct at time of publishing and may change at any time without notice. Photo Credit: © Studio PONANT – Tim Faircloth.

Scenic's cool offer

REDUCED deposits and bonus pre-departure hotel stays are on offer from Scenic for its 2025 and 2026 East Antarctica and Ross Sea itineraries on *Scenic Eclipse II*.

Eligible itineraries include the 28-day 'Queenstown and Mawson's Antarctica: Along the East Coast', which sets sail from Queenstown on 10 Dec 2025.

Bookings for this itinerary will enjoy a reduced \$2,000pp deposit and a three-night pre-expedition stay in Queenstown with included Scenic FreeChoice excursions.

Also available is the 24-day 'Antarctica's Ross Sea: Majestic Ice & Wildlife' voyage, which sails from Hobart to Christchurch via the Ross Sea region on 06 Jan 2026, followed by a round-trip from the NZ city on 29 Jan 2026.

Guests travelling on the latter of these itineraries will also enjoy three nights pre-cruise in Queenstown, a 50% saving on a Verandah Suite upgrade and reduced deposits.

Hill departs Tourism Fiji

AUSTRALIAN CEO of Tourism Fiji, Brent Hill (**pictured**), has announced he will depart the organisation and return home (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

Hill confirmed he plans to step down in Aug, having spearheaded Fiji's tourism push since mid-2021 after joining from the South Australian Tourism Commission, where he was the Chief Marketing Officer.

During his tenure at Tourism Fiji, Hill led the country's tourism plight out of COVID and has significantly boosted visitors to the group of islands.

In its latest figures announced last week, Fiji welcomed 80,363 visitor arrivals in Apr 2025, marking a 4% year-on-year increase and a 5% rise compared to pre-COVID (2019) levels.

Leisure travellers increased by 8% compared to Apr 2024, while estimated visitor earnings reached FJ\$278 million.



Tourism Fiji Chair, Andre Viljoen, who is also departing his main role as CEO of Fiji Airways soon, lauded Hill as an "outstanding" and "inspirational" leader.

"His strategic vision, creative energy and deep commitment to the people and culture of Fiji have left an enduring mark on the organisation and the wider tourism industry," Viljoen said.

It leaves Fiji with two key travel industry roles to fill as it continues to push forward after additional challenges faced over the recent Christmas and New Year period. *DF*

The Rock for \$99

VIRGIN Australia has launched a special 72-hour sale on flights from Brisbane and Melbourne to Uluru, with seats on sale for \$99.

Prices are based on economy lite fares, valid for sale until 11:59pm on 04 Jun unless sold out earlier, and for selected travel dates from Jul 2025-Mar 2026.

"We're encouraging travellers of all ages to take advantage of this fantastic sale and book in a holiday to the beautiful heart of Australia," commented Tourism NT Acting Chief Marketing Officer, Monika Tonkin.

Visy Dior in Sydney

LA VIE Hotels & Resorts has taken over management of the former Rydges Norwest in the Sydney Hills District.

The 132-key hotel has been rebranded as Visy Dior Hotels International, and is set to undergo an \$18 million renovation over the next 18 months.

SCENIC ECLIPSE

Ultra-Luxury Cruising

EXPEDITION VOYAGES 2025-2027

Antarctica



Antarctica in Depth

Buenos Aires > Buenos Aires | 13 Days

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

Aloha to MICE push

HAWAII is exploring new opportunities in the MICE space in an effort to diversify and boost overseas visitation, as the US tourism economy struggles.

"[Visitation] is still soft according to pre-2019 or 2019 numbers," Aaron Sala, President and CEO of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, told *Travel Daily*.

"We're now up to 75% [of pre-pandemic numbers] so we're trying to focus on infusing some energy into the international market, relieving some of the pressure on the US."

By investing more resources in the MICE space and making it a core part of Hawaii's tourism strategy, leisure will eventually follow, explained Sala.

"[People] will come for business with colleagues, and then they will say, 'oh, my kids need to experience this, my partner needs to experience this,'" Sala said.

"That becomes a legacy engagement rather than first-time visitors who [think they] have 'been there, done that.'"

According to Meet Hawaii's Kris Phadungkiatipong, the aim is for conferences and meetings to work with Hawaiian small businesses to create meaningful events, from using local suppliers to visiting family-run farms as part of their itineraries.

"Yes, Hawaii is a popular destination for leisure, but we also have all these incredible local businesses that we can incorporate into programs for meetings, incentives and conferences," he said.

In an effort to expand the potential of Hawaii as a MICE



destination, the organisation is "deepening our understanding of the kinds of meetings and incentive programs that are well-suited to Hawaii's unique offerings", noted Sala.

As Hawaii has hosted major events such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, that means the island state also has the ability to host events such as COP (the UN Climate Change Conference) or the Democratic or Republican National Convention, Sala added.

"It tells us that we can bring [like-minded] people to a location like Hawaii to do really important things that have global impacts.

"I want [us] to be the Davos of the Pacific." *JHM*

Pictured: Phadungkiatipong and Sala in Sydney this week.

Symonds to Beyond

WELL-KNOWN travel Business Development Manager Matt Symonds has joined the team at Beyond Travel to look after its NSW, ACT and Qld territories.

Symonds brings nearly two decades in travel to his new role, moving from his most recent position with Designer Journeys.

"We're thrilled to grow our wholesale presence, and Matt joining our sales team is a key part of that," said Beyond Travel Chief Executive, Michael Lavilles.



LEARN MORE ABOUT
TOKYO WITH TRAVEL
DAILY TRAINING
ACADEMY

Click here to discover

Travel Daily

HLO takes over Vancouver



HELLOWORLD Travel Group recently wrapped up its Owner Managers Conference, which took place in Vancouver, Canada.

The event brought together Helloworld travel owner managers from across Australia and New Zealand, along with partners, special guests, HLO senior executives, and personnel.

Under the theme 'Travel Agents - The essential ingredient', attendees took part in three days of conferencing, business insights and events across the city.

The conference was opened by CEO and Managing Director, Andrew Burnes, who gave delegates an update on the business, touching on market and brand research, industry insights, technology advancements, and new business initiatives.

Travel industry favourite Anthony 'Lehmo' Lehmann entertained throughout as MC, keeping everything to schedule as he hosted day and night events and activities.

Highlights of the annual conference included a Northern Lights-themed welcome event at the JW Marriott Parq Vancouver,

and an evening event at BC Place Stadium, which was transformed with the Canadian colours of red and white.

On arrival, delegates were given Canadian sporting team scarves and had the surprise of seeing themselves on the jumbo screen as they entered the stadium, which featured the Helloworld brand logo displayed on the 360-degree LED screen (**pictured**).

The event wrapped up with a formal gala dinner sponsored by Air Canada and held at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, complete with a 10-piece band and dance floor.

Attendees did not walk away empty-handed, with an array of prizes given out across the conference, including a luxury Arctic cruise with Ponant, return flights to Europe, and more.

Delegates also enjoyed pre- and post- famill opportunities to see and experience more of the region, including Vancouver Day Tours, the iconic Rocky Mountaineer, a Colette Canadian Adventure, an Alaska to Vancouver cruise with Holland America Line, and more. *JM*

SENTOSA FAMILY FUN | 4 NIGHTS FROM \$3,975 PER FAMILY*



HOLIDAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 4 nights at Village Hotel Sentosa in a Family Room
- Daily breakfast
- Return private Singapore Changi Airport transfers
- 15% discount on Spa treatments
- Admission to Universal Studios Singapore
- Admission to Adventure Cove Waterpark.

CITY & ISLAND ESCAPE | 6 NIGHTS FROM \$2,035 PER PERSON*



HOLIDAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 3 nights in Singapore & 3 nights on Sentosa Island
- Daily breakfast
- Return private Singapore Changi Airport transfers
- Food & Beverage credit of SGD\$20pp at Food Capital
- 3.5 hour Singapore City Tour
- Gardens by the Bay Tour & more.

TO BOOK, CALL OUR
PRIORITY AGENT LINE ON
(08) 6382 2166 OR VISIT
BKBHOLIDAYS.COM



*T&Cs apply, see our website

Try Before You Fly takes off

VIRGIN Australia and Adelaide Airport have teamed up to launch the 'Try Before You Fly' (TBYF) program, an accessibility initiative offering participants a full simulated travel experience.

Backed by the South Australian Government, Velocity Frequent Flyer, What Ability and other community organisations, the program has welcomed 35 new participants this week following a series of successful trials.

The first-of-its-kind program in Australia, TBYF is designed to reduce anxiety and build confidence for individuals who may find flying challenging, including those with disabilities or sensory sensitivities.

From booking and check-in to boarding and sitting on an aircraft, participants will receive the full travel experience, without the plane ever leaving the gate.

"Travelling by plane is an exciting time but it can also be intimidating, especially for customers living with a disability or other health considerations," said Adelaide Airport Executive General Manager People, Culture and Customer, Dermot O'Neill.

"This program gives individuals with disabilities and conditions that impact their ability to travel an opportunity to go through the entire process as a test run and become familiar with what will happen before they fly, to help take away some of the anxiety of the unknown."

Minister for Trade and Tourism, Don Farrell, hailed TBYF as "a fantastic initiative that breaks down barriers and opens the skies for more Australians".

"This program supports



accessible tourism by ensuring that more Australians, regardless of their circumstances, can experience the joy of travel; it helps make sure that no one is left behind." *JM*

Qld unveils eco plan

THE Queensland Government has unveiled more details about *Destination 2045* (**TD** 22 Jan), a 20-year tourism plan which is set to deliver new eco experiences.

The plan, which will leverage opportunities ahead of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, focuses on sustainable tourism, including new dark sky tourism experiences, light footprint accommodation and agritourism.

The first batch of 45 eco-projects will be the Thorsborne Trail on Hinchinbrook Island, the Wangetti Trail north of Cairns, the Whitsunday Skyway in Airlie Beach, the Ngaro Trail on Whitsunday Island, and upgrades of day-use areas in Lake Eacham and Springbrook National Park.

Destination 45 aims to more than double the value of visitor expenditure to Queensland's economy to \$84 billion, and will work towards making the state the nation's events capital, attract new flight connections, and streamline regulations.



Discover our River Cruise Special Report

Click here

Four Seasons' marina haven



FOUR Seasons Yachts has unveiled new details about *Four Seasons I*, the first vessel in its collection (**TD** 24 Jan).

Expected to begin sailing in 2026, the yacht will feature the 'Marina Day' experience, providing guests with direct access to the water.

The transverse marina opens across both sides of the yacht, features two retractable platforms, a spacious interior bar and lounge area, and can accommodate up to 105 guests.

Guests will enjoy options for watersports, wellness, activities, relaxation, dining and more, with programming to take place throughout most itineraries on dedicated marina days.

Travellers can partake in on-deck yoga in the morning followed by post-workout smoothies and guided meditation sessions, before the marina evolves into a social hub by day.

"Guests will explore remarkable destinations, beautiful bays and hidden coves while enjoying adventures on kayaks, paddleboards, and superyacht water toys that let them glide

effortlessly across the water," said Tim Littley, VP of Itinerary and Planning at Marc-Henry Cruise Holdings LTD, joint owner/operator of Four Seasons Yachts.

"These marina days will add a new element of discovery and fun, and we look forward to introducing our guests to this one-of-a-kind experience."

Four Seasons Yachts has also introduced the Luxe Grand Touring Experience, consisting of two bespoke experiences that transport passengers while at anchor and in selected ports - the Limo Tender and the Beachlander.

Ideal for private group outings and romantic escapes, the Limo Tender is a customised, full-service adventure available on most voyages aboard a custom 10-metre (32 foot) vessel, complete with personalised service and a private captain.

For higher speed adventure excursions, the Beachlander experience also takes place aboard a 10-metre vessel, aimed at cruise guests who are seeking access to exclusive beach clubs, remote coves and reefs. *JM*

Pictured: Marina Day render.

MILLENNIUM
HOTELS AND RESORTS

STYLE.
VALUE.
LOCATION.

Click to access exclusive Singapore rates and sell your way to the F1

Room-Res.com
for WINNING AGENTS

Stayz powers promotions

SHORT-TERM holiday rental owners listing their property with Stayz can now tailor promotions to target travellers, as part of a new suite of marketing tools unveiled by parent Expedia Group.

The tools allow hosts to target different traveller demographics such as special rates for advance bookings 60 days or more, or last-minute deals to fill unsold nights and impulsive bookings.

With Expedia Group pinpointing price and value as key booking drivers in 2025, the new tools have been designed to help hosts stand out, adapt to demand changes and maximise revenue.

Hosts can customise booking windows, rates and more, with each promotion elevating the property higher in search results and placement in Stayz web and app marketing campaigns.

Expedia Group Vice President Vacation Rental Partnerships Tim Rosolio said promotions allow travellers to get better value while hosts can target the travellers they want.



"Promotional capabilities are among the top requests we get from our partners and I'm excited to deliver on our commitment to providing the right tools they need to thrive in our marketplace," Rosolio added.

Further marketing tools still in development will include mobile-exclusive promotions, members-only deals to reward loyalty, and advanced settings for new listings in their first 90 days. *ML*

ATAS movements

THE Australian Travel Industry Association (ATIA) has moved swiftly this month to terminate the accreditation of two members for breaches of the ATAS Charter.

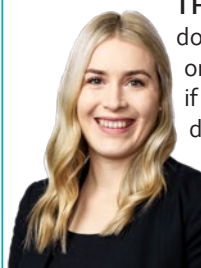
Package Travel and Viatour Travel were removed from the ATIA scheme on 28 May and 31 May respectively for breaches of Section 2.5(g) of the ATAS Charter.

Section 2.5(g) relates to financial assessment and provision of statements and documents to ATIA's Compliance Manager.

Other recent withdrawals from the scheme include Digital Travel, which opted to exit voluntarily, while Travala ceased business operations entirely.

ATIA UPDATE

from Ingrid Fraser, Director of Public Policy & Advocacy



THE work we do at ATIA only matters if it makes a difference to you.

That's why I'm excited to share the details

about an exciting step forward - one that builds a stronger voice across the travel ecosystem, without losing what makes each part of it unique.

Yesterday, we announced a strategic partnership between ATIA and the Association of Travel Management Companies (ATMC), which will see ATMC merge with ATIA as a dedicated, member-led committee.

If you're not in corporate travel, you might be wondering - why does this matter to me?

Here's the short answer: it's a smart, strategic move that helps all of us.

It is a direct outcome of our A30 strategy, which is designed to align priorities, reduce duplication, and strengthen our collective advocacy.

For corporate members, it means greater influence.

For everyone else, it means

a stronger, more united voice when it comes to issues we all care about - from government advocacy to industry-wide supplier relationships.

It was great to see the positive response at the ATMC meeting last Friday, and even better to connect with members in person.

That direct feedback helps shape our work, and I'm looking forward to more of those conversations during our Beyond Borders: On the Road series in Adelaide and Perth next month (details [HERE](#)).

And there's more happening on the advocacy front.

This Friday, we're lodging a submission to the Productivity Commission's review of national competition policy, calling for stronger aviation competition.

As the ACCC has found, airfares can fall significantly (some by up to 95%) when there's strong competition.

Currently, no route in Australia has that level of choice.

Greater aviation competition doesn't just benefit consumers - it means more people travelling and more money to spend on land-based experiences when they get there.

Amadeus AI play

AMADEUS has announced it will make a minority investment in New York-based generative AI startup, Acai Travels.

The emerging tech provider aims to transform operations for online travel agencies, travel management companies, airlines and hotels with its suite of generative AI-driven applications.

Hawaii's green tax

VISITORS to Hawaii will need to pay a new 'climate impact fee' starting from next year.

The law increases the state's Transient Accommodation Tax by 0.75%, to 11%, with the fee to be applied to costs for tourism-related activities, including hotels and cruise ships.

Air NZ neos coming

AIR New Zealand is ready to welcome two new A321neo aircraft to its fleet, with the first expected to touch down on Kiwi soil tomorrow.

The narrowbody aircraft will bring improved efficiency and additional capacity on routes to Australia and the Pacific Islands.



UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: Join Our Mentoring Program and Ignite Your Success!

TIME is a Career Advancement Path for all Employees in Travel, Tourism, Hospitality, Cruise and Aviation Industry including Regional, and Rural Areas across Australia

**WHAT TIME CAN
DO FOR YOU...**

- Further develop your management and leadership potential
- Develop confidence and networking opportunities
- Strategic career planning
- Increase your knowledge of organisational culture & processes

For more information visit - www.travelindustrymentor.com.au



Water initiatives

SPANISH travel industry showcase event Fitur has launched a global challenge for businesses and innovators to balance tourism with healthy water management.

The competition has been framed around multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and aims to see how tourism can build on efficient management of water supply.

Projects can be submitted for consideration **HERE** before 31 Aug, with the winner recognised during the annual show, which takes place in Madrid in Jan 2026.

According to the UN, residents use 127 litres of water per day on average, while tourists use between 450-800L a day, with water scarcity expected to double.

COMPLIANCE SENDS SAF BILLS SOARING

COMPLIANCE fees charged by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) producers to airlines required to meet European mandates is blowing out the cost of decarbonisation and sustainable transition, IATA has argued.

According to the aviation sector lobby group, compliance fees are expected to add US\$1.7 billion on top of the US\$1.2 billion market price for the one million tonnes of SAF expected to be purchased by European airlines this year.

The high order volume is due to most SAF refined around the world being exported to Europe to meet EU and UK mandates, which began on 01 Jan.

IATA Director General Willie Walsh said Europe's SAF mandate is making adoption of the cleaner fuel five times more expensive than conventional jet fuel.

Despite the continent's SAF



demand expected to double to two million tonnes in 2025, it will still comprise only 0.7% of the sector's total fuel consumption.

Walsh called for governments, including the EU, to review its mandate in light of insufficient and premature market conditions and before safeguards are put in place to combat price gouging and cowboy-style profiteering.

"Raising the cost of the energy transition that is already

estimated to be a staggering US\$4.7 trillion should not be the aim...of decarbonisation policies," Walsh said.

"Europe needs to realise that its approach is not working and find another way."

Walsh added the way to bring down production costs, and in turn airfare prices, was to ramp up production and investment in developing efficiencies that will reduce overall costs to scale. *ML*

Bula Reef Week

PLANTATION Island Resort in Fiji is currently running its inaugural World Oceans Week, which aims to celebrate the resort's commitment to sustainability.

Guests at the resort can engage in activities celebrating the importance of the ocean.

The initiative also aims to draw attention to a major coral restoration project just off the resort's main coast.

Hydrogen milestone as tanks registered

A FAMILY of liquid hydrogen tanks to be used for refuelling zero-emission aircraft have been successfully registered with regulatory authorities.

AMSL Aero and Stralis Aircraft have collaborated with BOC Australia to register the Dewar vessels, which operate in a way similar to giant thermos flasks.

The tanks themselves are the first large capacity options to arrive in Australia, and will be used to transport liquid

hydrogen from production plants to aircraft.

"There is now a strong global consensus about liquid hydrogen as an aviation fuel," said AMSL Aero Hydrogen Systems Engineer, Simon Coburn.

"AMSL Aero is delighted to help build another link in a liquid hydrogen supply chain for Australian aviation," he added.

Stralis Aircraft co-founder Stuart Johnstone labelled the move "a key step forward".

Toyama profile

THE first of five less-visited destinations in Japan is being profiled by InsideJapan Tours as part of its "undertourism strategy" (*TD* 21 Mar).

The series is kicking off with a look at Toyama prefecture, located just over two hours from Tokyo by bullet train.

Positioned between the Sea of Japan and the Japanese Alps, a third of the prefecture is covered with national parks, the tour operator said.

HOME EX

HOME AGENT
VIRTUAL
EXPERIENCE

CLICK HERE TO JOIN IN

CVFRTRAVEL
GROUP

Expedia
TAAP

ROYAL CARIBBEAN

ABERCROMBIE
& KENT

AMAWATERWAYS

Carnival
CHOOSE TEN

CRYSTAL

ENVOYAGE
for every journey

exoticca
EXOTIC HOLIDAY TRAVEL AGENTS

GLOBUS

JOURNEY BEYOND

NTA
MOBILE TRAVEL AGENTS

OCEANIA
CRUISES
YOUR WORLD. YOUR WAY.

Rail Europe

Sunderman
Overland
Sharing New Frontiers Experiences

TravelManagers
As individual as you are

VIKING

Wendy Wu Tours

WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, TD's Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.649

THE Australian dollar is continuing to benefit from the USD's struggle amid the United States' rising economic concerns, particularly regarding slow growth and renewed inflation.

Meanwhile, the federal Treasury has released a new analysis showing that natural disasters in the first five months of 2025 caused a \$2.2 billion decline in economic activity.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.649
UK	£0.479
NZ	\$1.076
Euro	€0.567
Japan	¥92.63
Thailand	฿21.13
China	¥4.673
South Africa	11.59
Canada	\$0.891
Crude oil	US\$60.94

Influenced by NSW

DESTINATION NSW has kicked off the latest campaign in its 'Feel New' series, featuring insights and insider tips from prominent residents and influencers.

The campaign spotlights lesser-known attractions, experiences and personal itineraries as told by Olympic canoe slalom champion Jess Fox, viral comedy troupe The Inspired Unemployed, long-distance runner Nedd Brockmann, ARIA-winning musician Budjerah and celebrity chef Dan Hong.

Regent hits the reset button



LUXURY Vietnamese beach resort, Regent Phu Quoc, has introduced 'Regent Reset', a new wellness retreat for travellers who want to take a break from technology and recharge their minds and bodies.

The three-day package approaches wellness in a holistic way, featuring spa treatments inspired by traditional Vietnamese techniques as well as outdoor excursions that will immerse guests in nature.

After check-in, guests will

receive a personal consultation with Dr Tomson Jose, the resort's Director of Spa and Wellness, who will customise their itinerary according to their individual wellness goals and preferences.

Throughout the retreat, guests will be encouraged to live phone- and internet-free, and can choose from several personalised therapies at the resort's spa, including a traditional Vietnamese massage, plus outdoor experiences like a rooftop yoga session and a trek through lush jungles.

"Today's travellers understand the negative effects of too much stress and not enough rest, from interrupted sleep to poor mental and physical health," said Dr Tomson Jose.

"This retreat will emphasise the importance of a balanced approach to wellness, encouraging everyone to maintain harmony between their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing to unlock their full potential for health and happiness."

Room rates start from A\$1,086 per night - book **HERE**. JM

New oneworld VPs

AIRLINE alliance Oneworld has welcomed three new executives as it continues to enhance its global capabilities.

Stephen Nagel has taken on the role of Vice President for Global Partnerships, elevated to the role after having served in Oneworld's Management Board for 10 years.

New to the alliance is Chris Kelly Singley, named Vice President of Communications and Marketing; along with Guido Van Till, who is the new Vice President - Digital.

Oceania specialties

OCEANIA Cruises has launched a series of special themed sailings for 2026, to be hosted by celebrity culinary experts and other prominent names.

Hosts will include chefs, cookbook authors and TV personalities Claudine Pepin and Sara Moulton, along with French Master Chefs Alexis Quaretti and Eric Barale.

Pepin, the godmother of *Oceania Sirena*, will board sister ship *Oceania Riviera* for a 12-day Alaska round-trip from Seattle, during which guests will enjoy culinary demonstrations, a Q&A session and Chef's Market Dinner.

Moulton will be onboard a 12-day Lisbon to Paris sailing, personally crafting Grand Dining Room menus, hosting onboard events and accompanying select shore excursions.

Qatar joint cargo

QATAR Airways will commence a new global air cargo joint venture with IAG Cargo and MASKargo, with a formal launch expected later this year.

Subject to regulatory approvals, the new cooperation will introduce new routing opportunities, boosted efficiency and improved connectivity for air freight customers worldwide.

The partnership is expected to unlock new trade opportunities around the world, unlocking routes not before available on a single booking.

The three airlines will now work to align systems, processes and commercial offerings to ensure a smooth rollout, with a combined Avios loyalty program expected to be introduced in coming months.

WIN YOUR WAY TO THE ULTIMATE LOS ANGELES FAMIL! 10 SPOTS TO WIN. 1 EPIC ADVENTURE. DUA LIPA. INCUBUS. LA LIGHTS. CONCERTS. SPORTS. SHOPPING. STAR POWER.

Los Angeles is the world's entertainment capital - and you'll experience it
ALL courtesy of United Airlines, Los Angeles Tourism, VIVA Holidays,
My Way Travel and Events and Air Tickets!

HOW TO EARN YOUR SPOT:

Incentive period:

1 June – 31 August 2025

- ★ 1 entry for each United Airlines economy passenger ticketed
- ★ Bonus entry for each United Airlines business passenger ticketed
- ★ 1 entry per night of accommodation booked in Los Angeles via VIVA Holidays
- ★ 1 entry per person booked with My Way Travel & Events

WHEN:

2 - 6 October 2025

YOUR EXCLUSIVE LINE-UP:

- ★ Indulge in luxury and glamour at the W Hollywood.
- ★ Dance the night away at the Dua Lipa concert
- ★ Reignite early 2000s alt-rock nostalgia with Incubus live in concert!
- ★ Enjoy a Citadel Outlets shopping spree
- ★ Plus sun, style & star-studded vibes!



Small Group Journeys

Our most epic journeys are back for 2026



Adventures are always better in good company. Our 2026 Small Group Journey 'Greatest Hits' offer a glimpse of what makes travel with A&K so distinctive: intimate group sizes averaging 14 guests, insider access, expert-led exploration and guaranteed departures with just two guests. From tracking Africa's iconic wildlife across Kenya's golden savannahs to exploring the ancient temples of Egypt, each itinerary is designed to bring like-minded travellers together for something truly special.

Ultimate Great Migration Safari
14 days from \$30,605 pp

Ultimate Botswana Safari
10 days from \$22,800 pp

Egypt and the Nile
10 days from \$15,760 pp

Petra, the Pyramids and a Nile
Yacht Cruise
13 days from \$26,780 pp

Wonders of Morocco: From Souks
to the Sahara
12 days from \$16,830 pp

Classic Japan
9 days from \$24,730 pp

Taj Mahal and the Treasures of India
14 days from \$21,115 pp

Peru: Machu Picchu and Amazon Cruise
13 days from \$25,705 pp

Spain and Portugal:
10 Extraordinary Cities
14 days from \$24,180 pp

TO BOOK YOUR CLIENTS CALL A&K'S
TRAVEL SPECIALISTS ON 1300 589 717

ABERCROMBIE & KENT

LIFE, WELL - TRAVELLED