

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today features seven pages of the latest news, including our **Corporate Update**, plus full pages from:

- City of Gold Coast
- Abercrombie & Kent

JB makes US push

JOURNEY Beyond will seek to raise its profile in North America via the appointment of MMGY as its media agency in the region.

The company's Executive General Manager, Sales and Partnerships Alicia Triggs said North America is a major focus.

"Visitor numbers from both the US and Canada into Australia are on the rise, with US visitors alone expected to exceed 871,000 in 2025 and closer to one million by 2028, & Canadians are expected to exceed 170,000 for 2025."

Journey Beyond already has in-market representation in New Zealand, the UK, and China.

Solo women pay more

MORE than 70% of women are prepared to pay more for travel if it means they will feel safer on solo trips, new data from Insure&Go has showed.

The study also indicated that more than four in five women embarking on solo trips are already choosing to pay more for safer accommodation, tours and travel experiences.

Younger females aged between 18 and 29 are leading the way in risk minimisation research, with half of those in the demographic stating they avoid booking travel to destinations where it is perceived women face more harassment or other risks.

While 17% of the 1,006 women canvassed said they would refuse to travel alone altogether due to safety concerns, the solo travel segment for females continues to surge in Australia.

Almost a third of Aussie women have travelled internationally



on their own, and by 2026, the report predicts that number will rise to 43%, and 59% by 2027.

On the domestic front, 45% of respondents said they had already taken a solo trip, with that percentage also anticipated to increase to 62% by 2026, and 76% by 2027.

The freedom felt on trips was listed as the primary motivator for solo adventures (38%), followed by a lack of willing travel companions (28%), the ability to create a unique itinerary (22%), and to meet new people and create friendships (15%).

Of the cohort of women who are yet to travel alone, one in five said they fully expect to pay a premium to feel safe when they do end up booking. **AB**

Ritz-Carlton docks

THE local presence for Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection has firmed up this week, with the boutique cruise line opening a Sydney office and appointing two reservation agents.

Ritz-Carlton has also gone live with AUD pricing, allowing travel partners to view its voyages in the local currency - read the full details in **Cruise Weekly**.

Grants for nature

CITY of Gold Coast is inviting applications from local businesses eager to invest in sustainability with a nature-based tourism grant - more info on **p8**.

Extraordinary A&K

ABERCROMBIE & Kent has unveiled a new range of 2026 expedition voyages taking travellers to the Arctic, Galapagos, British Isles, Africa and South America - see more on **page nine**.

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TTC makes a big impact

THE Travel Corporation (TTC) has published its *2024 Impact Report*, which affirms its commitment to ease pressure on overcrowded destinations with a focus on local experiences.

The annual report showcased TTC's progress on its five-year sustainability strategy, integrating results across its brand portfolio, including Trafalgar, Insight Vacations, Contiki, Costsaver, Luxury Gold, AAT Kings, Adventure World and Uniworld.

The group achieved seven of its 11 goals, including the reduction of Scope 1 & 2 emissions by 23% and Scope 3 emissions by 20% from a 2019 baseline year, moving it closer towards its goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

"As travellers return in greater numbers, the conversation must shift from growth to balance, a change we have been advocating for at TTC," said Shannon Guihan, Chief Sustainability Officer of The Travel Corporation and Head of its TreadRight Foundation.

"That is why, across our brands, we are taking meaningful steps to reduce pressure on overcrowded destinations and to ensure our



trips bring benefit, not burden."

TTC also achieved a 20% increase in itineraries that visit developing regions, reflecting its ongoing efforts to ensure that the benefits of tourism earnings are spread beyond visitor hotspots.

Additionally, the group prioritised local and organic dining experiences, with 84% of all itineraries now including at least one local dining experience.

The report highlighted that 88% of all TTC itineraries now feature at least one Make Travel Matter experience, delivering positive social or environmental benefits, and aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"We believe that thoughtful, community-informed policies are essential to preserving the very qualities that draw travellers in the first place," said Guihan.

See the full report [HERE](#). JM

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Melbourne

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New Med sailings

CUNARD has unveiled a 22-week 2027/28 Mediterranean northern winter season, which will feature 65 voyages ranging from seven to 28 nights.

The season will see *Queen Elizabeth* sail from Barcelona, Rome, Trieste and Istanbul, with maiden calls set for the Corsican town of Calvi and returns to ports not visited for more than 15 years.

Travellers will have access to 93 UNESCO World Heritage sites during the season, with 18 overnight stays also planned along with 33 late departures.

Across Cunard's four-ship fleet, the season will comprise 195 new itineraries across 32 countries.

Kidd makes the cut

INTREPID Travel Managing Director Asia & Head of Global Operations Natalie Kidd has been named among the country's top women in leadership by the *Australian Financial Review*.

Kidd ranked #44 in the Retail, Hospitality, & Property category of the masthead's 'Women in Leadership' list, which was published this week.

Her recognition highlights a career shaped by leading with purpose, long-term vision, and a deep passion for empowering people to thrive, Intrepid said.

"It's an honour to be named alongside so many inspiring, purpose-driven women who are reshaping the future of business in Australia," Kidd added.

The Sydney-based executive joined Intrepid in 2005 as General Manager Vietnam, and has since helped grow the company's footprint into a global network of 29 inbound tour operators.

No Aussies involved

AN AIR India flight that crashed shortly after take-off in Ahmedabad yesterday killed 241 people on board, with one passenger miraculously surviving after being thrown clear.

No Australians were aboard the ill-fated flight, which was bound for London Gatwick.

The crash is one the deadliest to occur in more than a decade, and at this stage no cause has been identified, with air crash investigations ongoing.



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Wendy Wu Tours

TAFE must realign focus



AUSTRALIAN Travel Career Council CEO Rick Myatt has voiced concerns that TAFE NSW is focusing too heavily on logistics based industries to the detriment of travel and tourism credentials.

Myatt's issues were raised recently at a function hosted by Business Sydney and law firm Clayton Utz, attended by NSW Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education, Steve Whan.

Also in attendance was newly minted TAFE NSW Managing Director, Chloe Reid, who presented an overview of the training institute's new initiatives, which include industry-focused facilities in Western Sydney, the Hunter and Illawarra regions.

These centres are being developed to offer enhanced training opportunities and job-ready skills in areas such as renewable energy, emerging

technology and automation.

Travel and tourism continues to suffer from a lack of skilled and qualified graduates emerging with appropriate qualifications following the pandemic, which decimated the sector's workforce.

Myatt said there has been a "significant reduction" in travel and tourism courses offered at both vocational and university level by TAFE NSW.

He said the situation is reflected in only 142 school-leavers and trainees moving into the baseline Cert III in Travel last year, with both Minister Whan and Reid acknowledging Myatt's concerns and agreeing to work closely on ways to improve the traineeship numbers moving into travel. *ML*

Myatt is **pictured** above centre with TAFE NSW Managing Director Chloe Reid and NSW Minister for TAFE, Steve Whan.

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NT operator sued in NSW

THE tour operator whose coach was involved in a fatal crash in the Northern Territory in 2022 (*TD* 05 Aug 2022) is now being sued by two of the surviving passengers, AAP reports.

Couple Joshua Clements and Elysse Lloyd are taking Emu Run Experience and its Managing Director Patrick Bedford to Federal Court over the crash, with the plaintiffs seeking compensation for pain, harm and lifelong injuries suffered.

The civil lawsuit has been filed in NSW, because the aggrieved couple said that under the Northern Territory's Motor Accident Compensation Scheme,

the potential compensation amount is capped at a sum lower than what they feel they deserve.

Clements said he has required spinal fusion surgeries after the crash, undergoing nine separate operations with at least six more scheduled to fix ongoing issues.

Emu Run Experiences and Bedford also face criminal charges of failing to comply with safety duty, and have been prosecuted by NT WorkSafe. *AB*

The west is the best

QANTAS Hotels and Holidays have released a new campaign with Tourism Western Australia called 'Winter Dreaming in Western Australia'.

The initiative aims to encourage tourists to consider travelling to the state this winter, showcasing its beautiful landscapes and unique experiences.

New ocean voyages

VIKING has released 14 new ocean itineraries for 2026-2027, exploring the Mediterranean, UK, Ireland and Scandinavia, ranging from 15 to 36 days.

The new voyages seek deeper immersion for passengers, combining two or more of Viking's most popular itineraries.

Guests can enjoy the best of Spain, Italy and France on the 'Gems of the Mediterranean' journey, while the 'Viking Homelands, Shores and Fjords' trip sails through the Baltic Sea.

There is also the 'Iberia, the Mediterranean & Aegean' cruise on offer, where cruisers will enjoy the colourful streets of Lisbon, Seville's palaces, view Granada's medieval architecture, and many more shore experiences.

Youth harder to scam

AUSTRALIAN travellers are at risk of getting scammed overseas, with one in three failing to research local scams prior to trips, and 23% choosing to "trust their gut" to avoid being tricked.

The results are part of a survey from Travelinsurance.com, which also found that Gen Z and Millennials are the most likely to be "scam-savvy", thanks largely to their usage of social media, while Baby Boomers are more likely to rely on their instincts in the face of being scammed.

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Coral local lecturers

CORAL Expeditions has secured a lineup of esteemed lecturers who will each host presentations during the line's circumnavigation of Australia later this year.

The 60-day voyage will depart from Cairns on 17 Oct and feature zoologist Ian Morris; photographer Quentin Chester; environmental scientist Dale Arnott; educators Ian Herford; marine biologist Sandra Reimer; and more.

Be insurance-savvy

TRAVEL insurance provider RACV is reminding Australians about the importance of disclosing pre-existing medical conditions when travelling overseas, and to ensure they understand the limitations of reciprocal health agreements.

RACV pointed out that while Australia has reciprocal health agreements with several countries including the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Italy, these arrangements provide only basic medical coverage and can leave travellers exposed to significant financial risks.

"Reciprocal health agreements typically only cover essential medical treatment in public facilities, often with waiting periods," said RACV Head of Travel Insurance, Judith Gamble.

"What's particularly concerning is that many travellers with pre-existing medical conditions may not realise these conditions are usually excluded from reciprocal coverage altogether."

CATO honours legends



CAPPING off the Council of Australian Tour Operators' (CATO) inaugural sold-out Summit yesterday was the announcement of two members being inducted into its new Hall of Fame.

Intrepid Travel co-founder Darrell Wade was named one of the two founding members, alongside CATO co-founder and touring entrepreneur Peter Bailey (both pictured).

The exciting news followed the industry body's AGM, which saw a new board composition announced shortly after.

Two new directors were added, with Greece & Mediterranean Travel Centre General Manager Amanda Highfield and Globus family of brands Chief Executive Officer Chris Hall both joining (**TD** breaking news yesterday).

The duo will replace outgoing directors Julie King (**TD** 10 Jun) and Yvette Thompson (Intrepid



Travel), who both decided not to stand for re-election this year.

Dennis Bunnik was re-elected unopposed as Chair for his sixth consecutive term, while The Travel Corporation's James O'Donnell and The Explorer Society's Martin Edwards have both returned for another term.

Five current directors remain mid-term and were not up for re-election, they include: Lisa Pagotto, Crooked Compass (Vice-Chair); Aaron Zoanetti, Frontera Law; Ingrid Berthelsen, Evolution Travel Collective; Brad McDonnell, Entire Travel Group; and Sean Martin, G Adventures.

"The ongoing presence of Dennis, along with our mid-term and returning directors, ensures continuity and a depth of insight as CATO continues its important work exclusively representing tour operators and wholesalers," CATO MD Brett Jardine said. **AB**



Window Seat

LOLLIPOP lovers can rejoice - there is finally a sweet version of your favourite treat that won't overload you with sugar.

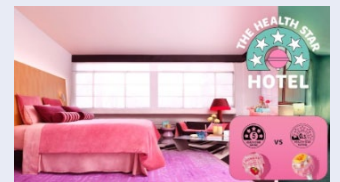
A marketable fact like that couldn't go unnoticed by Melbourne's Adelphi Hotel, which has teamed up with the lollipop's manufacturers, Funday Natural Sweets to launch a colourful and tasty themed hotel stay.

The Funday Health Star Hotel will be a unique experience, available to one person for two nights only - 27 to 29 Jun - and will go on sale at 10am next Tue 17 Jun - **CLICK HERE**.

The lucky guests will enjoy bubbles on arrival, fluffy Funday robes, bed linens and all the natural sweets one can enjoy over the two nights in the decorated room (pictured).

Makers of the Funday lollipop say it contains just 1g of natural sugar, no artificial sweeteners, and has obtained a five-star health rating.

For those who miss out however, the Adelphi is offering 30% off stays booked using codeword 'FUNDAY'.



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NZ 100% in off-peak move

TOURISM New Zealand (TNZ) has launched its new 'Find your 100%' brand campaign, designed to boost visitor arrivals to the country beyond peak seasons.

Positioned under the universal '100% Pure New Zealand' message, TNZ said the NZ\$13.5 million campaign will shine a spotlight on the people, places and cultural elements to encourage travellers to visit any time of the year.

The new campaign comes as part of a wider new NZ\$35 million Tourism Growth Roadmap, which sets out initiatives and investments to entice 72,000 more international visitors a year and double the value of tourism.

Key markets to be targeted in the multi-year campaign include Australia, the US and China.

"This investment is expected to generate around NZ\$300 million in spending, a very strong return on investment if achievable," New Zealand Tourism Minister Louise Upston said.

"International visitor numbers



continue to climb and this boost will help drive economic growth throughout the entire country."

The government said funding for the roadmap and campaign comes from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) for 2025/26, which was last year increased by nearly three-fold (**TD** 04 Sep 2024) to NZ\$100 for selected markets.

Further investments coming from the IVL include a NZ\$6 million spend on marketing in India and Southeast Asia; NZ\$8 million to grow business and major events; and NZ\$4 million for work on improving the visitor experience and infrastructure. **ML**

Maverick to Vegas

PARAMOUNT Global will build a new *Top Gun*-themed tourist experience in Las Vegas on an undeveloped parcel of land near The Strat Hotel and Casino.

Set to open in mid-2028, visitors will be able to enjoy fighter jet simulators and other thrill rides, with F&B offerings headlined by Maverick's Hard Deck Bar, which will offer piano sing-alongs.

The "adrenaline-charged immersive attraction" is being developed in partnership with Advent Allen Entertainment.

Top agents shine in Tahiti



TAHITI recently welcomed a group of agents from Australia who each registered high scores and completion rates in the Tahiti Tourisme e-learning program.

The group enjoyed an eight-day adventure across the islands, with time spent in Papeete, Moorea and the idyllic Bora Bora.

Highlights of the trip included inspecting, and in some cases staying, in high-end properties including The Westin Bora Bora, Conrad Bora Bora Nui, St Regis Bora Bora and Sofitel Moorea Kia Ora Beach Resort.

The group also enjoyed a hiking tour in Papenoo Valley, sampled some Tahitian street food, and went on a lagoon tour around Bora Bora, which included plenty of swimming and snorkelling. **ML**

Agents on the trip, **pictured**, included: Matthew Holden, Flight Centre Broadway; Cassandra Nguyen, FCM; Megan Gray, Travel Associates; Tracey Mills, TravelManagers; Narelle Duddy,

Jamison Travel; Rita Mardirossian, Tahiti Tourisme; as well as Belinda Van Tholen from Elite Cruising and Tours. **ML**

Stories that inspire

ORGANISED adventure company TourRadar has unveiled a new feature within its mobile app designed to inspire bookings from first-hand testimonials.

The 'TourRadar Moments' feature allows users to browse short-form video reels and photos submitted by other travellers directly tied to various products and experiences available to book.

Users submitting videos and photos which are in turn booked by others can earn up to \$250 in website credit for sharing and inspiring others.

"Travellers can see what an experience feels like, feel the vibes that made it unforgettable, and book it for themselves," said CEO Travis Pittman.

Airbus IT partner

AIRBUS has signed a new five-year Master Supply Agreement for IT services with Vietnam-based FPT Corporation.

The deal, which runs through 2029, will grant FPT access to Airbus' global IT projects in fields such as big data management, customer service and cloud software engineering.



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CORPORATE UPDATE

Pathway to sustainability

THE Global Business Travel Association's (GBTA) foundation unveiled its Sustainable Business Travel Transition Pathway yesterday during its Sustainability Summit in Washington DC.

Developed with Accenture, the strategy aims to help global businesses to start, advance and accelerate their sustainability travel efforts.

The pathway also helps organisations understand how their progress is being measured by reviewing the scoring methodology developed by Accenture, as well as benchmarking themselves against the current state of the industry.

It also details how business leaders have invested in sustainability despite the number of challenges and headwinds facing travel sustainability.

"The transition pathway provides companies across the world with the insights and tools



needed to embed sustainable travel practices at every level of their operating model," said Delphine Millot, Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Sustainability, GBTA, and Managing Director at the GBTA Foundation. *JHM*

Download the pathway [HERE](#).

Data key for buyers

A NEW report from BCD Travel has revealed the importance of buyers using travel data to develop travel programs.

From a survey of 197 travel buyers around the world, the stats revealed that travel data helps vendor negotiations (65%), improves compliance (59%), and optimises spend (47%).

Meanwhile, 74% of respondents have the skills required to analyse the data themselves, while 56% engage external assistance.

While 60% regularly check their data, 40% admitted they only do so when absolutely necessary.

Only one out of 10 use AI to collect and analyse travel data.

Respondents said real-time analytics are the most valuable feature of data analytic tools when looking out for trends (64%), followed by built-in dashboards (57%).

Biz travel on the up

CORPORATE events continue to grow year-on-year, with 56% of businesses claiming that people engagement is the main driver of their meetings, according to a new report from FCM Meetings & Events and Cvent.

Incentive travel was identified as a drawcard for employees, with 68% of businesses seeing improved employee motivation and strengthened relationships as major benefits.

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NCL walks the red carpet



POPCORN in hand, guests of Norwegian Cruise Line walked the red carpet at Sydney's State Theatre last night at a screening of *The Ballad of Wallis Island*.

The film is part of an extensive cinematic lineup featuring at the 72nd Sydney Film Festival, of which NCL has signed on as a major partner.

As part of its collaboration, the line will feature prominently at a special Sydney Film Festival TV activation in Martin Place, where the public can enjoy snippets of feature and short films, alongside a variety of global NCL travel and cruise inspiration.

The cruise line said the tie-up with the Sydney Film Festival was "a natural fit", with the event sharing its passion for discovery and adventure, which is reflected in its 'See the bigger picture' tag. Further evidence can be seen

in recent customer research from NCL, which confirmed the popularity of arts, culture and entertainment among Australian cruise travellers, with cinema identified as a major passion. *ML*

Pictured above second from left is Sydney Film Festival Partnerships Manager, Judy Gilfeather-Zhu with the Norwegian Cruise Line team of Public Relations Manager Leanne Fonagy; VP & Managing Director, Asia Pacific, Ben Angell; and Senior Marketing Manager, Asia Pacific, Tara Clifford.

Booking.com flies

GLOBAL tech provider for flights, Etraveli Group, has extended its existing partnership with Booking.com, bolstering the platform's flight offering for another eight years.

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APT Travel has released last-minute travel deals for 2025 on a range of tours departing from Jul to Dec. Travellers can enjoy limited-time savings across Europe, Asia, Canada & Alaska, Australia, and beyond. For example, save up to \$11,800 per couple on Europe itineraries - find out more by clicking [HERE](#).

The earlybird sale on **Railbookers'** 2026 collection ends soon. Travellers can enjoy a discount of up to \$800 when they lock in their holiday for next year, as well as score a \$100 gift voucher to put towards their booking. Trips on sale include the eight-day 'Grand Cities of Scandinavia', the seven-day 'Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City', and the eight-day 'Great Cities of Eastern Canada by Rail' itineraries. Book now, [HERE](#).


Ayers Rock Resort has unveiled an End of Financial Year offer on Uluru accommodation, with prices starting from just \$165 per room per night at Outback Hotel. The discounted room rates are available for stays of three nights minimum between 01 Nov 2025-31 Mar 2026. [CLICK HERE](#) to book before 23 Jun.

Travellers can take advantage of new promotions at **Laguna Lang Co**, an integrated resort on Vietnam's central coast, including the 'Sense of Summer' package retreat at Banyan Tree Lang Co. Available until 31 Aug, the package includes a US\$200 daily resort credit per villa, as well as a one-time paper lotus making experience. Throughout the northern hemisphere summer, the resort will also host a range of free experiences, from kayaking and archery to traditional basket boat rides along its canal, as well as guided birdwatching tours. Visit lagunalangco.com to find out more.

Cebu Pacific is celebrating its 29th anniversary with a flash seat sale, offering fares from \$209 one-way all-in ex Melbourne and \$219 one-way all-in ex Sydney. The deals run until this Sun 15 Jun and are for travel between 01 Dec 2025 and 31 May 2026. More information [HERE](#).

Event organisers can plan their end-of-year celebrations with **Oaks Hotels, Resorts & Suites'** festive event packages. With 10 locations to choose from across Australia and New Zealand, and packages starting from \$29 per person, there's an option to suit every business. Guests can also stay the night with 15% off accommodation. The package is available for events booked at participating Oaks properties by 31 Dec 2025. Call 1300 991 253 or email events@theoaksgroup.com.au.




MSC Cruises has expanded its 'Seasational Sale' to include additional northern hemisphere summer sailings for 2026. Guests can enjoy up to 20% off their cruise fare, along with onboard credit of up to \$1,000 per cabin twin share. The extended sale is valid on selected sailings in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, Caribbean, and far east for departures until Nov 2026. [CLICK HERE](#) for further details.



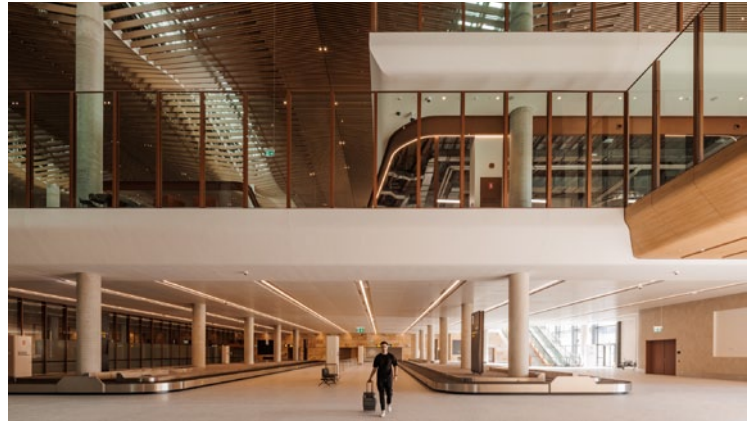
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First look inside WSI



MAJOR construction of the Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) has now finished, putting the new 24-hour gateway on track to open in late 2026.

The state-of-the-art terminal was formally unveiled this week, with WSI CEO Simon Hickey joined by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Minister for Transport Catherine King, plus key partners like Qantas, to mark the major milestone.

The new terminal blends sustainable-by-design principles and innovative technology to deliver a seamless experience for airlines and passengers.

"Global architecture leaders Zaha Hadid Architects, based in London, and one of our nation's top firms COX Architecture were selected to develop the initial design concepts of WSI following a competition in 2019 that attracted more than 40 international and domestic proposals," Hickey said.

"Fast forward six years and WSI is on the precipice of launching a seamless and stress-free airport experience unlike any other in Australia, giving our global city a 24-hour international gateway

that will continue to create significant economic opportunities for all of Greater Sydney."

The fit-out of the terminal's retail precinct and airline lounges will take place closer to the airport's opening, as commercial tenders and final contracts continue to progress over the months ahead. *JM*

Colombia warning

TRAVELLERS are being advised by DFAT to leave Colombia's Cauca and Valle de Cauca regions, including the city of Cali, as soon as it is safe to do so, following multiple terrorist incidents.

The Federal Government continues to advise a high degree of caution in Colombia overall due to the threat of violent crime and terrorism, and has reported a rise in assaults and robberies of foreigners, including Aussies.

Motels on the rise

JUDO Bank says it has seen a 40% increase in interest from city investors looking to acquire and redevelop regional motels as part of a push to create a new generation of modern motels.



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