

Qantas quits local association

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Australian carrier Qantas has quit the 17-member Association of Asia Pacific Airlines, surprising aviation commentators who say membership of the AAPA is vital for carriers' long-term growth prospects in the region.

Qantas said it had cancelled its membership in order to build relationships directly with other airlines.

The carrier also has released details of a tie-up between its low-cost offshoot, Jetstar, and Malaysian airline AirAsia, aimed at cutting costs.