

5 August 2016

QAL RECORD FY2016 MILESTONE

A record number of passengers passed through Queensland Airports limited (QAL) airports in the 2016 financial year, with more than 8 million passengers across its four airports.

Combined passenger numbers for Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach airports grew by 5.8% (447,607 passengers) in FY16.

The results for the last two years are summarised in the table below:

	FY16	FY15	Growth
Gold Coast Passengers			
Domestic (+Regional)	5,258,213	4,979,274	5.6%
International	1,045,707	886,163	18.0%
Total Passengers	6,303,920	5,865,437	7.5%
Townsville, Mount Isa & Longreach Passengers			
Townsville	1,582,203	1,550,402	2.1%
Mount Isa	186,605	208,483	-10.5%
Longreach	36,447	37,246	-2.1%
Total Passengers	8,109,175	7,661,568	5.8%

QAL Chief Executive Officer Chris Mills said he was particularly pleased to see strong growth at Gold Coast airport.

“We were delighted to see Gold Coast Airport exceed 6 million passengers for the first time ever, an increase of 7.5% on the previous financial year,” said Mr Mills.

“There is so much activity across the Gold Coast at the moment, and with an average of 400 inbound services per week now the Gold Coast Airport is one of the fastest growing airports in Australia.

“While domestic growth was strong, international numbers grew an impressive 18% on the back of new services to Hong Kong and Wuhan, and additional Auckland flights.

“It is great to see Townsville has returned to growth, with Townsville Airport reporting an increase of 2.1%.

“This was assisted by the airport returning to international status with the introduction of Jetstar’s Bali services, and additional capacity to Sydney and Melbourne.

“Both Mount Isa and Longreach airports recorded a decline in numbers from the previous financial year, impacted by the resources downturn.

“It is a challenging time in regional Queensland and we will continue to invest in our airports and the communities,” Mr Mills said.

Last year Longreach airport installed 396 solar panels on the terminal building roof to significantly reduce reliance on mains power and offset carbon emissions.

Mount Isa Airport has just commenced works for a significant upgrade to its existing car park. The upgrade will improve passenger experience, security, access and sustainability at the airport. Solar panels will offset over 80 per cent of the Airport's electricity usage during daylight hours.

Townsville Airport will commence works on its \$42M terminal redevelopment later this year, in an effort to provide faster and more efficient service for travellers, deliver additional retail choice, and modernise the existing terminal facility.

Gold Coast Airport has recently begun preparations for its \$300M terminal and apron redevelopment. The growth in passenger numbers means that it is experiencing significant congestion during busy peak hour periods and the new facility will address this.

QAL is an Australian owned, Queensland based regional airport specialist group with a vision to engage customers, connect communities, and provide exceptional experiences.

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