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RECORD PASSENGER MOVEMENTS ACROSS QAL AIRPORTS IN 2016

A record number of passengers moved through Queensland Airports Limited's (QAL) four ports in the 2016 calendar year, with in excess of 8.2 million passenger movements across Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach airports.

The result represents growth of 5.3 per cent compared to the 2015 calendar year.

Gold Coast Airport (GCA) recorded the highest growth across the group, with its record 6.4 million passenger movements marking a 7.1 per cent increase compared to the prior year.

Results for the past two years are summarised below:

	2016	2015	Growth
Gold Coast Passengers			
Domestic (+Regional)	5,324,057	5,080,659	4.8%
International	1,125,760	942,318	19.5%
Total Passengers	6,449,817	6,022,977	7.1%
Townsville, Mount Isa & Longreach Passengers			
Townsville	1,571,476	1,564,307	0.5%
Mount Isa	178,704	194,359	-8.1%
Longreach	35,205	37,079	-5.1%
Total Passengers	8,235,202	7,818,722	5.3%

QAL CEO Chris Mills said Gold Coast Airport's continued strength reflected the region's desirability as a destination for visitors.

"We are very pleased with Gold Coast Airport's performance, in particular the growth of international passenger movements which increased by nearly 20 per cent compared to 2015," he said.

"Works have commenced to increase the airport's capacity to meet future demand.

"Townsville has also returned to growth after some lean years, and we have made provision for future growth in our planned terminal redevelopment.

"There was a decline in passenger movements at Mount Isa and Longreach airports where conditions are currently more challenging. Nevertheless we are confident that this will change and continue to invest in these airports and each of the communities in which we operate."

Growth at GCA is due to an increase in capacity of existing routes and the introduction of new domestic and international services.

GCA welcomed a permanent Hong Kong to Gold Coast service by Hong Kong Airlines in January 2016, while AirAsiaX commenced daily Auckland services in March and increased its Kuala Lumpur route to 11 per week from July. Qantas added services to Melbourne in October 2015 which operated for the full year in 2016.

Townsville Airport welcomed direct Bali services in September 2015 which also operated throughout 2016.

QAL continues to invest significantly in its airports across the state as it aims to enhance visitor experiences.

GCA's Project LIFT includes the expansion of the terminal building and additional aircraft parking stands. The project has commenced and development will be completed in stages over the next few years.

At Townsville Airport, QAL will start work on the initial stage of its terminal redevelopment, Project Alive, this year. The development will provide faster and more efficient service for travellers, deliver additional retail choice and modernise the existing terminal facility.

A new carpark is soon to officially open at Mount Isa Airport which will provide safer and more efficient access to the airport for visitors, as well as 820 solar panels which are expected to offset more than 80 per cent of the airport's electricity usage during daylight hours. At Longreach Airport, QAL has recently completed construction of a wildlife-proof fence around the flight strip in an effort to provide a more secure airside operating environment.

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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