

24 January 2018

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**QAL APPOINTS GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE RELATIONS**

Queensland Airports Limited (QAL) is pleased to announce the appointment of Lucy Ardern to the role of General Manager Corporate Relations.

Ms Ardern joins QAL – which owns and operates Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach airports – after almost three years with leading Queensland-based communication company Rowland and 15 years as a journalist, chief of staff and editor with the News Corp and APN media groups.

QAL CEO Chris Mills said Ms Ardern brought a wealth of experience to the business.

“This is a newly created role within the QAL Group, responsible for leading stakeholder engagement and implementing corporate communication strategies for the business,” he said.

“In addition to her stakeholder engagement experience, Lucy also brings a thorough understanding of the media landscape, which will be important to our growing business.”

Ms Ardern said it was an exciting time to join QAL and she was looking forward to being involved with the many initiatives the company had underway.

“QAL already has strong relationships with its airline, government, business and community partners, so I will be looking to work with the executive leadership team to build on those relationships,” she said.

“The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will be the biggest sporting event staged in Australia this decade. Gold Coast Airport’s involvement in this event is significant and it will be a busy and exciting time for the organisation.

“Then when the Games comes to a close, Project LIFT will ramp up at Gold Coast Airport. This \$350 million project will play a big part in keeping things moving on the Gold Coast post-Games.”

External works are already well underway for Project LIFT, with earthworks progressing onsite. Building work for the terminal expansion is due to start in late 2018.

Work is also expected to start this year on a \$50 million, 192-room Rydges hotel with a rooftop bar at Gold Coast Airport.

A major redevelopment of Townsville Airport is also planned by QAL.

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

**ENDS**

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