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MEDIA RELEASE

QAL BREAKS TWO COMPANY RECORDS IN 2017

Queensland Airports Limited (QAL) has continued its growth trajectory, with December 2017 marking the busiest month in the airport operator's history.

Passenger numbers increased at each of the QAL airports compared to the previous year, with the group collectively welcoming 768,719 passengers in December – an increase of 4.2 per cent.

A record number of passengers moved through QAL's four ports in the 2017 calendar year, with more than 8.4 million passenger movements across Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach.

This represented an additional 193,304 passengers, a 2.4 per cent increase across the business.

A summary of December results is provided in the table below:

Airport	Dec 2017	Dec 2016	Growth
Gold Coast	608,633	586,234	3.8%
Townsville	143,523	135,289	6.1%
Mount Isa	14,306	13,764	3.9%
Longreach	2,257	2,169	4.1%
Total passengers	768,719	737,456	4.2%

QAL CEO Chris Mills said Gold Coast Airport had ended the year on a high.

"Gold Coast Airport recorded its busiest day in history on Saturday 23 December," said Mr Mills.

"A total of 24,076 passengers passed through GCA on Saturday 23 December. This exceeded the previous record of 23,856 passengers on Sunday 3 January 2016.

"Throughout the month, we saw strong domestic passenger movements, particularly from Sydney, reflecting Gold Coast's ongoing popularity as a holiday destination amongst interstate visitors.

"Overall, we saw international long-haul passenger movements grow by 8.6 per cent, with capacity added on Japan and Hong Kong services to cope with demand."

Townsville Airport continued to deliver positive results, recording an increase of 6.1 per cent for December, and an overall 4.1 per cent growth on the prior calendar year.

"Strong demand at a domestic level has again highlighted the importance of the required upgrades at the airport. These works underpin our strategy for growth, which in turn will deliver a range of benefits for Townsville locals and the economy alike," Mr Mills said.

Positive momentum at Mount Isa Airport has continued, with the airport recording its eleventh consecutive month of growth.

"Increased resource-related activity in and around the region is having a positive impact on our passenger numbers – a clear sign of confidence in Mount Isa," Mr Mills said.

"Mount Isa Airport was the standout last calendar year, welcoming 11,493 additional passengers on the year prior."

Longreach Airport recorded solid growth 4.1 per cent on December 2016.

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