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MEDIA RELEASE

GROWTH CONTINUES IN THE NORTH AND WEST

An increase in passenger numbers was recorded by most of the Queensland Airports Limited (QAL) airports in May – with growth in Longreach, Townsville and Mount Isa.

Longreach was the outstanding performer of the QAL group, with a 9.2 per cent increase in passenger numbers, while increases of more than five per cent were recorded in both Townsville and Mount Isa.

A net change in total passengers of 0.7 per cent across QAL owned and operated airports was recorded due to a 2.8 per cent drop at Gold Coast Airport. A summary of May results is provided in the table below:

Airport	May 2018	May 2017	Growth
Gold Coast	468,607	481,900	-2.8%
Townsville	138,345	130,919	5.7%
Mount Isa	17,678	16,778	5.4%
Longreach	2,850	2,611	9.2%
Total QAL passengers	627,480	632,208	-0.7%

Queensland Airports Limited CEO Chris Mills said the increasing economic strength of north and western Queensland continued to push up passenger numbers in Mount Isa and Townsville airports.

“Overall, we are tracking well for strong growth across the group for the first half of 2018 after record breaking months in January, March and April,” he said.

“Longreach has recorded the highest percentage increase for a second month running and Townsville has returned to growth following a dip in passenger numbers in April related to the end of Bali services.”

Mr Mills said May had been quieter for Gold Coast Airport following the end of school holidays and the Commonwealth Games period, but was consistent with a trend of fewer domestic airline seats generally being available to passengers around the country.

“However the New Zealand market continued to perform well, with a 3.8 per cent uplift on May 2017 for visitors from New Zealand,” he said.

“This demonstrates the Gold Coast’s pulling power as a destination post GC2018.”

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