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MEDIA RELEASE

PASSENGER NUMBERS CONTINUE TO CLIMB IN FY2018

A 2.7 per cent increase in passenger numbers has been collectively recorded at Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach airports in the 2018 financial year, with about 8.5 million passengers welcomed by the four ports.

The result comes after the Queensland Airports Limited ports grew by 2.4 per cent the year before. When it came to percentages, Mount Isa was the top performer in the group, recording a 7.5 per cent uplift to 195,799, followed by Townsville, which increased 5.9 per cent to 1,670,143.

Full financial year results are summarised in the table below:

	Financial year results		
	2018	2017	Growth
Gold Coast	6,596,784	6,484,678	1.7%
Townsville	1,670,143	1,576,500	5.9%
Mount Isa	195,799	182,208	7.5%
Longreach	33,747	32,231	4.7%
Total passengers	8,496,473	8,275,618	2.7%

Queensland Airports Limited CEO Chris Mills said the increasing economic strength of the resources sector had driven growth at Mount Isa and Longreach.

“It is positive to see passenger numbers rising once again in these locations,” he said.

“Longreach achieved 4.7 per cent growth for the year, with strong monthly results throughout 2018.

“It is pleasing to see annual growth returning after slight declines in recent years, in line with the decline of the mining and resources sector.”

A new airport manager was also appointed at Longreach towards the end of the financial year, with Shelley Carr taking up the position in June after working at the facility for six years.

Last financial year Gold Coast Airport achieved a 1.7 per cent increase in passengers, while Townsville recorded a 5.9 per cent increase. Both airports recorded their busiest year ever, with Gold Coast Airport also clocking up monthly and daily records in January, while Townsville Airport chalked up its busiest month in July 2017.

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Mr Mills said reduced airline capacity on the Gold Coast and in Townsville had impacted passenger numbers towards the end of the financial year for both destinations.

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