

MEDIA RELEASE

QAL GROUP PASSENGER GROWTH STEADIES IN JULY

Passenger growth across Queensland Airports Limited’s (QAL) four airports has steadied following a strong 2018 financial year, with 757,245 passengers or 0.8 per cent fewer people welcomed and farewelled in July.

Townsville and Mount Isa airports grew two per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively in July, while Gold Coast Airport’s numbers softened 1.8 per cent. There was a slight drop of 52 people flying in and out of Longreach in the month.

The July result follows a 2.7 per cent increase in passengers across the group in the 2018 financial year – which was a record for QAL.

The July results are summarised in the table below:

July results			
	July 2018	July 2017	Growth
Gold Coast	574,286	584,756	-1.8%
Townsville	161,831	158,645	2.0%
Mount Isa	18,025	16,718	7.8%
Longreach	3,103	3,155	-1.6%
Total passengers	757,245	763,274	-0.8%

QAL CEO Chris Mills said Mount Isa Airport was a standout, with the state’s strengthening resources sector continuing to deliver higher passenger numbers for the regional gateway.

“The region is bouncing back and the airlines are responding with increased capacity – we had our first Boeing 737 of the year in late July, and we’ve already had another four this month,” he said.

“The Lady Loretta zinc mine is now operational and we are seeing the impact of this FIFO activity.”

Townsville Airport experienced its busiest month on record, with 161,831 passengers, up from 158,645 in July last year.

“Townsville Airport has continued the momentum we saw in the 2018 financial year, when passenger numbers grew 5.9 per cent,” Mr Mills said.

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“Results may steady in coming months, as we feel the impact of the cessation of Tigerair’s Townsville-Melbourne service from the beginning of August.”

Mr Mills said the drop in passenger numbers seen on the Gold Coast was a result of airlines continuing to manage domestic capacity.

The reduction in passenger numbers this month follows the confirmation of the Tigerair Gold Coast-Hobart route – which will deliver about 50,000 seats between the two destinations annually from October.

Mr Mills said New Zealand passenger numbers continued to be a highlight of the Gold Coast Airport results.

“The Gold Coast has again proven itself a destination of choice for kiwi visitors, with New Zealand passenger movements increasing 8.3 per cent last month, making July the second busiest month on record for this market,” he said.

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