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MEDIA RELEASE

QAL AIRPORTS KEEP BUSY IN STRONG START TO THE NEW YEAR

More than 778,000 passengers passed through Queensland Airports Limited's (QAL) four airports in January 2019 – making it the second busiest month ever for the group.

The January results are second only to those recorded in January 2018, when 794,433 passengers were processed through QAL's four airports, which include Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach.

A summary of January's results is provided in the table below:

January 2019 results			
	2019	2018	Change
Gold Coast	639,796	650,243	-1.6%
Townsville	122,010	128,906	-5.3%
Mount Isa	14,510	13,145	10.4%
Longreach	1,809	2,139	-15.4%
Total passengers	778,125	794,433	-2.1%

QAL CEO Chris Mills said the strong results was recorded despite high loads and reduced capacity at the company's busiest ports, the Gold Coast and Townsville.

"As airlines continue to manage their fleets tightly, we are seeing aircraft loads continue to rise," Mr Mills said.

"This is particularly true on the Gold Coast where our domestic routes had the highest loads of any airport in Australia in 2018, with an average of 87 per cent load capacity."*

Passenger numbers at Mount Isa Airport continued to show significant growth, with a 10.4 per cent rise in January 2019, building on a strong year in 2018 when growth was recorded in 11 of the 12 months.

The recent flooding event in North Queensland is expected to impact passenger numbers at Townsville Airport in February, and potentially beyond.

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* According to BITRE (Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics) data for Jan-Nov 2018.

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