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Media Release

Airport seeks new Adelaide option

Friday, 21 December 2018

Newcastle Airport has thanked local airline FlyPelican for its efforts in providing the region with a direct link to Adelaide since March this year. The Airport was advised by FlyPelican that it would not continue to provide services to Adelaide from 26 April 2019.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock, said that while it was disappointing that the venture did not prove viable for FlyPelican, the Airport was currently in discussions with other carriers.

“Strong passenger numbers and a clear increase in demand from the Hunter’s community for better air travel options, provide a sound business case for other carriers to consider this route,” Dr Cock said.

“Our team is currently working with a number of carriers that can meet the longer term needs of passengers choosing to fly into and out of the Hunter to a variety of potential destinations,” he said.

In November, the Airport reported higher passenger numbers 2.5% up on the previous year, with more than 114,082 (Nov 18 pax figures) people choosing to fly through Newcastle.

“The Adelaide route has been a good addition to flight options from Newcastle Airport and we believe that it continues to hold significant appeal to other carriers,” Dr Cock said.

FlyPelican has advised Newcastle Airport that it will continue to provide flights to Dubbo, Canberra and Ballina from Newcastle. FlyPelican is also working directly with passengers who have booked flights post 26 April 2019.

Since the route began, over 10,000 passengers took advantage of up to four direct flights each week.

FlyPelican’s CEO Paul Graham reiterated FlyPelican’s commitment to Newcastle and the Hunter.

“As a regional carrier, we have always been prepared to make brave decisions and play a leadership role in our community,” he said.

“The direct service between Newcastle and Adelaide was a perfect example and enabled us to provide a valued service to many thousands of people.”

“We would like to thank Newcastle Airport for partnering with us on this project and we look forward to continuing to work with them across our broad network of regional routes.”

Ends.

Further information

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www.newcastleairport.com.au



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Notes for the Editor:

Newcastle Airport <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/>

Newcastle Airport Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ntlairport/>

Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/NTLairport>

Newcastle Airport Master Plan: <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

Astra Aerolab <https://astraerolab.com.au/>

About Newcastle Airport

- > Named 'Major Airport of the Year' at the 2018 Australian Airports Association Industry Awards.
- > Newcastle Airport is the second international gateway into New South Wales and the second busiest airport in the state.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to nine direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.
- > Direct international flights to Auckland New Zealand will operate 22 November 2018 - 17 February 2019. Operated by Virgin Australia, the 13-week seasonal service is the first international route in 16 years.
- > In March 2018, a direct service to Adelaide commenced operated by FlyPelican. Adelaide represents the first new major city route since the introduction of Gold coast in 2004.
- > FY17/18 passenger results saw Newcastle Airport break its all-time FY record with 1,272,634 travellers passing through the terminal.
- > The record throughput is a result of 25-month consecutive year-on-year monthly passenger growth recorded up until December 2017.
- > A record-breaking 5,272 passengers travelled through Newcastle Airport on Friday 23 November 2018 (the first day of Newcastle Supercars). The same weekend (Thurs-Mon), saw more than 22,000 through the Airport.
- > In February 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 17 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995. 2018 will see the 18 millionth passenger.
- > Newcastle Airport is the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, with more than \$43 billion annual output and 48,500 businesses.
- > A significant economic driver, Newcastle Airport contributes more than \$1.1 billion to the state's economy each year. Of this, \$300 million is direct to the visitor economy, supporting 3,300 jobs.
- > Newcastle Airport is internationally ready, the international arrivals and departures fit-out completed in August 2017.
- > In its 70th anniversary year, Newcastle Airport continues to work with its airline partners to increase the number of flights to our current destinations, to add direct flights to even more destinations, and to work tirelessly to secure more international destinations.
- > The more people that choose to fly from Newcastle Airport will provide evidence to the airlines that the demand truly exists and that our region deserves more.
- > On 22 March 2018, Newcastle Airport released its 60-year Master Plan, which includes a 20-year blueprint for growth, projections and business development of the Airport.



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- > 30 minutes north of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport is located adjacent to RAAF Base Williamtown on land leased from Department of Defence.
- > Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd is jointly owned by City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.