



**Newcastle™
Airport**

Connecting People.
Connecting Places.

Media release

New community partnership to protect koalas

Wednesday, 27 June 2018

Newcastle Airport and Port Stephens Koalas are partnering to help to reduce koala motor vehicle injuries and fatalities in the Port Stephens region.

The new partnership has enabled Port Stephens Koalas to purchase a mobile roadside warning sign, which they will use in areas known to have large, active koala populations around Williamtown, Tilligerry Peninsula and Nelson Bay.

The specially manufactured warning sign aims to increase motorists' awareness of koala proximity, and encourage them to slow down in these areas.

Port Stephens Koalas Secretary Ron Land welcomed the involvement and generosity of Newcastle Airport. "The mobile sign will undoubtedly save koala lives at a time when numbers of the precious local koala population are in freefall. We are in a desperate struggle to arrest the decline of the local population of koalas and every koala we can save from serious or fatal injury caused by road strike is a god send," said Ron Land.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock, added that the partnership provides support to the local community around the Airport, and helps to protect our precious fauna.

"The dedicated team of volunteers at Port Stephens Koalas works tirelessly to sustain the local koala populations and protect these Australian icons for future generations. I've visited their facilities and was very impressed by their professionalism and passion for what they do. We believe it's important that Newcastle Airport supports local community initiatives and we are proud to partner with Port Stephens Koalas," said Peter Cock.

The partnership between Newcastle Airport and Port Stephens Koalas follows recent support from the NSW Government and Port Stephens Council towards building a koala sanctuary at One Mile.

"We are very encouraged by Port Stephens Koalas plans to establish a koala tourist education centre. It will provide improved clinical and research facilities to care for injured koalas, and will also help to boost the local tourism industry," Peter Cock added.

Ron Land stated, "We expect to take into care approximately 50 koalas in 2018. Sadly, we lost 30 koalas on the Tomaree and Tilligerry Peninsulas in 2016/2017. This great kindness from Newcastle Airport will lead to a reduction in these fatalities."

The Port Stephens Koalas mobile roadside warning sign will be officially unveiled at the aptly named "Koala Park", 10.00am Thursday 28 June, at Newcastle Airport.

The sign will be operational as of 29 June 2018.

Ends.

Media contacts

Crystal Bergemann, Newcastle Airport, Marketing and Communication Manager

02 4928 9811 or 0417 333 021

www.newcastleairport.com.au



**Newcastle™
Airport**

Connecting People.
Connecting Places.

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>

About Newcastle Airport

- > Newcastle Airport is New South Wales' second busiest airport.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to eight direct destinations and onward to more than 65 world-wide destinations with just one stop.
- > In 2017, Newcastle Airport had a record number of passengers pass through the terminal - 1,276,463 passengers.
- > The record throughput is a result of 25-month consecutive year-on-year monthly passenger growth recorded up until December 2017.
- > A record-breaking 4,823 passengers travelled through Newcastle Airport on Thursday 24 November (the day before Newcastle Supercars). The same weekend (Thurs-Mon), saw more than 21,000 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 was 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 an international destination.
- > 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.
- > On the same day, a new direct jet service commenced to Adelaide operated by FlyPelican. Adelaide represents the first new major city route since the introduction of Gold Coast in 2004.
- > 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 Newcastle City Council and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.