

Media release

Newcastle Airport breaks all-time passenger record— region travels smarter

Friday, 31 August 2018

Newcastle Airport recorded its busiest financial year on record thanks to the regional community “Going Smarter” and travelling from their local hub.

Over 1, 272,634 million travellers passed through the Airport in Financial Year 2017/2018 (FY18), an increase of 15,500 people, year-on-year.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock, said the Airport is greatly encouraged by the support from the people of the Greater Hunter, Central Coast and beyond who are making Newcastle Airport their point A when flying both domestically and internationally.

“Increase in passenger demand is key to airlines providing increased services to our region, and we have all seen the impact of this. Airlines are starting new routes and putting more seats into our market. By choosing to *Go Smarter* and travel from Newcastle Airport, passengers are directly helping to secure more connectivity.

“Growth fuels growth, and during FY18 the Airport completed the construction of its international facilities, launched its landmark *Go Smarter* marketing campaign, and secured a new domestic route to Adelaide – the region’s number one unserved domestic market and the first new major city destination in 14 years. In July, we also announced the first international services in 16 years.”

Over the past 12 months, the team has engaged with, and listened to our community. They have worked hard to showcase the convenient flight options that are right here at Williamstown, and secure new routes.

In July 2017, Newcastle Airport launched the *Go Smarter* marketing campaign to highlight how easy, quick, smart, and – in many cases – more affordable it is to begin travel from Newcastle Airport. Flying from Newcastle Airport means you can enjoy fast check-in, increased parking options, and time to relax, rather than enduring the stress of travelling to down the M1 to Sydney.

Local airline FlyPelican commenced a direct service to Adelaide in March, and recently adjusted the schedule to provide better connectivity and weekend itineraries for passengers.

In November, Virgin Australia will service a seasonal route to Auckland between 22 November 2018 and 17 February 2019.

Newcastle Airport is serviced by five airlines connecting to nine direct domestic destinations and as of 22 November internationally to Auckland, New Zealand.

“We will not stop here, we will continue to advocate and work with our airline partners to secure the services our region so passionately seeks. That is our promise in delivering the Airport the region deserves,” stated Peter.



**Newcastle™
Airport**

Connecting People.
Connecting Places.

Total FY Passengers (Arrivals/Departures)	
FY15	1,143,840
FY16	1,179,630
FY17	1,257,120
FY18	1,272,634

Ends.

Further information

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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>

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.
- > On 22 March 2018, a new direct jet service will commence to Adelaide operated by FlyPelican. Adelaide represents the first new major city route since the introduction of Gold Coast in 2004.
- > 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.