

## Media release

### Newcastle Airport celebrates 70 years of commercial aviation

Tuesday, 20 February 2018

Newcastle Airport is today celebrating its 70th anniversary of commercial aviation.

Officially opened on 20 February 1948 as Williamstown Civilian Airport, the first commercial flight to land, with clearance from the Commonwealth Government and with RAAF approval, was a Trans Australian Airline flight using a DC-3 aircraft. The Sydney-Williamstown-Brisbane service carried 18 passengers.

Today, Newcastle Airport services 1.28 million passengers each year, connecting business and leisure travellers directly to eight domestic destinations and onwards to over 65 overseas destinations in just one stop.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Peter Cock, said the anniversary was a significant milestone in the Hunter's history, and one that is celebrated with a clear vision for the future.

"From humble beginnings, affectionately known as the 'tin shed', to the world-class and international-ready facility it is today, Newcastle Airport is continually looking forward to ensure it delivers the airport the region deserves", commented Peter.

In its anniversary year, Newcastle Airport will release its Master Plan which provides a 60 year-vision, including a 20-year blueprint for growth, projections and business development.

Since the inaugural flight 70 years ago, Newcastle Airport has continued to experience extraordinary growth and prosperity, to the benefit of the local region. As the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, the Airport is a major economic driver contributing more than \$1.1 billion to the state's economy each year and supporting over 3,300 jobs.

"As a significant transport hub, Newcastle Airport is a critical enabler to the region's economic and social infrastructure. It is imperative that we have the plans in place to meet the needs of the region to allow it to grow and flourish. Our Master Plan, developed in consultation with key regional stakeholders and community, provides a plan to deliver this well into the next 70 years. We're looking forward to the future of our region and the part the airport can play", Peter added.

The Newcastle Airport Master Plan will be launched at a date soon to be announced.

Learn more about the [history of Newcastle Airport](#).

**Ends.**

#### Further information

Stephen Crowe, Newcastle Airport Executive Manager Corporate Affairs  
02 4928 9813 or 0418 763 800

Kate Bennett, Newcastle Airport Marketing and Communications Manager



02 4928 9856 or 0447 839 212

[www.newcastleairport.com.au](http://www.newcastleairport.com.au)

Notes for the Editor:

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

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

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

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