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Media release

Newcastle Airport named Airport of the Year

Thursday 15 November 2018

Newcastle Airport has been named **Major Airport of the Year 2018** by Australia's peak airport body, the Australian Airports Association (AAA).

Major Airport of the Year is awarded annually to an airport with over 500,000 annual passengers who displays excellence across all aspects of airport operations and development.

Newcastle Airport CEO Dr Peter Cock accepted the award last night at the National Airport Industry Awards in Brisbane. Peter said winning the highly competitive award is an achievement for the entire Greater Hunter Region.

"We thank the region and airport community for its continued support. This achievement is a result of collaboration across so many sectors, including our RAAF neighbours, industry and tourism partners and loyal travellers who go smarter by starting their journey from Newcastle Airport," added Peter.

AAA CEO Caroline Wilkie commended Newcastle Airport on its commitment to the Hunter region and the local visitor economy, including the commencement of international services from next week.

"Newcastle Airport's new international services are fantastic news for the local visitor economy. There have been many years of work behind the introduction of these services and the team has continued advocacy for their region is to be commended. They are a true partner of their community and tourism industry and a most worthy winner of this award," Caroline said.

"This year has seen a number of significant milestones for our region, including the release of our 20-year Master Plan for expansion to meet community growth, commencement of a direct service to Adelaide and \$11.7 million in NSW Government funding to create a world-leading aerospace precinct adjacent to Newcastle Airport.

A successful airport is vital to a bright future for the region and community in which it serves, and we greatly acknowledge the vision of our community shareholders, City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council, in helping deliver the Airport the region deserves," added Peter.

The award marks the second time Newcastle Airport has been named Major Airport of the Year, gaining the title previously in 2011 for its commitment to community engagement. Newcastle Airport is the only New South Wales airport to win the Award in seven years.

Ends.

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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

- > 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.
- > 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 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.
- > 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.