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Airport**

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## Media release

### NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure tours NSW's second international Airport

Tuesday, 27 November 2018

Newcastle Airport welcomes Andrew Constance MP, NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, as he tours the State's second international airport.

On the third day of international operations, Mr Constance viewed new Border Force facilities and welcomed overseas travellers, commenting on the growth and contribution of the airport as an international gateway to New South Wales.

"NSW Government majority funded the terminal expansion in 2017 and as Transport Minister, I'm particularly proud to see international flights available to the people of northern NSW. Playing an important role in global connectivity, we have already seen that it has created, not just travel opportunities, but real local job growth," Mr Constance said.

"The NSW Government remains very supportive of development plans for Newcastle Airport. We are working intensely with stakeholders and the Airport to investigate options for an upgraded runway that would allow longer range aircraft, opening up destinations further afield and providing economic benefit that would be counted in the billions of dollars over coming decades. This is a very significant project that should also receive funding from the federal government"

"An upgraded runway will bring significant opportunities, the potential for an international freight terminal would open new markets to producers across northern NSW and provides the potential to ease congestion on Sydney roads by leveraging easy access with NorthConnex. Stimulating substantial economic and social benefit and providing a legacy for regional NSW, an upgraded runway also enables Newcastle Airport to attract tourists from around the globe to some of the most beautiful parts of NSW," he added.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock said, "Newcastle Airport is grateful for the ongoing support of the NSW Government. As the second international gateway into NSW we are actively pursuing plans for an upgraded runway to bring greater opportunities and enduring benefit to the people of northern NSW. We acknowledge the vision of our community shareholders, City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council, in helping deliver the airport the region deserves. "

**Ends.**

#### Further information

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[www.newcastleairport.com.au](http://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 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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.



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- > 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.