

Media release

One step closer to direct international flights at Newcastle Airport

Monday, 1 May 2017

Direct international flights to and from Newcastle Airport are a step closer with work beginning this week on the internal fit-out of border processing areas.

Hunter-based construction firm, Kingston Building, will carry out works on the \$1.9 million project, which is partly funded by the NSW Government's Restart NSW Fund, and set to create more jobs for the region.

"As a Hunter-based builder we understand what a vital piece of infrastructure Newcastle Airport is for the region," said Kingston Building's Managing Director, Col Robards.

"For our team to be awarded these works, which are a next vital step in bringing international flights to the Hunter region, is such an honour. We're looking forward to working with the Newcastle Airport team to deliver this project."

This project involves the installation of the necessary security technology, IT technology, passenger screening equipment and furniture for the border agencies.

"This is a significant investment from the Airport and the State Government in the future of our region," said Newcastle Airport's CEO, Dr Peter Cock.

"With this upgrade comes the potential to provide greater connectivity for our residents, greater tourism opportunities for our businesses and the new employment and economic benefits that follow," he said.

The 2015 terminal expansion project provided the Airport with the dedicated space required by the border agencies to service future international flights.

"Our discussions with the airlines to start direct international services to and from Newcastle Airport in the past two years have been hampered by the fact that our terminal infrastructure simply wasn't ready to accept international flights," said Peter.

At the end of this project Newcastle Airport will have prepared the infrastructure as far as we can in readiness for international services.

"While completing this project doesn't guarantee international flights will start from Newcastle Airport in the near future, it does mean that from an infrastructure perspective we have done everything we need to do to prepare our terminal for international flights," said Peter.

"When this project is finished, we will be one step closer to being ready for international flights," said Peter.

"In the meantime, we will continue to lobby the airlines to provide the air services our region deserves," concluded Peter.

Construction of this project is expected to be completed late 2017.

Ends.

Further information

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