

Media release

Newcastle Airport named Major Airport of the Year

2011

The schools program at Newcastle Airport has been judged as best major airport project of the year at the Australian Airports Association (AAA) prestigious National Airport Industry Awards, held in Brisbane last night.

“Newcastle Airport won this award for the development of its local schools community engagement project,” said AAA Executive Director, Caroline Wilkie.

In 2010 alone more than 3,500 local students, from the Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast regions participated in the program.

Newcastle Airport’s progressive education program was developed in 2005 in support of the Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) Syllabus for Stage 1 students. The HSIE Syllabus provides an opportunity for students to explore the world of transport and workers in the Community.

The program provides a one-off opportunity to experience a busy airport and transport hub up close.

Since its inception, this free-of-charge program has proven to be enormously popular with schools within the region.

Learning outcomes of this program include identifying the people and services provided at airports, understanding the role of the airport as a major transport hub, learning how an airport operates and learning how the community uses an airport.

“This award was strongly contested with nine nominations from around Australia. Sunshine Coast Airport was joint winner in this category.

“The team at Newcastle Airport is to be congratulated on the success of such a worthwhile local community project,” said Caroline.

The award was accepted by Paul Hughes, Chief Executive Officer of Newcastle Airport, who said the program is one part of Newcastle Airport’s commitment to supporting its community.

“We are thrilled to have been presented this award amongst such tough competition,” said Paul. “Not only is Newcastle Airport committed to its corporate responsibility and

supporting its local community, we recognise that aviation in Australia is a growing industry. With this, it is widely recognised that there is, and will continue to be, a skills shortage.

“Our Schools Program not only supports the education of our young community, but also helps raise the awareness and interest of aviation amongst children and hopefully will help mitigate the skills shortage issue in the long term.”

Background: The Australian Airports Association is the nation’s peak airport body which annually holds the National Airport Industry Awards. The awards recognise excellence at airports of various sizes as well as individuals who have made a significant contribution to the industry. The awards were presented in Brisbane on Tuesday 14 November.

Ends.

Further information

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