

Media release

Strong third quarter for Newcastle Airport

Friday, 22 April 2016

Newcastle Airport's passenger volume for March saw an 8% year-on-year passenger throughput increase when compared with March 2015.

This strong monthly figure facilitated the highest January to March quarter since 2013.

The total throughput of 287,984 passengers for the quarter was fuelled by strong passenger demand and increased capacity on services led by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, and FlyPelican.

In particular, Brisbane and Gold Coast have both recorded double-digit seat capacity growth year-on-year.

"We are continuing to work hard to lobby airlines to increase their capacity into our market. This work is starting to pay dividends with the airlines responding and increasing capacity.

"Our data clearly shows that while our market is well serviced on some routes, we are underserved on others. It's positive to see that when the additional capacity is put into our market, we respond by filling the seats," said Newcastle Airport's CEO, Dr Peter Cock.

Year-on-year comparisons for the January to March quarter saw Virgin Australia introduce overnighing aircraft and additional capacity on the Brisbane route, which provided the region more options to travel to and from Brisbane; QantasLink upgraded its aircraft on the Brisbane service to a Q800 which has 74-seats (up from the Q300 which has 50-seats); and Jetstar increased capacity on the Gold Coast service by almost 15%.

"These strong figures were fuelled by Easter in March, but also the additional capacity put into the market by the airlines.

"We're working to capitalise on these strong figures in our engagement with our airline partners. These strong results prove to me that there's still capacity for our airport to grow and provide our region an airport it deserves," concluded Peter.

Ends.

Further information

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Notes for the Editor:



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