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Media release

Newcastle Airport flies after new international services

Tuesday, 12 March 2019

Newcastle Airport is currently in the Filipino city of Cebu, in its quest to extend its international capabilities.

Over the course of three days, airport representatives will meet at the Routes Asia conference with senior decision makers representing more than a dozen airlines to discuss opportunities to operate direct air services to our region.

Newcastle Airport's Corporate Affairs Executive Manager, Stephen Crowe, said the conference offered the opportunity to talk realistically about the Hunter region and the airport's aspirations with key people from across the globe.

"Attending events of this global scale will take us closer to connecting our region to more international markets. We will be meeting with the airline industry's leading players to build our connections and discuss route development opportunities," said Mr Crowe.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock, stressed the importance of direct international services for the region.

"Currently, travel between Asia and our region requires either a one-stop connection or 5 hours driving to and from Sydney Airport. This results in the Hunter region missing a share of some of Australia's largest inbound markets. A majority of the Asian visitors that do visit our region only stay a relatively short time."

"Our recent Auckland – Newcastle direct service demonstrated that not only did a large number of travellers visit our region for the first time, visitors stayed longer than normal. This means more money spent in our hotels, restaurants, cafes, shops and on experiences," he added.

Newcastle Airport is currently seeking government support to enable an upgrade of the RAAF runway that civilian aircraft access, so it can accommodate larger longer range aircraft.

"Strengthening the runway is essential for the growth of our region, it allows us to fly further and seek new markets such as Singapore and Korea. The inability to accommodate larger aircraft limits our industries and sees these opportunities go to the other states," said Dr Cock.

Routes Asia is a key route development event attracting over 1200 delegates from airlines, airports and tourism authorities. It is being held in Cebu, Philippines from 10-12 March.

Ends.

Further information

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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.
- > 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 December 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 18 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995.
- > 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.