

Media release

Record October and a champion Supercars weekend at Newcastle Airport

Tuesday, 28 November 2017

People are using Newcastle Airport in record numbers, with October delivering a record for both monthly passenger numbers and 24th months of consecutive growth.

This October close to 116,000 people travelled in or out of Newcastle Airport, a 1.8 per cent increase in passenger numbers compared to the same month last year. The previous record was broken in 2016 when 113,970 travelled through the airport last year.

October is traditionally a solid month for business travel. It also coincides with a number of sporting events around the nation including the start of the Melbourne Spring Racing Festival, the Rugby World Cup and, this year, a Supercars race on the Gold Coast as a precursor to the inaugural Newcastle 500.

Dr Peter Cock, Newcastle Airport CEO, said “Events are a great driver of activity and interest in a destination. Our region also has a bustling business community and travel is key to connecting locally and globally with clients, customers and talent.”

“Newcastle Airport is a gateway for opportunity for our local community and visitors alike.”

More than 190,000 people flocked to the region for the Newcastle 500 race. Newcastle Airport saw 21,289 people passing through the airport during the race weekend, 4823 of those were on Friday alone, breaking the prior daily record. A further three days over the race week exceeded the 4000 mark.

“The Supercars weekend was an incredible success for the region, and the Airport. We also experienced a record number of commercial aircraft movements during the race period. This was bolstered by Virgin Australia putting on 26 additional flights to support race fans, and those taking the opportunity to explore,” said Peter.

“At one point we had every bay on the apron full, which is the first time this has happened in the history of Newcastle Airport. I am proud to say that this increased activity was handled extremely smoothly. This is a great testament to our team. The capacity and ability for increased services is certainly there, and we have proven that given the right motivation, people will travel to the region.

“The total passenger throughput so far in calendar year 2017 has exceeded 1.05 million and we are on track to reach even greater heights by the end of the year.

“Passenger forecasts for November and beyond are strong, with many airlines adding extra capacity for the Christmas holiday season,” he said.

Ends.

Further information

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