

Media release

Government backs aviation growth from Newcastle

Friday, 20 December 2012

Management of Newcastle Airport is pleased with the NSW Government's announcement that it will support aviation growth from the Airport.

Earlier this week, the NSW Government and Destination NSW released the long-awaited response to the Visitor Economy Taskforce (VET) report. The VET was an independent study into tourism in NSW and provided more than 100 recommendations, of which eight specifically surrounded supporting the growth of aviation in NSW and increased services into Newcastle Airport.

One of the most pleasing outcomes for Newcastle Airport is the State Government has confirmed it will encourage the Commonwealth Government to progress and support the introduction of a common air border between Australia and New Zealand, particularly to Newcastle.

In addition, the Government has also confirmed it will support Newcastle Airport's efforts to call upon the Commonwealth Government to adjust slot management at Newcastle Airport to allow for more flexible scheduling during the AM and PM peak periods.

"The overall response from Government regarding the recommendations for aviation growth and the development of an aviation policy has been extremely positive," commented Newcastle Airport's Manager of Aviation Business Development, David Nye.

"For many years, NSW has been competing with other states for the country's limited aircraft capacity.

"Our neighbouring state governments in Queensland and Victoria have government-based aviation strategy and development specialists who work hard to get airlines to fly into their state. And the proof is in the pudding. Victoria has successfully had Etihad and Emirates make major route development announcements, and Queensland has forged partnerships with key Chinese carriers.

"The fact that the NSW Government has recognised the importance of aviation development and strategy can only be a good thing for the State, and also our region. This report and the Government's response have recognised the significant contribution Newcastle Airport has to connecting this region to Australia and beyond."

Newcastle Airport will now work closely with State Government to support the roll-out of the recommendations.

Ends.

Further information

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