

## Media release

### Newcastle Airport named Australia's best

2012

Newcastle Airport was proud to receive the Gold Award in the Specialised Tourism Services category at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, held at the Cairns Convention Centre in Tropical North Queensland on Friday night.

Having won the category at State level in November, the national awards pitted the Airport against the winners from other states and territories.

The award is indicative of the high standards upheld by Newcastle Airport through its commitment to tourism in the region.

A delighted CEO Paul Hughes acknowledged the significance of the award, noting "for a regional airport to be the winner of a national tourism award really endorses the efforts Newcastle Airport has undertaken in recent years to support the great tourism products in our region.

"We pride ourselves on our customer service initiatives, such as the Newcastle Airport Ambassadors who volunteer to help provide incoming tourists with a warm and welcoming arrival to the region."

The Airport was recognised as the significant gateway into the Hunter region, and as a major transport hub, critical to the economic and social infrastructure of the Hunter.

The Specialised Tourism Services category covers businesses that add value to their local region by supporting tourism. Newcastle Airport was selected above seven other state-level finalists by a panel of judges comprised of a team of experienced industry professionals, which made the victory that much sweeter.

"The aviation community recognised the Airport's achievements with its community engagement program at the Australian Airports Association awards last November, now to be judged the winner of the highest and most respected tourism product in our category by such an experienced panel of judges for our contribution to tourism is fantastic" said Mr Hughes.

Newcastle Airport supports tourism by entering into cooperative marketing campaigns with partner airlines to promote the destination; Paul Hughes and David Nye, Manager Aviation Business Development are Board members of local tourism organisations.

“Every staff member of Newcastle Airport should be proud of this award as it is down to their hard work, contribution and commitment that we have reached such heights.”  
commented Mr Hughes.

Newcastle Airport’s win contributed to the record-breaking 11 titles won by NSW Tourism operators, which is a strong validation of the quality of tourism product across NSW and the importance of tourism to the economy.

**Further information**

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**Notes for the Editor:**

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Newcastle Airport Master Plan: <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

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