

Media release

Third consecutive quarter of passenger growth signals positive outlook for Newcastle Airport

Friday, 22 January 2016

Newcastle Airport's passenger throughput for the second quarter of 2015/16 showed passenger growth at the Airport for the third consecutive quarter.

Newcastle Airport's CEO, Dr Peter Cock, commented that the quarterly result of 307,383 passengers was "very healthy".

"This continued quarterly growth is certainly pleasing, particularly given we've had a number of quarters of plateaued passenger throughput—attributable to numerous factors such as a downturn in travel by the mining industry. It's pleasing to see green-shoots of growth for our Airport," said Peter.

The growth was driven by a 2.8% year-on-year increase in November and a 6.7% year-on-year increase of passenger throughput in December. December also marked the fourth month of passenger throughput of more than 100,000 passengers.

"To see that we've had our fourth consecutive month hitting the 100,000 passenger mark gives me hope that we've seen the end of the plateau. We haven't had results like that since 2013," commented Peter.

The numbers, released today, also showed 1.4% growth for the first half of the financial year when compared with the same period in 2014/15.

"It's with guarded optimism that I say, I think we're back on a growth trajectory. With this growth and the public's support of services from our airport, new future services are becoming an increasing possibility."

This positive news follows Virgin Australia's announcement earlier this month that it will be overnighting aircraft at Newcastle Airport from February and adding almost 20,000 seats annually to the Newcastle-Brisbane route.

"When I started in this role seven months ago I pledged to give our region an Airport it deserves. Our new terminal was completed and opened in August last year, and my team and I continue to engage with all airlines with the end-goal of providing our community the air services it has been demanding and deserves," concluded Peter.

Ends.

Further information

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