

Media release

Region's great minds come together at Newcastle Airport's inaugural Annual Leadership Forum

EMBARGOED TO 8AM Friday 1 November 2019

Some of the region's best and brightest have come together to share knowledge and insight today, as Newcastle Airport launched its Annual Leadership Forum at Noah's on the Beach. Panelists include Australian Football Legend Craig Johnston, Newcastle Permanent Building Society Chief Executive Officer Bernadette Inglis, Worimi Land Council Chief Executive Officer Andrew Smith and moderated by communication specialist Melinda Smith.

Based on the theme – *Unlocking our potential*, the 2019 Annual Leadership Forum will promote discussion on how we can continue to foster growth and ambition said Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock:

"Today is about the Airport playing a broad role in helping individuals and organisations to succeed at a national and international level for the whole region's benefit.

"By initiating this thought-provoking panel discussion and bringing together inspiring individuals, industry and cultural leaders we hope to encourage an exchange of ideas on how we can unlock the potential that will allow us to reach our goals as a region. As an annual event, we look forward to building upon the success of this year to make this event a key feature in the regional calendar.

"We also mark an important occasion today, with the official transition of Kirby Clark to Chair and farewell long-standing Chair Peter Gesling.

"A highly-experienced Director, Kirby brings with him close to 15 years' aeronautical experience and intimate knowledge of the aviation sector. Under his guidance, I have confidence our Airport will continue to grow and flourish.

"I pay a special acknowledgement to outgoing Chair Peter Gesling, who has driven the long-term vision for our business. Under Peter's guidance, we've achieved many great things for the people of the Hunter and Northern NSW – including expanding the route network and the introduction of our first international service, as well as diversifying our offering with our Astra Aerolab development," Dr Cock said.

Speaking about his new role, Kirby Clark said the ongoing commitment to maintaining an agile approach to enable long-term growth is a key focus for the Airport:

"Coming into the role of Chair, I am keen to build on our successes. As a regional Airport we have already achieved a great deal – however it's my belief that our organisation is only limited by our ambitions. Today's forum highlights the local appetite to evolve – to demand more for our region and deliver more for the people of the Hunter and Northern NSW.

"We are determined to play a key role in unlocking the true potential of our region, and I'm determined that we continue to work towards that goal in every decision we make.

"Now more than ever, we are ideally placed to deliver the airport our region deserves," Mr. Clark said.

Ends.

Further information

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

Astra Aerolab <https://astraerolab.com.au/>

About Newcastle Airport

- > Recipient of the President's Award at the 2019 Hunter Business Awards, with CEO Dr Peter Cock also awarded 'Business Leader of the Year'.
- > 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 eight direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.
- > Newcastle Airport is the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, with more than \$43 billion annual output and 48,500 businesses.
- > Newcastle Airport contributes more than \$1.16 billion to the state's economy each year, including \$300 million direct to the visitor economy which supports over 5,700 full-time employees across tourism and the Airport cluster.
- > 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.
- > FY18/19 passenger results saw Newcastle Airport break its all-time FY record with 1,277,473 travellers passing through the terminal.
- > In December 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 18 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995.



- > 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.