

24 January 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

MORE THAN 8.4 MILLION PASSENGERS TAKE TO SKIES FROM QAL AIRPORTS

More than 8.4 million people passed through Queensland Airports Limited's (QAL) four airports in 2018 – holding steady on the prior year.

This is despite reduced airline capacity, which has impacted the group's two largest airports.

It comes after the airports – on the Gold Coast and in Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach – recorded a collective decline of 4.7 per cent in passenger numbers in December.

A summary of full year results is provided in the table below:

2018 results			
	2018	2017	Growth
Gold Coast	6,517,950	6,542,604	-0.4%
Townsville	1,648,170	1,635,939	0.7%
Mount Isa	199,366	190,197	4.8%
Longreach	33,866	31,952	6.0%
Total passengers	8,399,352	8,400,692	0.0%

QAL CEO Chris Mills said passenger numbers for the year and in December reflected the ongoing reduction in domestic capacity and increasing aircraft loads.

“For most of the year we saw increased load factors, as less seats were made available by the airlines, and that trend continued in December,” Mr Mills said.

“This is being felt on the Gold Coast and in Townsville, where domestic loads for key routes are consistently above 80 per cent.

“Load factors on the top domestic routes through Gold Coast Airport were the highest in the country in 2018, at 87 per cent, according BITRE (Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics) data for January-November 2018. That shows the airlines are managing their fleets tightly, but it also shows these destinations continue to be in demand by travelers.”

Passenger numbers are growing in Mount Isa, as regional Queensland's economy continues to gain momentum, while Longreach is up for the year but down in December.

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