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MEDIA RELEASE

PASSENGER NUMBERS HARD HIT AS BORDER REMAINS SHUT

Passenger numbers continued to be low at Queensland Airports Limited's four ports in May as travel restrictions continued.

A total of 21,148 passengers passed through the gates of QAL's four ports in May 2020, representing a 96.7 per cent drop on May 2019 when 632,689 passengers were recorded.

Gold Coast Airport was particularly hard hit, with passenger numbers plunging 99.5 per cent compared to May last year, with just 26 flights recorded at the port during the month.

A summary of the month's passenger results is as follows:

May 2020 results			
Airport	May 2020	May 2019	Change
Gold Coast	2,297	471,409	-99.5%
Townsville	13,307	138,905	-90.4%
Mount Isa	4,929	19,299	-74.5%
Longreach	615	3,076	-80%
Total passengers	21,148	632,689	-96.7%

QAL CEO Chris Mills said the results were slightly better than the April 2020 numbers.

"Travel restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19 have taken their toll across the QAL group, particularly on the Gold Coast where passenger numbers plunged 99.5 per cent," he said.

"These figures highlight the impact on our business and the tourism industry at large. The numbers won't improve until the border re-opens and our key southern markets are able to return to the state.

"The industry continues to seek certainty on a date for interstate travel to resume, so that airlines can plan and travellers can make bookings."

Mr Mills said it was encouraging to see discussions continue about also re-opening trans-Tasman travel.

ENDS.

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