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**\*\*\* MEDIA RELEASE \*\*\***

## **TOWNSVILLE AIRPORT CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

Tomorrow, Townsville Airport celebrates a decade of outstanding growth and significant achievements as a major contributor to the North Queensland region's growth and success.

It was ten years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1998, that the Federal Government finalised the sale of Townsville Airport to Australian Airports (Townsville) Limited.

Queensland Airports Limited (QAL) acquired 100% of the equity interest in Townsville Airport in 2005.

Over the past decade some of the outstanding achievements for Townsville Airport have been:

- Growth in annual passenger movements from 670,673 to just over 1.4 million - an increase of more than 100 per cent
- New concourse built in 2003 including the addition of aerobridges
- Mining boom kicked off in 2004 - seeing a dramatic acceleration in passenger numbers. Townsville also became a major port for the fly-in, fly-out mining employment sector
- Townsville Airport became a major sponsor for Townsville Enterprise Limited (TEL) and has since taken on additional sponsorships including North Queensland Tourism Awards, Dirt & Dust Festival and the Greek Fest
- In 2006 a general terminal upgrade took place to improve and modernise the terminal
- Work on the North Australian Aerospace Centre of Excellence (NAACEX) project commenced in 2007 with a view to accommodating a variety of aviation-related businesses, including housing the Australian Defence Force Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters and opening a dedicated aircraft maintenance facility including a state-of-the-art aircraft paint shop (through Worland Aviation for aircraft up to 737 size)
- \$2.7 million upgrade of the airport's main car parks and taxi pick up areas
- Townsville Airport is now home to eight airlines (Qantas, Qantaslink, Jetstar, Virgin, Alliance, Mac Air, Regional Pacific, Sky Trans) operating a range of passenger and direct charter services, and is the eleventh busiest airport in Australia.

**MORE**



“Townsville Airport is very aware that its success is attributable to the support and understanding of its many stakeholders” said Dennis Chant, Managing Director of Townsville Airport and Queensland Airports Limited.

“As we reach this milestone we would like to pay tribute to the support we have received from our employees, customers, airlines and other service partners, tourism industry bodies - particularly TEL (Townsville Enterprise Limited) and Tourism Queensland - the Townsville City Council, state and federal government representatives and our surrounding communities.”

Townsville is a key component of the portfolio of airports owned by Queensland Airports Limited that also includes the gateways of Gold Coast and Mount Isa.

For more information visit [www.townsvilleairport.com.au](http://www.townsvilleairport.com.au)

**ENDS**

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