



MEDIA STATEMENT

29 August 2011

TOWNSVILLE AIRPORT INFORMATION FOR THE MINING ADVOCATE

Townsville Airport is North Queensland's regional hub, welcoming more than 1.6 million passengers annually. Townsville's industry make-up is diverse, providing a sustainable economic environment for the region. The airport is a jointly shared facility with the Department of Defence.

Townsville Airport has played a significant role in the growth of the aviation sector in the North Queensland region, and is home to the Northern Australian Aerospace Centre of Excellence (NAACEX).

Townsville Airport has direct services to Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Cairns, Gold Coast, Mackay, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Hughenden, Richmond, Julia Creek, Cloncurry, Longreach and Winton, as well as various mining charter operations.

KEY FIGURES

Airport: Townsville Airport Pty Ltd

Runway Length: 2438 metres

Annual Passenger Movements: 1,597,845 (FY)

Average Flight Movements: (per year) In excess of 57,200 flight movements

Number of Direct Flight Destinations: 14

Airlines utilising the Airport: Qantas, Qantaslink, Jetstar, Virgin Blue, Regional Express (Rex), Alliance Airlines, West Wing and various mining charters

Catchment Population: 250,000 people

Benefits to airlines: Quick turnarounds with short taxiing time; fast passenger processing; common-user terminal; no curfew restrictions; IT simplicity; financial incentives and marketing support for route development; onsite aircraft maintenance and painting facility; high yield market.

Quotes – Townsville Airport Chief Operating Officer, Kevin Gill

"Townsville Airport recorded positive growth in passenger movements over the past financial year, buoyed by the strong resources sector in North West Queensland. The propensity for business travel remained strong and Townsville is also growing as a leisure destination."

"While regional Queensland experienced one of its most difficult periods with the floods that affected much of the state earlier in the year, followed by the impact of Tropical Cyclone Yasi that forced many flight cancellations throughout the state and the closure of Townsville Airport for two days, it is positive to see our passenger numbers continuing to grow."

"We are fortunate to have so many direct services both to capital cities and to regional centres highlighting that people who live in North Queensland are not subject to the tyranny of distance."

“We continue to work with our airline partners to grow the services we have and explore new destinations.”

“We have excellent access to regional Queensland, Brisbane and interstate and work hard with our airline partners to sustain these services.”

“The accessibility offered by Townsville Airport creates significant opportunity, both for the region to attract visitors and business travellers; but also for our own local community to give them direct flights to key intrastate and interstate destinations.”

“Townsville Airport has a significant fly in, fly out (FIFO) market. First FIFO flights date back to 1996 for Osborne mine and now regular flights operate to Cannington, Century, Phosphate Hill, EHM, Lady Annie, Osborne, Birla Mt Gordon as well as regular RPT (regular passenger transport) services to Mt Isa and Cloncurry for Xstrata.

“Alliance Airlines , Rex and QantasLink operate these flights. All three carriers have dedicated aircraft based in Townsville along with their own maintenance facilities.”

“A significant mining support industry cluster is based on 240ha land bank on the Bohle Plains adjacent to the airport.”

“Essentially the city acts as a hub between the east coast and the mining region of North West Queensland.”

** RPT – regular passenger transport (meaning commercial aircraft operations, not general aviation)*

FY2010/2011 passenger movements and June 2011 passenger movements shown below:

Airport	June 2011			FY2010/2011		
	Passengers June 2011	Passengers June 2010	Growth (compared to June 10)	Passengers FY2010/11	Passengers FY 09/10	Growth (compared to FY 09/10)
Gold Coast - total	367,844	412,797	-10.9%	5,440,657	5,164,905	5.3%
Domestic	314,584	355,210	-11.4%	4,658,678	4,412,968	5.6%
International	53,260	57,587	-7.5%	781,979	751,937	4.0%
Townsville	140,536	139,420	0.8%	1,677,481	1,603,625	4.6%
Mount Isa	19,834	17,433	13.8%	217,445	181,945	19.5%
QAL Group	528,214	569,650	-7.3%	7,335,583	6,950,475	5.5%

Passenger movements for the QAL Group airports for JULY 2011 are summarised below:

Airport	Passengers – July 2011	Passengers – July 2010	Growth (compared to July 2010)
Gold Coast			
Domestic	380,211	415,805	-8.6%
International	65,126	64,043	1.7%

Total	445,337	479,848	-7.2%
Townsville	157,658	153,520	2.7%
Mount Isa	19,566	17,203	13.7%
QAL Group	622,561	650,571	-4.3%

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