



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **SUSTAINED 08/09 OVERALL PERFORMANCE FOR QUEENSLAND AIRPORTS LIMITED DESPITE WFC**

The three airports owned and operated by Queensland Airports Limited at Townsville, Mount Isa and Gold Coast in aggregate recorded continued passenger growth for the 2008/09 financial year.

Despite the world financial crisis (WFC) and a decline in air travel across the world, Queensland Airports Limited has maintained a solid performance in the current economic climate, with the exception of Mount Isa.

Passenger movement figures for the last financial year are summarised below:

Airport	Passengers	Growth (compared to FY 08)
Gold Coast Domestic	4,102,229	+ 1.83%
International	510,028	+ 97.26%
Total	4,612,257 (*excludes transit passengers)	+ 7.58%
Townsville	1,539,425	+ 3.67%
Mount Isa	182,724	- 7.14%
QAL Group	6,334,406	+ 6.13%

\* As an international airport, Gold Coast Airport has developed facilities for transit passengers. Last year 59,420 transit passengers passed through Gold Coast Airport (these passengers are not included in the total passenger figures outlined above).

“This group-wide result reflects the balance we have in our portfolio between the low cost driven leisure sector at the Gold Coast and the resource driven sector in Mount Isa and Townsville,” said Dennis Chant, the Managing Director of Queensland Airports Limited.

“The growth of international tourists through Gold Coast Airport, increasing by almost 100 per cent this year, has certainly been a significant milestone for the airport and the Group. However it is also pleasing to note the continued increase in domestic passenger movements, particularly in the current climate.

# Queensland Airports LIMITED

“The new international services by Jetstar to Japan and New Zealand and the increased services from AirAsia X to Malaysia, together with the existing Pacific Blue and Air New Zealand services to the Pacific region have helped our international passenger numbers grow substantially,” Mr Chant said.

“Gold Coast Airport has continued its run as the fastest growing international airport in Australia.

“These increases have resulted in the airport’s moving from the seventh busiest airport in Australia to move to fifth busiest, ahead of Cairns and Adelaide.

“We have also seen the introduction of new domestic services this year between Gold Coast and Cairns and Gold Coast and Townsville.”

Townsville Airport, as the gateway to North Queensland, has a strong business focus but is increasingly building its profile as a leisure destination.

“We are very pleased with the results for Townsville Airport. It has a high business market and again in the current financial climate, this is a market that has declined in other ports in Australia and around the world. Townsville’s 3.6 per cent growth for the year is reflective of its remaining a major hub and its growth as a tourist destination,” he said.

“The commitment of significant additional capacity and new routes by Qantaslink and Virgin Blue has been particularly pleasing in the current climate.

Mount Isa Airport has been the hardest hit in the Group, with the softening of the resource sector; job losses in the mining region; and the demise of MacAir all having a direct impact on passenger movements this year.

“We saw a decline of 7 per cent in Mount Isa for the year, based largely on the impact the world financial crisis is having on the mining capital of North Queensland.

“We are, however, committed to growing this destination and already have planning underway for expanding the Mount Isa Airport terminal and completing a runway overlay to cater for larger aircraft.

“We are confident that the mining sector will bounce back and that passenger numbers will again increase in years to come, so now is the time for us to invest in the infrastructure, while at the same time providing some local economic and employment benefits to people in Mount Isa.

“We will we continue to work with our airline partners and our communities across regional Queensland to help to ensure existing services are sustainable and passenger movements continue to grow,” Mr Chant said.

**ENDS**

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