



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### GROWTH HERALDS RECORD-BREAKING PERIOD FOR QUEENSLAND AIRPORTS

**\*\*\* GOLD COAST UP 6.8%, TOWNSVILLE UP 3.1%, MOUNT ISA UP 24.1%**

Queensland Airports Limited (QAL) continues its successful year with a record-breaking August - September period for each of its three airports: Gold Coast, Townsville and Mount Isa.

During the two month period the group welcomed almost 948,000 passengers through its doors, an increase of 6.4% on the same period in 2006.

QAL Managing Director, Dennis Chant said the figures were indicative of the group's overall commitment to sustainable growth.

"With the addition of extra services from some of our current carriers coming online last month, our three airports are enjoying the fruits of booming tourism and mining industries," Mr Chant said.

"Gold Coast Airport is looking toward to a particularly strong end to the year with the commencement of both Tiger Airways and AirAsia X next month."

"Our North Queensland airports have also been performing consistently well, with Townsville proving itself to be North Queensland's major regional hub for people and freight in and out of the area, and Mount Isa continuing to flourish in the midst of a mining boom" Mr Chant said.

#### **GOLD COAST AIRPORT UP 6.8%**

Travel through Gold Coast Airport for the period was up substantially with a total increase of 6.8% on the previous year, totaling 664,969 passengers over the two month period.

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer Paul Donovan said passenger growth for Gold Coast Airport was expected to continue with the peak holiday season just around the corner and the exciting new additions of Tiger Airways and AirAsia X - both services starting next month.

“In response to demand, our airline partners have significantly boosted capacity over our summer period,” Mr Donovan said.

“By the end of November, we will have more flights than ever before to four domestic destinations - Sydney, Melbourne, Newcastle and Adelaide - and five international destinations: Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton and Kuala Lumpur.

“This includes an average 40 flights a day to Sydney and Melbourne by Christmas which is fantastic for connecting flights and business travel. In fact the Sydney - Gold Coast route continues to perform as the fourth busiest sector in the country.

“What’s more, with our current direct services and strong stable of carriers, travelers through Gold Coast Airport can now connect to anywhere in the world.”

AirAsia X will start four direct services per week between Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) and the Gold Coast from November 3.

Tiger Airways will start daily Melbourne - Gold Coast services on November 23.

#### TOWNSVILLE AIRPORT CONTINUES GROWTH

Townsville Airport also had a record period with 248,766 passengers passing through its doors during the August - September period, an increase of 3.1% on the same period in 2006.

Townsville Airport General Manager Maurice Geary said following strong demand for services to and from North Queensland, Virgin Blue introduced a fourth daily flight in September between Brisbane and Townsville, adding an extra 2016 seats to and from the popular Queensland destination each week.

#### MOUNT ISA AIRPORT BREAKS RECORDS

Mount Isa Airport had yet another record breaking period with 34,126 passengers passing through the outback terminal over the two month period, an increase of a whopping 24.1% on the same period last year.

Mount Isa Airport General Manager Jennifer Welk says the growth over the last quarter was facilitated by the high profile Mount Isa Rodeo held in August, and the continuation of the mining boom.

“The Rodeo drew huge interest to the area both nationally and internationally,” Ms Welk said.

“On a local level, the mining boom continues to escalate, and as the gateway to Queensland’s outback we have been reaping the rewards.

“The addition of an extra two flights per week from Qantas, which commenced in August, coupled with Macair increasing their Townsville - Mount Isa and Cairns- Mount Isa services in September, has been a positive outcome to capacity demand.”

A 100% Australian company, Queensland Airports Ltd is the Australia’s leading regional airport investment group. For details visit [www.qldairports.com.au](http://www.qldairports.com.au)

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