

Thursday 31 July 2008

## NT PASSENGERS REACH NEW HEIGHTS

Northern Territory Airports' CEO Ian Kew today announced passenger traffic results for Darwin and Alice Springs Airport for the 2007/08 financial year. International passengers through Darwin Airports increased by 33%, while domestic traffic grew by 9%. At the same time, domestic passengers at Alice Springs grew by 6% on the back of increased capacity

The growth in passengers has been driven by increased capacity by all airline partners, as well as very attractive air ticket pricing initiatives during the traditional low season. "Last financial year was extremely positive for both our airports, and the results speak for themselves," Mr Kew said. "We have worked closely with all our airline partners to ensure that our airports continue to receive sufficient capacity to cater for the increased demand".

International passenger growth was largely driven by Territorians enjoying lower fares and increased choice of leisure destinations, with a large component also made up by Australians from southern States using Darwin Airport as a connecting point to south east Asia. "The opportunity for Darwin to become a stopover destination has never been greater. It is vital that the tourism industry take this opportunity, as this would also help smooth out the peaks and troughs that exist in this market," Mr Kew added.

In 2007/08, all airlines operating to Darwin Airport increased capacity, including Airnorth, Qantas, Jetstar, Tiger Airways, Virgin Blue and Garuda Indonesia.

During the year Tiger Airways also commenced 3 flights per week from Melbourne to Alice Springs, and passenger traffic on Qantas services also increased, leading to a 6% increase in passengers at Alice Springs Airport.

Mr Kew added, "In light of a tougher operating environment in the second half of the year, we are pleased with the results at our airports. The growth at Darwin Airport has been underpinned by increased business activity, which generates year round and higher yielding traffic to our airline partners".

Passenger traffic at Darwin Airport is forecast to grow significantly in future years, and to cater for this growth last week Darwin Airport announced a major expansion to the passenger terminal. As part of the Major Development Plan, public consultation on the proposed \$60M expansion has commenced, with Darwin Airport also working with airline partners to finalise design details and the commercial arrangements required to underpin the expansion.

**Ian Kew**  
Chief Executive, Northern Territory Airport  
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## PASSENGER TRAFFIC 2007/08

	FY07	FY08	Growth (pax)	Growth %
<b>Darwin International</b>	178,266	236,575	+58,309	+33%
<b>Darwin Domestic</b>	1,261,861	1,380,036	+118,175	+9%
<b>Alice Springs Domestic</b>	542,726	572,748	+30,022	+6%

(\*excludes transits, includes transfer passengers)

