Queensland Airports LIMITED

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MEDIA RELEASE

RECORD DROP IN FY20 PASSENGER NUMBERS FOR QAL GROUP

About 6.26 million passengers came through Queensland Airports Limited's four airports in the 12 months to July 2020, representing a fall of 24.6 per cent on the previous year, or 2,043,478 fewer people.

There was a dramatic drop in passenger numbers in the final quarter of the year, as COVID-19 travel restrictions severely impacted the airport group.

Gold Coast Airport was particularly hard hit, with passenger numbers decreasing 25.3 per cent, or about 1.6 million people, for the year compared to FY19.

A summary of the year's results follows:

FY20 results			
Airport	**FY20**	**FY19**	**Change**
Gold Coast	4,809,610	6,439,598	-25.3%
Townsville	1,249,020	1,631,419	-23.4%
Mount Isa	181,686	205,682	-11.7%
Longreach	26,069	33,164	-21.4%
Total passengers	**6,266,385**	**8,309,863**	**-24.6%**

QAL CEO Chris Mills said the results reflected a tough year for QAL's airports, and the tourism industry they support.

"Last financial year is one few of us will forget, with the aviation and tourism industries hard hit by the impact of COVID-19 and associated travel restrictions," he said.

"However, we remain optimistic about the future and are confident once it is safe to do so, people will return to the skies to visit Queensland."

The final quarter of FY20 was tough for the QAL group, with passenger numbers falling by 97.4 per cent in April, 96.7 per cent in May and 93.6 per cent in June.

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QAL's northern ports were less impacted than the Gold Coast, with Mount Isa Airport down 11.7 per cent, followed by Longreach Airport down 21.4 per cent and Townsville Airport down 23.4 per cent.

The resources sector supported passenger traffic through Townsville and Mount Isa, with a steady flow of FIFO workers leaving from and returning to the destinations.

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Background:

- In 2019, Gold Coast Airport was the sixth busiest airport in Australia, and the fifth busiest international airport.
- In 2019, the Sydney-Gold Coast route was the fourth busiest in Australia, while the Melbourne-Gold Coast route was the sixth busiest.
- In 2019, Townsville Airport was the 11th busiest airport in Australia.

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