

## MEDIA RELEASE

### 5.7 MILLION FEWER PASSENGERS FACILITATED IN 2020

Passenger numbers at Queensland Airports Limited (QAL) ports were heavily impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions in 2020, with 5.7 million fewer passengers than the year before.

While there was a significant recovery in passenger numbers when the Queensland border re-opened to visitors on 1 December, the growth slowed when the Queensland Government declared Sydney areas as hotspots – something that remains in place with no date for re-opening announced yet.

On the Gold Coast, QAL’s largest port, 188,261 passengers were recorded in December, or 422,236 fewer passengers than the year before.

#### December results:

<b>December 2020 results</b>			
<b>Airport</b>	<b>December 2020</b>	<b>December 2019</b>	<b>Change vs prior year</b>
Gold Coast	188,261	610,497	-69.2%
Townsville	94,143	140,262	-32.9%
Mount Isa	15,227	17,439	-12.7%
Longreach	1,914	2,173	-11.9%
<b>Total passengers</b>	<b>299,545</b>	<b>770,371</b>	<b>-61.1%</b>

QAL CEO Chris Mills said while it was positive to see a jump in December numbers, the decline of 5.7 million passengers in the 2020 calendar year numbers showed how deeply the COVID-19 management measures impacted airports and the tourism sector they supported.

“The initial recovery for December demonstrates that people are keen to travel and points to the appeal of the destinations we support. The strength of the Gold Coast-Sydney services was particularly significant,” he said.

“But it is a stark reminder of how tough things are for the aviation sector and related businesses.

“For Gold Coast Airport in particular, it will take some time to recover from the impacts of 2020. December passenger numbers were a staggering 70 per cent below the previous year – however, that was a relatively good result in an awful year.

“There were more passengers through Gold Coast Airport in December than were recorded for the entire period from April to November 2020, with no services at all on 45 days, highlighting just how difficult the year has been.”

Mr Mills said the decline also highlighted the need for realistic, transparent and consistent controls to be established nationwide as a priority, to manage this health crisis.

“Until there are clear and reasonable rules in place for management of COVID-19 hotspots, confidence in travel will continue to be impacted,” he said.

**ENDS.**

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