



MEDIA RELEASE

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Major Airports Deliver Growth, Infrastructure And Quality Of Service

All four of Australia's major airports monitored by the ACCC are delivering a good level of service to their airline customers and passengers according to the ACCC's Airport Monitoring Report 2015-16.

Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne airports all received the 'good' rating based on airline and passenger surveys and objective indicators. The possible ratings used by the ACCC are very poor, poor, satisfactory, good and excellent.

The four airports monitored by the ACCC combined saw a 5.8 per cent increase in international passenger numbers during 2015-16 to 33.5 million. Overall, the four airports catered for 112.2 million passengers in 2015-16, a 3.4 per cent increase on the previous year. Domestic passenger numbers rose by 2.4 per cent. The report noted the importance of the Chinese market in driving higher international passenger volumes.

The monitored airports all made additions to their aeronautical assets, ranging from 7 through to 24 per cent of assets. The ACCC noted this followed record levels of investment in aeronautical assets in the previous year, and that significant investment projects during the year included the new T1 international and domestic pier at Perth Airport, the new Terminal 4 at Melbourne Airport, and the ongoing construction of a new parallel runway at Brisbane Airport. The report also noted a range of investments at Sydney Airport included additional aircraft parking areas and upgraded taxiways, departures upgrades and the redevelopment of of security and gate lounges at T1.

'Our major airport operators are delivering the infrastructure and service levels that is supporting the growth of Australia's domestic and international aviation services which in turn drives economic prosperity through the timely and efficient movement of people and goods,' said AAA CEO, Caroline Wilkie.

'The delivery of billions of dollars of privately-funded new airport infrastructure is supported by commercially-focused service level agreements that are negotiated between airports and their airline customers.

'Australia's major airports are constantly investing in better services for airlines and their passengers, including new runways, aircraft parking areas, and terminal facilities including upgrades to international passenger processing areas,' Ms. Wilkie said.

'It's important to highlight that all of this investment is privately funded and enabled by sophisticated commercial agreements between airport operators and their customers.

Ms. Wilkie said while the ACCC report provided an annual snapshot of airport performance, it was important to remember that they were assets developed for the longer term which meant that capital investment levels may vary from year to year.

'Airports are also required to plan for long term forecast growth and have the right infrastructure in place at the right time to provide the capacity their airline customers need.'

Ms. Wilkie said airport operators also made significant investments in supporting ground transport connections between airports and the cities they served.

'Our airports provide a variety of ground transport options for their passengers, including private vehicles, taxis and hire cars and public transport.

'Ground transport operators are treated on similar commercial terms to airline customers in that the cost of developing ground transport infrastructure and managing services is recovered through user charges.'

Ms. Wilkie said the ACCC report noted the initiatives taken by some airports to support access to airport locations by new ride-sharing services which further expanded the range of ground transport options available to airport users.

About the Australian Airports Association:

The Australian Airports Association has been representing airports across the country for the past 30 years. It represents 260 airport members, including all the capital city airports through to the small regional aerodromes of rural Australia. www.airports.asn.au

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