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15 November 2018

## **Airport Industry Awards showcase innovation and excellence at Australian airports**

Major infrastructure upgrades, innovative new technologies and landmark conservation projects were among the winners at the Australian Airport Association National Airport Industry Awards last night.

The awards recognised outstanding projects that have improved capacity and efficiency, enhanced the passenger experience and made a difference to airports' local communities.

AAA Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie said the high calibre of entries reflected the significant efforts of Australian airports to continue to enhance their offering to the travelling public.

"We have seen some exceptional entries in the awards, with many airports introducing significant initiatives or projects over the course of the last year," Ms Wilkie said.

"It is great to see so many airports investing to create an easy, seamless and memorable experience for their passengers, while also improving efficiency for airlines."

Sydney Airport took out the capital city airport of the year for the second consecutive year, while Newcastle Airport won the major airport category after completing its terminal redevelopment in 2017 and securing international services earlier this year.

Whitsunday Coast Airport was named large regional airport of the year after facilitating a 33 per cent rise in passenger numbers in the 2017 financial year.

Kangaroo Island Airport won small regional airport of the year after the completion of its upgrade project, while Bairnsdale Airport was named small regional aerodrome of the year after upgrades to the airport led to the attraction of fly in, fly out services for a nearby oil rig.

Several innovation and excellence awards were also presented during the night, showcasing a range of projects from across the industry.

They included a check-in reconfiguration that doubled capacity, a wombat conservation program, a partnership to deliver refueling services to the oil and gas industry and the facilitation of increased passenger traffic during the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

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**Note to Editors: A full list of winners is attached.**

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## 2018 National Airport Industry Awards winners

### Airport of the year winners

Category	Winner
Capital City Airport	Sydney Airport
Major Airport	Newcastle Airport
Large Regional Airport	Whitsunday Coast Airport
Small Regional Airport	Kangaroo Island Airport
Small Regional Aerodrome	Bairnsdale Airport

### Innovation and excellence award winners

Category	Winner	Description
<b>Commercial (major airport)</b>	<b>Cairns Airport</b>	<b>Understanding our customers</b> Cairns Airport responded to passenger feedback requesting more local produce to provide a memorable experience they could take home with them.  A “local produce and product” project in conjunction with Tourism Tropical North Queensland resulted in the airport now stocking more than 100 local products and ingredients, meeting passenger needs and supporting local business and industry.
<b>Commercial (regional airport)</b>	<b>Broome International Airport</b>	<b>Djarindjin/Lombadina Airport</b> Broome International Airport (BIA) has partnered with Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation (DAC) to manage the Lombadina Airport since 2009.  The airport has become a strategic hub for the off-shore oil and gas industry, currently servicing the Shell and Inpex LNG projects in the Browse Basin.
<b>Customer experience</b>	<b>Gold Coast Airport</b>	<b>GC2018 Commonwealth Games project</b> The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, was the largest event staged in Australia this decade.

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		<p>About 3500 athletes and officials from 50 countries and territories passed through the airport, with tens of thousands more spectators also welcomed and farewelled.</p> <p>Ensuring Gold Coast Airport delivered on their expectations was critical.</p>
<b>Environmental management</b>	<b>Camden Airport</b>	<p><b>Conserving Camden’s wombats through community action</b></p> <p>The partnership between Camden Airport, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Landcare Australia carried out vital conservation work to protect wombats from life threatening mange.</p> <p>Mange has been significantly reduced in the wombat population within the airport’s Environmental Protection Zone, improving the local eco-system.</p>
<b>Infrastructure development (major airport)</b>	<b>Hobart Airport</b>	<p><b>Runway extension</b></p> <p>In December 2017, Hobart Airport completed its runway extension ahead of schedule. The extension is a huge milestone for Hobart Airport and Tasmania, creating a host of opportunities by enabling larger aircraft to fly direct to Hobart.</p>
<b>Infrastructure development (regional airport)</b>	<b>Busselton-Margaret River Airport</b>	<p><b>Airside and landside civil infrastructure project</b></p> <p>Infrastructure works including the lengthening and widening of the runway, a new four-bay parking apron with connecting taxiways, and two helipads.</p>
<b>Non-aeronautical development</b>	<b>Launceston Airport</b>	<p><b>Terminal redevelopment</b></p> <p>The \$2.2 million terminal redevelopment has repositioned the airport’s retail footprint into an expanded airside environment. The redevelopment has seen improved quality management scores from passengers.</p>
<b>Operations</b>	<b>Perth Airport</b>	<b>CAT III Lighting Upgrade</b>

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		<p>Perth Airport completed a \$36 million upgrade of its lighting and landing system in 2018. The upgrade of infrastructure to a Category IIIb (CAT III) aerodrome improves runway visibility during adverse weather.</p> <p>This enables aircraft to land and take off at a lower visibility, reducing delays and diversions to provide greater certainty to airlines, the travelling public, and business and industry, including the resource sector.</p>
<b>Technology</b>	<b>Sydney Airport</b>	<p><b>Facial recognition technology trial</b></p> <p>Sydney Airport's trial commenced in June. The system will allow passengers to complete most stages of their airport journey using just their face as their passport and boarding pass. The technology is also expected to deliver significantly faster passenger processing times, which will in turn further improve overall operational efficiency.</p>

## Corporate project of the year winners

Winner	Description
Corporate Project	Airbiz (Sydney Airport T1 International transformation)
Small Regional Airport Corporate Project	BMD Group (Kangaroo Island Airport upgrade)

**Outstanding contribution:** Julieanne Alroe, former Brisbane Airport chief executive officer.