

Footy finals and school holidays to bring weekend rush at airports

Australia's biggest airports are gearing up for a bustling weekend as footy finals and school holidays bring an influx of travellers.

Tomorrow (September 27) is expected to be one of the busiest days of domestic air travel since the COVID pandemic as thousands of fans travel to Melbourne for the AFL Grand Final.

School holidays are also beginning for NSW, SA, Tasmania, and the ACT, while ending in Queensland and continuing for Victoria, WA, and the NT.

More than 254,000 passengers are expected to pass through the major gateway airports in the Golden Triangle on Friday alone:

Melbourne Airport – 114,000 passengers expected
Sydney Airport – 80,000 passengers expected
Brisbane Airport – 60,000+ passengers expected

Passengers are urged to plan ahead and allow more time getting to and from airports.

Domestic travellers should arrive one hour prior to departure if they only have carry-on or two hours prior if they have luggage to check-in.

It comes as the latest Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics (BITRE) data shows domestic commercial aviation remains on a steady rebound post-COVID.

There were 5.54 million domestic passengers in July 2024, a 3.8% increase compared to July 2023. However, constrained airline capacity is still hampering recovery and leading to higher airfares.

“This is one of the busiest times of the year and two interstate teams in the AFL Grand Final will fuel even bigger passenger numbers at airports,” AAA’s Head of Policy and Advocacy Natalie Heazlewood said.

“It’s an exciting weekend for fans and families, so we want to ensure everyone gets to their destination as quickly and safely as possible. Check your airport’s website for the latest information and advice ahead of your journey.”

Ends.

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