AUSTRALIAN AIRPORTS ASSOCIATION

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Airports welcome next step in digital border modernisation

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has welcomed further progress in modernising Australia's border, with the introduction of the new web-based Australia Travel Declaration at Western Sydney International Airport from October 26.

This platform will eventually provide a digital alternative to the paper incoming passenger card at international airports across the country, removing a frustrating process for travellers arriving in Australia.

"We're very happy to see such great progress in the rollout of the Australia Travel Declaration, with a web-based platform allowing more passengers to get through the border process seamlessly," AAA Acting CEO Natalie Heazlewood said.

"Many people have experienced the hassle of the paper incoming passenger card, and the digital alternative is much smoother.

"It's exciting to see this innovative solution being implemented for the first international flights at Western Sydney International Airport. Travellers on any airline will be able to use the new web-based platform, before its eventual rollout to all international airports in the next 12 to 18 months."

Australian airports facilitated nearly 46 million international passenger movements last financial year, a figure that's expected to reach more than 86 million by 2040, an increase of around 90 per cent.

"Passenger numbers are forecast to keep surging at Australian airports and that's why new technology and modern border measures like the Australia Travel Declaration are so important," Ms Heazlewood said.

"It's also why more than $40 billion is being invested in Australian airports over the next decade, to ensure that we can continue to meet that demand.

"Airports have long advocated for improvements to Australia's border processes, and this is another important step towards delivering a more seamless experience for international travellers.

"We thank the Federal Government for this latest initiative and look forward to continuing to work together on next steps to modernise Australia's border, particularly as we prepare to welcome the world for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games."

Ends.

AAA Media: 0429 650 552

*The **Australian Airports Association** is the national voice for Australian airports and represents the interests of more than 340 airports and aerodromes and 150 corporate members across Australia.*