

Thursday 17th January 2008

RECORD DECEMBER NUMBERS AT DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Northern Territory Airports' CEO Mr Ian Kew today announced the highest December passenger volumes at Darwin Airport since privatisation.

In December 2007 international traffic was 23.2% higher and domestic traffic up 17.9% compared to December 2006. The increases in traffic were due to a number of factors, including increased seat capacity, reduced air fares and new air services to key markets.

Mr Kew added, "December saw the commencement of Tiger Airways' daily Melbourne-Darwin services, and an increase from five services per week to daily on the Singapore-Darwin sector. Additionally, Jetstar maintained daily services on the Melbourne-Darwin sector, which it historically reduced to three per week". During December Qantas also operated a number of supplementary services to cater for increased demand, while Airnorth added a third weekly service to Bali.

In total, an additional 20,100 international and domestic passengers passed through Darwin Airport last month compared to December 2006.

Tiger Airways' connecting services between Melbourne and Singapore have proved extremely popular, with Mr Kew urging the Top End's tourism industry to work together to capture the benefits of increased traffic via Darwin. "While we have increased numbers at Darwin Airport, this does not necessarily mean that all passengers are spending time in Darwin. There is a huge opportunity for us to increase stopover traffic to Darwin, which may have otherwise flown straight over the top of our city."

In order to meet growing passenger volumes, Darwin International Airport is currently developing a number of expansion options for its Airport infrastructure. It is anticipated that these will be discussed with airline partners and other stakeholders in the near future, with public announcements expected later this year. In the short term however, the Airport has replaced public seating throughout the terminal, and next month will be unveiling a new café in the arrivals area (ground floor).

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