



Gold Coast Airport MEDIA RELEASE

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AIRPORT TAKES FLIGHT AS ECONOMY BOOMS

An Economic Impact Study into Gold Coast Airport commissioned by Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd has cemented the organisations status as a major contributor to the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers economies.

Prepared by The National Centre for Studies In Tourism, the 2006 study took into account four main economic impacts including expenditure, employment, wages and salaries and value added elements associated with airport activities.

In the 2006 calendar year 3,633,988 passengers passed through Gold Coast Airport.

A separate passenger survey conducted in November 2006 revealed, 72% of passengers are visitors to the Gold Coast/ Northern Rivers regions and 28% are residents departing these regions.*

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer Paul Donovan said visitors to the region using the Airport contributed substantially to the area.

"The study indicates that the tourist dollars are being spent locally-in fact in 2006 passengers using the Gold Coast Airport spent an estimated \$1.08 billion in the Gold Coast/Hinterland area.

"The Gold Coast Airport has helped facilitate a major boom in tourism, hospitality and retail to Australia's most popular holiday destination which means big business for local trade and employment.

"The combined direct and indirect impacts of the airport on the Northern Rivers area resulted in 850 full time equivalent jobs.

"These jobs were spread across a range of sectors including wholesale and retail trades, transport and storage, accommodation and restaurant, finance and business and agriculture, forestry and fishing," Mr Donovan said

The study also revealed that the total direct and indirect economic impacts of Gold Coast Airport result in the employment of 6.1% of the workforce in Gold Coast city.

Mr Donovan said employment was another key beneficiary of the airport with a total airport generated employment of 13,132 persons in the region.

"Every \$1 spent by a visitor using Gold Coast Airport generates \$0.27 in wages and salaries in the Gold Coast area," Mr Donovan said

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The continual building boom and expansion of flights and services including the runway extension means the airports contribution to the local economy will continue well into the future.

Direct impacts = Organisations operating at Gold Coast Airport (Initial and flow-on)
Indirect impacts = Impacts from expenditure within the Gold Coast and Northern Rivers regions by passengers of Gold Coast Airport

**Source: Gold Coast Airport Annual Passenger Survey, November 2006, Footprints Market Research.*

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