

RECORD SETTING TRIFECTA AT HOBART AIRPORT

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A record 131,000 passengers are set to travel through Hobart Airport in the next few weeks as footy fever and school holidays grip Tasmania, and the direct QantasLink flights to Perth make a return.

Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter said the terminal would be abuzz with activity as Tasmania's busiest airport gears up for a bustling weekend.

"We'll have more travellers flying through the airport these school holidays than there are fans at the MCG on Grand Final Day," Mr Carter said.

"Across the school holidays and the AFL Grand Final weekend from 27 September to 12 October, we'll have 131,000 passengers travelling through Hobart Airport.

"That's a recording breaking number, more than 2,500 more passengers than the same time last year.

"This coming weekend is the busiest, with school holidays and the Grand Final driving up traveller numbers, with over 35,000 passengers flying in and out.

"At the peak, we'll have 66 flights a day, which is 14 flights more than a typical day. Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane top the destination list, and in the first week alone, there are more than 200 flights to and from Melbourne."

Hobart Airport COO Matt Cocker said the new security screening area would make it easier for travellers, and urged everyone to follow some simple tips and be prepared.

"We're really excited to have our new security screening area up and running; we couldn't have timed its completion any better," Mr Cocker said.

"The new screening area has three lanes instead of two, and includes new body scanners, and CT bag x-rays, so travellers no longer have to unpack their laptops, devices or aerosols from their carry-on luggage, making security screening easier.

"But there are also some really easy things that every traveller can do to make sure their break gets off to a stress-free start, including checking-in online, allowing extra time for parking and security screening, and being kind to the incredible team who will be working hard over this holiday period.

"The tips for our new security screening process are to leave all items in your bag, including laptops and aerosols; remove jackets, belts and boots that reach above the ankle; and, if you need any assistance our friendly team are here to help."

Today also marks the relaunch of the QantasLink direct flights between Hobart and Perth. To



celebrate, travellers on the first flights were treated to a special appearance from Western Australia's favourite furry friend, Sunny the Quokka, who was on hand to meet and greet passengers as they came through the terminal.

QantasLink CEO Rachel Yangoyan said that Hobart is a really important part of network and they were excited to be adding more than 30,000 additional seats to and from the city every year with the relaunch of flights from Hobart to Perth.

"Not only will this contribute to the growth of the local tourism industry, the direct service will also offer more opportunities for Tasmanians working in the resource sectors and improve connectivity onto Qantas' extensive international network out of Perth, including one-stop connections to London, Paris and Rome," Ms Yangoyan said.

"We thank Hobart Airport for their support of this route and look forward to working with them to expand our Hobart network in the future."

The flight will operate on Fridays, Sundays and Mondays most months of the year, adding more than 32,000 seats annually.

"This gives international travellers a chance to fly to and from Tassie with a one-stop connection from London, Paris and Rome, or vice versa," Mr Carter said.

"It's great news for Tasmania's tourism and hospitality industry, and for Tasmanian travellers keen to see the world."

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