

Million seat summer

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It's going to be a one in a million summer at Hobart Airport, with a record 1,000,000 seats on flights to and from Hobart across this December to February.

Hobart Airport is now officially the second fastest growing airport in Australia based on year-on-year passenger growth. Nearly two-thirds of all people travelling to and from Tasmania do so through Hobart Airport.

Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter said the record-breaking surge in capacity was driven by new and increased services and would make for a red-hot summer for local tourism and hospitality.

"Summer is soaring to new heights for Tasmanian travellers, with a record breaking one million seats on flights in and out of Hobart Airport," Mr Carter said.

"This is a huge 11 per cent increase on last summer and the largest summer schedule on record for Hobart Airport.

"Hobart is now the second fastest growing airport in Australia, and the eighth busiest airport by passenger numbers.

"December 26 will be the first time Hobart Airport has recorded over 14,000 seats in a single day, and January 9 will be our biggest day ever, with over 14,200 seats scheduled.

"This record surge in visitation and demand for all things Tasmania is a credit to all the unique experiences that Tasmania's tourism and hospitality industry has to offer.

"This summer we have the addition of 28,500 seats on the returned Qantas flight from Hobart to Perth, 22,000 on the new Jetstar Hobart-Newcastle flights and 25,000 seats on the seasonal Air New Zealand flights to Auckland.

This bumper season has also been strengthened by our incentive partnership with Jetstar, supported by the Tasmanian Government's Aviation Attraction Fund top-up, which has so far stimulated an extra 30,000 passengers on the Melbourne - Hobart route, with four months remaining.

"This record success is a credit to the strong collaboration between Hobart Airport, airlines and industry, and the support from the Tasmanian Government – and we thank them all for their support.

"To ensure everyone has the best possible experience this summer, we'll have extra staff and volunteers on hand to help travellers have the best start to their holidays.

"The CEO of the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania, Amy Hills, hailed the milestone as an



incredible achievement fuelled by the strength and appeal of Tasmania as a summer destination and the unique experiences the tourism industry offer.

"Tourism operators and event organisers right across the state are gearing up for a bumper summer with events like the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race and Taste of Summer in the south as well as events like Festivale and the Foo Fighters in the north.

"Today's milestone shows that when our major access partners like Hobart Airport work hand in glove with Government and industry, we can reach new heights and support Tasmania and the one in six Tasmanian jobs we support.

"Our industry is all about confidence and with the news of the Macquarie Point Stadium progressing last week and the delivery of the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels in October next year, Tasmania is on the cusp of a new era for tourism in this state."

Hospitality Tasmania CEO Steve Old said there was a strong sense of optimism.

"Hobart Airport deserves real credit for the way they work hand-in-hand with industry and government to grow Tasmania's visitor economy," Mr Old said.

"Confidence matters in hospitality, and record seat capacity like this sends a strong signal to operators that Tasmania is absolutely a market worth investing in.

"Our sector is coming off a strong winter season, and a blockbuster summer will only strengthen the outlook. As we head into a year that will see the new Spirits come online, momentum around the stadium precinct, VFL football and huge events - like the Foo Fighters next month in the north - operators can finally start planning for growth, hiring and training with a sense of optimism again.

"Tasmania is building serious year-round momentum."

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