Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Tourism

**New Airport for the future**

9 May 2015

Chief Minister Adam Giles has congratulated Darwin Airport on its new $75 million expansion project which is a huge vote of confidence in the Territory’s tourism industry.

“Over the next two years, the Territory economy will strategically tilt towards tourism and it’s great to see the local travel industry planning for the future with this impressive airport upgrade,” Mr Giles said.

“The Darwin Airport expansion and upgrades will leave a great first impression for visitors to the Territory and will further help position Darwin as a gateway into Australia from Asia and Europe.

“This upgrade will complement the Government’s extensive investment on-the-ground infrastructure Tourism projects designed to lay the groundwork in preparation for Tourism to play a central role in our economy over the years ahead.”

Last year Darwin International Airport had 2.3 million passengers through its doors - an increase of 4.5 per cent on the previous year.

“It is expected this number will continue to climb, as our increased marketing activity bears fruit, new airlines enter the Top End market and route opportunities open up throughout Asia. It’s great to see the Airport preparing now for that growth,” Mr Giles said.

The Airport’s terminal expansion is the biggest project undertaken since the facility opened in 1991.

The $75 million project includes:

- The terminal has doubled in size, growing from 16,000 to 27,000 square metres.
- Extra baggage systems and security screening areas, additional departure lounge facilities and a larger check-in area.
- Long-term commitments from Qantas and Virgin Australia, which have both built new airline lounges.
A $10 million investment into new and redesigned retail outlets greatly improving the choice on offer to travellers.

Investment in airside infrastructure, with the construction of three new aircraft parking bays bringing the total to 17. The apron, or aircraft parking area, has been extended by 15,000 square metres, and the airport now has capacity to process twice the number of passengers it could previously handle during peak periods.

Darwin International Airport is a committed corporate citizen and has been a strong supporter of the arts in the region.

“It’s great to see this commitment reflected in the terminal’s public art displays which have been developed in partnership with artists from the Daly River region at Merrepen Arts. These pieces contribute to a sense of arrival for visitors, giving them a taste of what makes the Top End unique,” Mr Giles said.

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