

Sunshine Coast Airport achieves record passenger numbers

A record nine hundred and forty six thousand passengers have passed through the Sunshine Coast Airport in 2008 surpassing the previous year's total by 85,000.

Sunshine Coast Airport General Manager Peter Pallot said he was pleased with the record numbers considering the tough economic conditions in 2008 which were compounded by rising jet fuel prices mid year and resulted in the reduction of a number of flights into the region and the cancellation of the Jetstar Adelaide route.

"We believe that the desirability of the region in terms of a leisure and business destination proves that we have a strong, robust and viable local market and a 10% passenger growth in this economic climate is a great result.

"All three airlines Virgin Blue, Jetstar and Tiger Airways have reported strong passenger numbers and the competition between the three airlines is good news for price conscious passengers," Mr Pallot said.

Tiger Airways recently demonstrated their confidence in the region by upgrading its Sunshine Coast to Melbourne flights from three per week to a daily service.

Mr Pallot expected that the 2009 passenger numbers would remain steady with stronger growth anticipated in the following years.

"We are working toward securing more routes from new destinations and anticipate reaching 1.9 million passengers through the airport by 2020.

Ends

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