

FROM TOOWOOMBA TO THE WORLD

By ROBERT KASCH, General Manager - Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport

Constructed over 19 months from 2012-2014, Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport is not only the newest airport in Australia, it is the first major greenfield public airport development in over 50 years and the first privately funded public airport in the country.

This world class piece of economic infrastructure features a 2870m long jet capable runway and fully licensed international air cargo terminal. Fully equipped to handle oversized cargo, Dangerous Goods (DG), livestock, high value air shipments including art works, aerospace equipment, mining equipment and exhibition pieces.

On 30 October 2019 Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk announced that Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport was selected as one of two regional sites for a multimillion-dollar investment to boost jobs on the



Darling Downs and enhance the region's reputation as an agricultural export hot spot.

Wagner Corporation, the Airport's parent company, was selected to construct the Regional Trade Distribution Centre (RTDC) at the Airport with plans on a 10-month build starting in the second quarter of 2020.

"This will supercharge rapid airfreight access for agricultural producers," the Premier said. "It means graziers and growers will have easier access to export markets and that means jobs."

Upon completion the 3500 square metre facility will comprise four state-of-the-art large cold rooms, a temperature-controlled storeroom, a storeroom and an external storage area. The RTDC will be used to process premium export goods including beef, dairy products,

fresh fruit and vegetables, pork and packaged nuts.

Wellcamp is, however no stranger to moving a range of commodities and is already facilitating the export of high value art, oversized mining equipment, chilled beef and local produce to the international export market.

Equine International Airfreight (EIAF) moved 21 thoroughbred racehorses from the Magic Millions Sales through Wellcamp to South Korea in early 2019. EIAF Managing Director Cameron Croucher said, "Moving horses from Australia is not uncommon, but it is uncommon to be moving horses directly out of Queensland to an overseas destination. This is largely due to the limitation of scheduled freight plane services that generally operate only out of Sydney or Melbourne airports."





Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport offers direct access into SE QLD and with the completion of the new Toowoomba Bypass, road access for freight transport across the eastern seaboard of Australia is now more efficient than ever before.

The Airport welcomes the only scheduled weekly 747-8F freighter service in Queensland when Cathay Pacific touches down every Tuesday afternoon en route to Hong Kong. The freight business at Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport is continuing to grow with the regular services of CX and Toll Global Express as well as ad hoc charter services – both domestic and international.

The efficient handling of our weekly 747- 8F Cathay Pacific Freight service as well as proven success in handling ad hoc charter movements, such as the recent An-12 and Boeing 757-200F has shown the international logistics market that the Airport is a major player in the air freight industry.

Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport is positioned as the leading international cargo hub for the region, connecting Australia's leading primary producers, processors and manufacturers with growing consumer markets across Asia and greater China.

The Airport further offers the international leisure and business traveler direct access in and out of the region with direct services between Toowoomba and Sydney, Melbourne, Townsville and Western Queensland.

In September 2018 the Qantas Group announced Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport as the first of two regional locations for its new Pilot Academy. The Academy is part of the Qantas Group's strategy to build a long-term talent pipeline for its own airlines and help the broader industry meet the increasing need for skilled aviators. With the first students already in session, the Academy is expected to eventually grow to train as many as 250 pilots per year from the purpose built training and residential facility at Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport

The completion of the Toowoomba Bypass, the planned RTDC and a future inland rail route from Melbourne to Brisbane set to include access to an intermodal facility at Wellcamp Airport, ensures that the trifecta of road, rail and air places Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport on the map to become Australia's leading trade hub.

