

**About Brisbane Airport:** Brisbane Airport is the third largest airport in Australia on passenger numbers and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is Australia's largest capital city airport (by land size) and has two major terminals providing services to 27 airlines flying to 43 national and 29 international destinations. In 2011/12FY Brisbane Airport welcomed more than 21 million passengers through its facilities.



# DON'T CURFEW BNE ECONOMIC IMPACTS



## OVERVIEW

This Fact Sheet provides information about the economic impacts of a night-time curfew on Brisbane Airport, including:

- » a loss of 328,000 passenger movements each year including more than 160,000 international visitors and domestic holidaymakers
- » a risk of reduced services to key international destinations including Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, Malaysia, Taipei and Denpasar
- » lost growth opportunities for Queensland tourism, travel, freight, aviation/aerospace, property development and resources industries.

**Brisbane Airport is one of Australia's fastest growing passenger and freight airports and is recognised as a key driver in the long-term growth of the state and national economies.**

It is estimated that by 2033-34, a 24/7 Brisbane Airport will:

- » generate \$13.4 billion contribution to the Australian economy;
- » facilitate \$7.6 billion in tourism activity; and
- » support more than 88,000 jobs Australia wide.

Imposing a night-time curfew on Brisbane Airport would have wide-ranging impacts on Queensland and Australia's economic performance in the short-term and growth potential in the longer term through:

- » Reduced numbers of international and domestic passengers
- » Lost growth opportunities for key industries including tourism, travel, property and mining
- » The loss of Brisbane Airport's competitive advantage as a flexible, 24/7 operation.

### Reduced passenger numbers

Brisbane Airport is one of the fastest growing capital city airports in Australia, offering passengers direct connections to 29 international and 43 domestic destinations. Overall passenger numbers at Brisbane Airport are expected to grow from 21 million in 2011-12 to around 43 million by 2028-29.

Domestic demand is expected to dominate this growth with passenger numbers forecast to increase from 16.8 million in 2012-13 to 37.0 million in 2033-34. International passenger demand is forecast to increase from 4.5 million people in 2012-13 to more than 11.3 million people by 2033-34.

A curfew will restrict Brisbane Airport from achieving these growth projections by reducing the number of domestic and international flights in and out of Brisbane

### International passengers

Estimates suggest Brisbane Airport would lose 216,000 international passenger movements each year if a curfew is imposed. Of these, 111,000 are international visitors to Australia, resulting in flow on impacts to the economy through lost tourism activity.

### Domestic passengers

BAC estimates developed in consultation with airlines suggest Brisbane Airport would lose approximately 112,000 domestic passenger movements each year if a curfew is imposed. Of these, 46 per cent are business travellers and 44 per cent domestic holidaymakers.

## Lost growth opportunities

In addition to the immediate impacts of reducing passenger numbers through Brisbane Airport, a curfew would create knock-on effects in a number of important industries for the Queensland and Australian economies.

## Tourism

Brisbane Airport is Queensland's primary international and domestic tourist gateway. Its importance to the State's tourism industry reaches well beyond Brisbane and into other key regional centres.

Around 33 per cent of international visitors to Queensland's regions arrive through Brisbane Airport. This includes 35 per cent of international visitors to the Gold Coast and 49 per cent to the Sunshine Coast who arrive at Brisbane Airport.

Visitor expenditure makes a substantial contribution to the tourism industry in Brisbane and throughout Queensland. According to Tourism Queensland<sup>1</sup>, a domestic overnight visitor spends an average of \$741 per visit, likewise an international visitor spends \$1,915 per visit.

## International travel

Tourism Queensland's vision is for Queensland to be the leading tourism destination in Australia and to double overnight visitor expenditure in the State by 2020<sup>2</sup>.

Brisbane Airport is attractive to international airlines seeking to fly into Australia because 24/7 operations provide the flexibility to:

- » Optimise scheduling 'windows' that are dictated by arrival/departure times at international hub airports in different time zones
- » Maximise aircraft productivity by avoiding extended time on the ground.

Imposing a curfew would make Brisbane Airport less attractive, especially for international flights from key airports including Singapore, Dubai, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Denpasar and Dallas Fort Worth.

International services to and from Brisbane currently operating between 11pm and 6am represent more than 13,000 seats each week, and many of these would become vulnerable if a curfew is imposed.

A curfew creates the risk of:

- » Losing 2,500 seats each way between Brisbane and Dubai each week
- » Losing up to 1,260 inbound and 4,140 outbound seats each week between Taipei, Singapore and Brisbane, reducing potential growth in the Chinese tourism market
- » Losing direct flights between Brisbane and Malaysia
- » Re-scheduling flights between Brisbane and airports such as Nadi (Fiji).

## Domestic travel

A curfew on Brisbane Airport would lead to domestic flights being rescheduled into peak periods between 7-11pm and 6-10am. This would worsen delays in these periods, and restrict Brisbane Airport's ability to recover from such delays.

During daylight saving periods, business travellers will feel the greatest impacts of re-scheduling and delays. For example, the earliest departures from Brisbane during daylight saving and under a curfew would arrive in Sydney at 8.30am. This is the busiest time of day at Sydney Airport, meaning there are no available slots for additional flights.

If flights currently operating during curfew periods are cancelled because of a lack of available landing slots, Brisbane would lose more than 8,000 outbound seats per week during daylight saving.

## Freight

Brisbane Airport is the primary aviation gateway for air freight delivery to Queensland, northern Australia and northern New South Wales, accounting for almost 15 per cent of Australia's international air freight. Brisbane Airport's ability to process freight 24/7 is essential to a range of industries including those reliant on air freight, mail and package delivery, as well as sensitive exports such as fresh products requiring cold storage.

## Resources

The airport is an important aviation centre connecting Brisbane with regional Queensland. Brisbane Airport's position as a growing fly in, fly out (FIFO) hub has made it an important element in the expansion of the resources sector.

## Local employment

More than 20,500 people were employed at Brisbane Airport in 2012-13 by a range of businesses including airlines, retailers, government agencies, commercial offices and BAC. This number is estimated to increase to more than 51,500 people by 2033-34.

## Aviation and aerospace

Brisbane Airport is the centre of the aviation and aerospace industry for Queensland and Australia. The airport is home to a range of multi-national companies including Qantas and Virgin Australia, DHK, Schenker, FedEx and TOLL.

The airport has Australia's only on-airport aviation campus, the Da Vinci precinct, focused on training facilities, research and development. Da Vinci is home to the Pacific region's first commercial aviation simulator training centre and Aviation Australia's internationally recognised training centre.

The airport's 24/7 operations are important to servicing many of these companies and supporting the airport's reputation as a leading aviation hub within Australia and Asia-Pacific.

## Property development

BAC has a 50 year vision for property development within the 2,700 hectares Brisbane Airport precinct as part of a highly connected, 24/7 aviation, trade and commerce hub. Curfew-free operations are central to the Airport Property Development Master Plan that sets out how the airport will become a major commercial centre for business and leisure that supports the economic and cultural growth of Brisbane and Queensland, and acknowledges the important role the airport plays in Brisbane's transformation into a 'New World City'.

**Restrictions on 24-hour operations at Brisbane Airport would damage the competitive advantages of Brisbane, Queensland and Australia.**

**Don't curfew BNE.**

1. Tourism Facts and Figures, Tourism Queensland, June 2012

2. Strategic Plan 2012 – 2016, Tourism Queensland, Update June 2012