

# NSW Domestic Aviation Performance

Top 66 competitive routes in Australia

Source: Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics.

Year Ended June 2019

## SEAT CAPACITY, FLIGHTS AND PASSENGER ARRIVALS

Chart 1 : Seat capacity and passenger traffic to New South Wales.

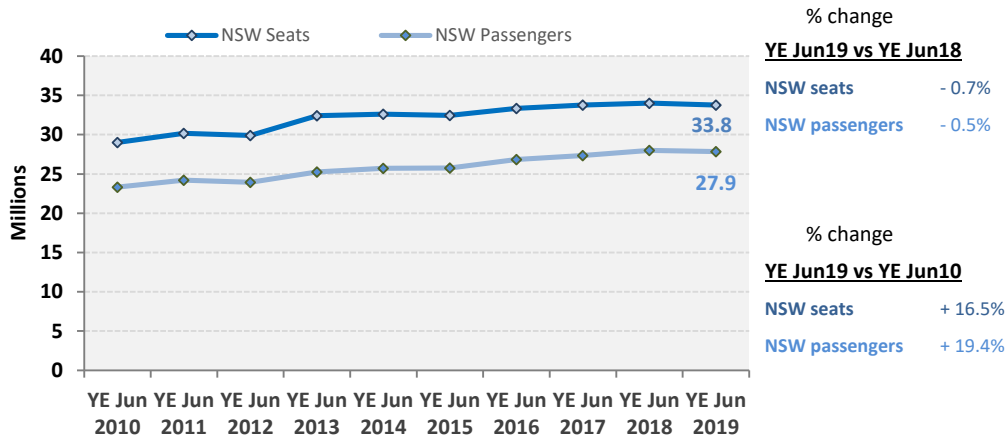


Chart 2 : Flight services to Sydney and New South Wales.

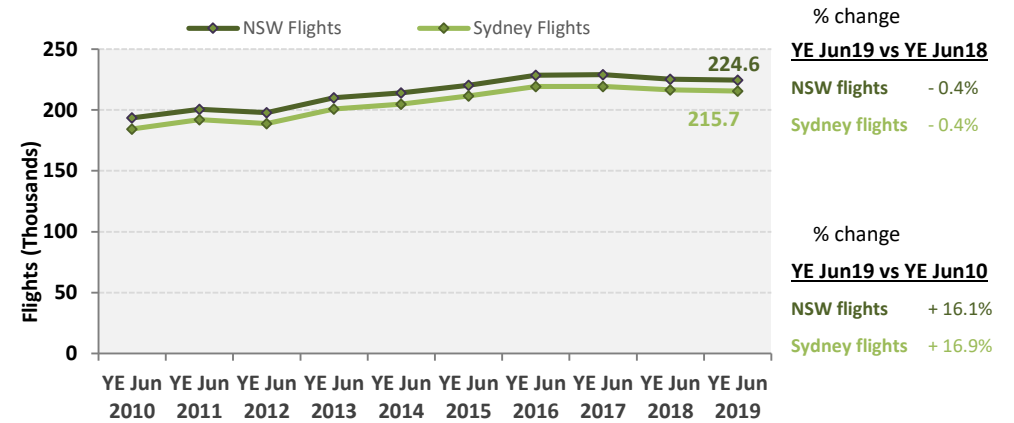
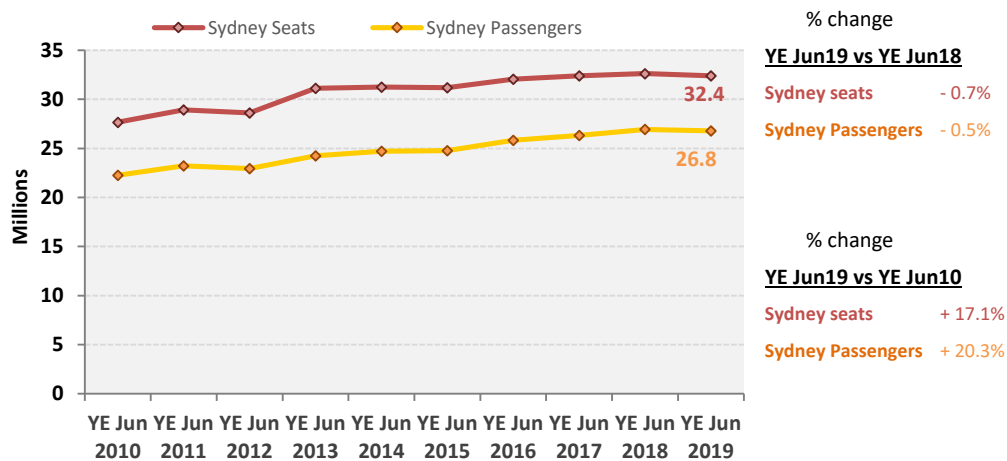


Chart 3 : Seat capacity and passenger traffic to Sydney.



In the year ended (YE) June 2019, NSW accounted for almost a half (49%) of the domestic aviation seat capacity in Australia's top 66 competitive routes or 33.8 million seats, which was slightly down (-0.7%) on YE June 2018. In the last decade, NSW domestic seat capacity in these routes increased by 16.5%. [Chart 1]

In the same year, there were 27.9 million passengers who arrived at and departed from NSW domestic airports, or half (50%) of passengers in Australia's top routes. NSW recorded a marginal decline (-0.5%) in the number of passengers on the previous year. However when looking over the past decade, the passenger traffic increased by 19.4%. [Chart 1]

In YE June 2019, NSW had 224,600 domestic flights on Australia's top routes, slightly less (-0.4%) than in the previous year but 16.1% higher over the decade. Sydney accounted for 96% of those flights in YE June 2019. [Chart 2]

**Sydney** had a domestic aviation capacity of 32.4 million seats on Australia's top routes, slightly down (-0.7%) on the previous year but up by 17.1% in the last 10 years. The number of passengers through Sydney's Domestic Airport reached 26.8 million, 0.5% less passengers on the previous year but 20.3% higher than 10 years ago. [Chart 3]

For the top Australian routes, the average passenger load factor on Sydney domestic flights in YE June 2019 was 82.7%, slightly higher than the average for NSW (82.5%) or the national average

## NSW INTRASTATE ROUTES

In YE June 2019, twenty-eight of the Top 66 Competitive routes in Australia were NSW routes. Of those routes, eight routes were intrastate.

Sydney to Ballina has been the top NSW intrastate route in the past four years. In YE June 2019 the route recorded 520,000 seats (up 1.0% on YE June 2018) and 433,000 passengers travelling in both directions (up 1.8%). Sydney to Ballina route had the highest share of NSW Intrastate routes in terms of capacity (20.5%) and passengers (23.5%).

Sydney to Coffs Harbour route was the second most in demand NSW intrastate route with 460,000 seats (down 3.7%) and 332,000 passengers (down 4.3%). The route had the second highest share of the NSW Intrastate routes for both seat capacity and passengers (18.2% and 18.0%, respectively).

The passenger load factor was the highest for the Sydney to Ballina route (83.2%), followed by Port Macquarie route (74.7%) and Coffs Harbour route (72.1%).

Table 1 shows **busiest NSW intrastate routes among the Top 66 Competitive routes in Australia** by seat and passenger numbers in both directions in YE June 2019.

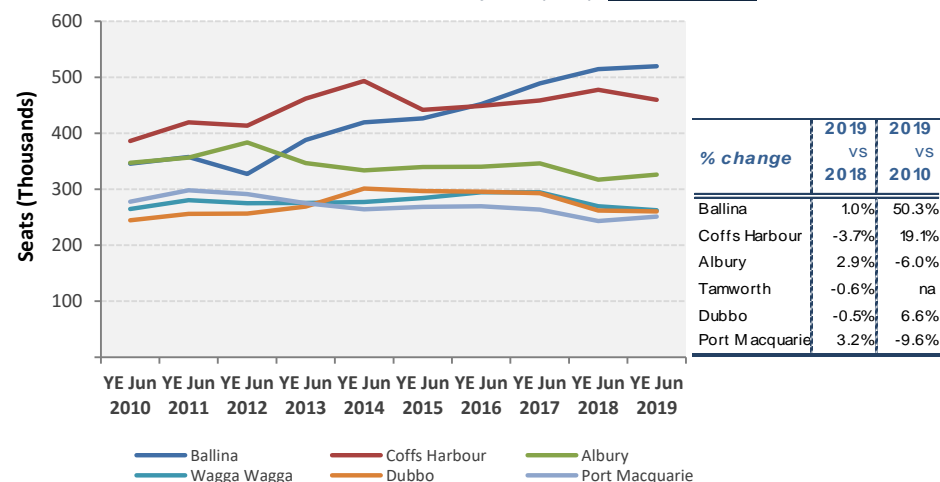
**Table 1: NSW busiest intrastate routes**

SYDNEY to/from (two way traffic*)	Available seats YE Jun 2019 (000)	% share YE Jun 2019	Passengers YE Jun 2019 (000)	% share YE Jun 2019	Load Factor (%)^
Ballina	520	20.5%	433	23.5%	83.2%
Coffs Harbour	460	18.2%	332	18.0%	72.1%
Albury	326	12.9%	229	12.4%	70.1%
Tamworth	268	10.6%	174	9.4%	64.7%
Wagga Wagga	262	10.4%	180	9.8%	68.4%
Dubbo	261	10.3%	185	10.0%	70.9%
Port Macquarie	251	9.9%	188	10.2%	74.7%
Armidale	181	7.1%	123	6.7%	68.0%
<b>Total NSW Intrastate routes</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>72.8%</b>

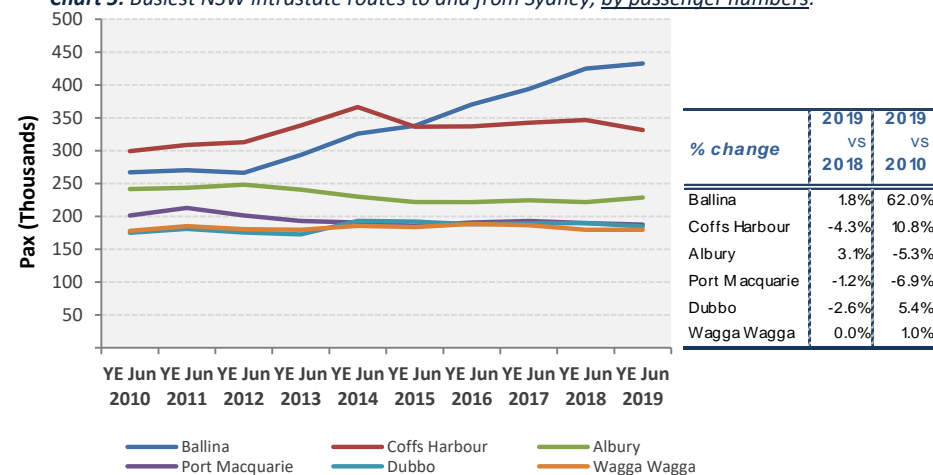
\* Traffic covers both directions of each city pair.

^ Load factor: Kilometers travelled by paying passengers as a percentage of total available seat kilometers.

**Chart 4: Busiest NSW intrastate routes to and from Sydney, by seat capacity.**



**Chart 5: Busiest NSW intrastate routes to and from Sydney, by passenger numbers.**



## SYDNEY INTERSTATE ROUTES

Sydney had 17 interstate city pair routes in the Top 66 Competitive routes in Australia in YE June 2019. These routes accounted for 43% of the available seats and 45% of the passenger traffic in both directions.

Sydney to Melbourne remains the top NSW Interstate route with 10.8 million available seats (down 0.9% on YE June 2018) and 9.2 million passengers on the route (down 0.6% on the previous year). The route also accounts for the highest proportions of seats and passengers of the top Sydney competitive routes (36.1% and 36.9%, respectively).

Sydney to Brisbane was the second highest route in terms of seats (5.8 million) and passenger traffic (4.8 million). The route accounts for 19.3% of both seats and passengers of the top Sydney competitive routes.

Table 2 below shows the busiest Sydney interstate routes among the Top 66 competitive routes in Australia by seats and passenger numbers in both directions in YE June 2019.

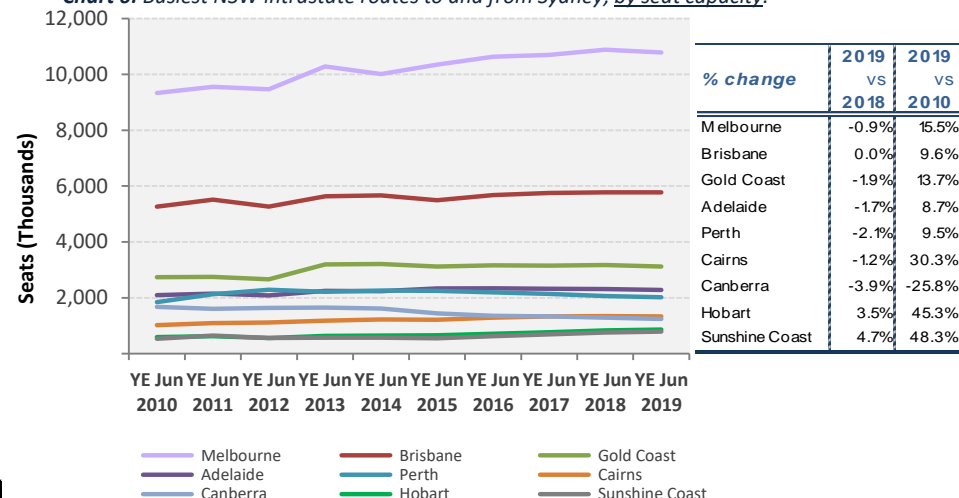
**Table 2: Sydney busiest interstate routes**

SYDNEY to/from (two way traffic*)	Available seats YE Jun 2019 (000)	% share YE Jun 2019	Passengers YE Jun 2019 (000)	% share YE Jun 2019	Load Factor (%)^
Melbourne	10,785	36.1%	9,196	36.9%	85.3%
Brisbane	5,774	19.3%	4,814	19.3%	83.4%
Gold Coast	3,119	10.4%	2,692	10.8%	86.3%
Adelaide	2,276	7.6%	1,877	7.5%	82.5%
Perth	2,020	6.8%	1,690	6.8%	83.7%
Cairns	1,329	4.5%	1,103	4.4%	83.0%
Canberra	1,242	4.2%	927	3.7%	74.6%
Hobart	863	2.9%	713	2.9%	82.6%
Sunshine Coast	790	2.6%	645	2.6%	81.6%
Darwin	414	1.4%	310	1.2%	74.9%
Launceston	340	1.1%	290	1.2%	85.1%
Hamilton Island	294	1.0%	203	0.8%	68.9%
Ayers Rock	251	0.8%	194	0.8%	77.0%
Townsville	216	0.7%	174	0.7%	80.6%
<b>Total Sydney Interstate routes</b>	<b>29,862</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24,950</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>83.3%</b>
<b>Total Top Competitive routes in Australia</b>	<b>68,890</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55,280</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>80.2%</b>

\* Traffic covers both directions of each city pair.

^ Load factor: Kilometers travelled by paying passengers as a percentage of total available seat kilometers.

**Chart 6: Busiest NSW intrastate routes to and from Sydney, by seat capacity.**



**Chart 7: Busiest NSW intrastate routes to and from Sydney, by passenger numbers.**

