

Airport popularity is soaring



The Gold Coast Airport continues to be a popular destination with travellers using low cost airlines.

Record numbers touching down

TRAVELLERS are voting with their wallets and holidaying on the Tweed and the Gold Coast, with visitor numbers to Coolangatta's Gold Coast airport steadily rising.

More than 400,000 people have arrived on the Glitter Strip through the country's fifth-busiest airport since July, which follows the 7.58 per cent boost in visitors during the 2008-2009 financial year.

Airport chief executive Paul Donovan said the terminal was eventually expected to service more than 7.5 million passengers a year.

"It is the first low-cost carrier terminal in Australia and something we

By ANDREW POTTS

are extremely proud of because it covers all the key areas of functionality we need it for," he said.

The new-look airport will be officially opened on Monday by Federal Transport Minister Anthony Albanese after more than 18 months of work on the \$100 million project.

The work has doubled the size of the building, which now features 36 common use domestic and international check-in counts, five domestic departure gates, three international departure gates and an expanded duty-free area for international visitors.