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New-look T2 has taken off

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IT USED to be the poorer cousin to the international and Qantas domestic terminals, lacking traffic, facilities and imagination.

Now, thanks to the popularity of low-cost carriers, Sydney Airport's T2 is now the busiest terminal at Mascot, servicing more than 10 million passengers annually.

Sydney Airport has spent \$20 million redeveloping the terminal, nearly doubling its retail capacity, expanding

security sections, and adding some finer touches.

Sydney Airport chief Russell Balding said the improvements were proving popular with passengers.

"The feedback we are getting on the new terminal is extremely positive," he said.

The upgrade includes a luxury day spa and a pub, providing different ways for passengers to relax.

T2 is used by airlines including Virgin Blue, Jetstar, Rex, QantasLink and Aeropelican. Earlier this

year, a controversial \$200 million development at Sydney Airport was knocked on the head by Federal Transport Minister Mark Vaile.

Mr Vaile rejected a draft plan for the centre, at the northern end of the third runway — after the Civil Aviation Safety Authority raised safety concerns.

Sydney Airport is undertaking additional analysis and work before deciding whether to again submit the retail centre for the Government's consideration.