

February 17, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council welcomes \$5.5m Federal funding

The \$5.5 million in funding announced today by the Federal Government for the Gladstone Terminal Upgrade Project has been warmly welcomed by Gladstone Regional Council.

Mayor George Creed said the funding commitment made by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Anthony Albanese at Gladstone Airport today recognised the significance the Federal Government placed on the Gladstone Airport to the future prosperity of the Gladstone Region.

“On behalf of a grateful Gladstone Regional community, I must congratulate and thank the Rudd Federal Government, Minister Albanese and Federal Member for Flynn Chris Trevor for their foresight in investing in critical infrastructure in regional Australia,” Cr Creed said.

“With the Gladstone region standing on the verge of another wave of industrial development, with some \$65 billion worth of projects earmarked for the region, there is no doubt that governments at all levels need to invest in visionary infrastructure.”

Cr Creed said the Gladstone Airport Terminal Upgrade Project would cost \$5.5 million and be additional to the \$65 million already committed by Council for the Gladstone Airport Runway Project.

“These airport terminal improvements are critical to the overall reconstruction project as they will enable larger aircraft to bring more passengers to a growing Gladstone industrial centre.”

He said the work involved upgrading and expanding the terminal facility to accommodate increased passenger numbers safely and efficiently.

“The redeveloped terminal building will offer passengers the type of facility now expected of a modern, regional airport.”

The project is expected to create between 70 and 80 jobs and be completed by November this year.

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FACT FILE: The Gladstone Airport Terminal Upgrade Project

Key Points:

- The \$5.5 million Gladstone Airport Terminal Upgrade Project is a critical element of the redevelopment of the Gladstone Airport. The project involves delivering enhanced passenger useability and security of the terminal.
- Expanding and reconfiguring the existing arrival and departure halls is needed to accommodate the concurrent arrival/departure of the larger jet aircraft anticipated to use the extended runway and the associated increase in passenger numbers.
- The terminal currently has sufficient capacity to accommodate passenger movements for up to 75 seat capacity aircraft. The larger jet aircraft anticipated to use the extended runway will include 90 and 115 seat jets.
- The expansion of the arrival and departure areas will require an eastern extension to the existing terminal building and will include modifications to check-in areas and a redesign of the baggage make up area to provide for a checked bag screening x-ray unit and an upgraded baggage handling system.
- Creating improved connectivity between the extended terminal building and runway parking apron.
- Jet aircraft choosing to use the extended runway will utilise the lower, high strength parking apron. As a result considerable work will be required to facilitate passenger access (including disabled access) from the higher level terminal building to the lower level parking apron.
- The project will necessitate additional amenities and passenger food and beverage concessions within the expanded departure hall in order to facilitate early passenger entry into the secure departure area. The establishment of these facilities was a recommendation of the Office of Transport Security to ensure that passengers pass through security processes early, and enter the secure departure hall well in advance of their flight departing.
- The terminal upgrade works are expected to commence in mid-March 2010 and finish in early November 2010.

Benefits:

- The overall project enables Gladstone Airport/Region to host larger aircraft and passenger numbers.

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- The terminal component of the project accommodates increased passenger numbers safely and efficiently.
- The terminal improvements will ensure compliance with mandated security and safety requirements, including passenger and baggage screening.
- The redeveloped terminal will offer passengers the arrival and departure experience that is expected by airline travellers to a regional city like Gladstone.
- The project will inject \$5.5 million into the local economy and create 70 – 80 jobs.
- A joint commitment by the Federal Government and Gladstone Regional Council to this critical infrastructure project ensures the region is best positioned to accommodate future growth and economic development.

Attachment 1:

Mayor George Creed thanks Federal Member for Flynn Chris Trevor and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Anthony Albanese for the Federal Government's funding commitment of \$5.5 million for the Gladstone Airport Terminal Upgrade Project.

Attachment 2:

Discussing the Gladstone Airport Runway Reconstruction Project and the upgrade and extension of the Gladstone Airport terminal are (from left) Federal Member for Flynn Chris Trevor, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Anthony Albanese, Gladstone Regional Council CEO Graeme Kanofski and Mayor George Creed.



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MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Gladstone Regional Council's Community Relations Department on 4976 6946.