

## media release

March 24, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Council opts for lowest tender submission for airport project**

Council today resolved to accept the lowest tender submission of \$45,042,704 from Golding Contractors for reconstruction of Gladstone Airport runway.

In announcing the decision, Mayor George Creed acknowledged the difficult task undertaken by the assessment panel in deciding the merits of five highly competitive tenders.

The panel had nevertheless reached the conclusion that, on balance, the Golding Contractors tender represented the best value outcome for Council.

Mayor Creed thanked each tenderer for their detailed submissions and said that each could have delivered a high quality outcome for this landmark project.

Cr Creed said that the project represented the minimum works required to achieve two key objectives:

1. The reconstruction of the runway to provide for the continued operation of the Q400 type aircraft that currently service the region.
2. To allow the project to be undertaken while providing a minimum runway length of 1050 metres throughout the project.

Despite the huge effort by Council and others, such as the Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited, to secure Federal and/ or State funding for the project, the requests have fallen on deaf ears and no financial commitment has been forthcoming.

"This region provides enormous economic benefit to this state and nation, yet we cannot obtain one cent for our most pressing infrastructure need," Cr Creed said.

"While the Federal and State Government are promising jobs, the Gladstone Regional Council is delivering jobs through this project," he said.

Cr Creed said that Council was now faced with two options:

- a. Proceed with the project by way of loan funds and recover the costs from airport users.
- b. Withdraw the concession that allows Q400 to operate into Gladstone as the runway continues to deteriorate at an increasing rate.

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Council has made application for approval to borrow the required funds and awaits the signature of the Minister for Local Government following the conclusion of the current caretaker period.

Cr Creed said that while Council must continue to seek funding assistance for the project, essentially time has run out.

"Accordingly, Council has taken the responsible decision to proceed with the project," Cr Creed concluded.

-ENDS-

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Gladstone Mayor George Creed on 0408 194 802.**