November 16, 2011

Photograph: Cr Clyde Cameron and Gladstone Mayor Gail Sellers, pictured with Isabelle Floret, Airbus Senior Vice President (left) and John McArdle, National Chairman, Australian Airports Association (right), accept the Regional Airport of the Year Award at the Australian Airports Association’s National Airport Industry Awards in Brisbane.

Photo supplied by md photography

Gladstone Airport claims Regional Airport of the Year Award

Gladstone Airport’s $73 million upgrade project surpassed four contenders to be named the best regional airport project of the year for airports with 50,000 to 499,000 passengers.

Gladstone Regional Council Mayor, Cr Gail Sellers, and Airport portfolio spokesperson Cr Clyde Cameron last night accepted the accolade at the Australian Airports Association (AAA) prestigious National Airport Industry Awards in Brisbane.

“It is a great privilege to receive this Award as the Australian Airports Association is the nation’s peak airport body,” Cr Sellers said.

“The awards recognise excellence at airports of various sizes as well as individuals who have made a significant contribution to the industry.

“Council made the hard decisions following amalgamation to borrow $70 million to complete the total runway upgrade as well as the re-design of the terminal and introduction of security screening.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff led by Airport Manager Glenn Robinson, the contractors and architects who worked on the project."

Cr Sellers also acknowledged Rod Sullivan and Graeme Kanofski for their vision, dedication and commitment to the project.

AAA Executive Director Caroline Wilkie congratulated Council on the achievement.

“The major airport upgrade at Gladstone Airport is a planning success story,” she said.

“Prompted by forecast growth in the local community, the Gladstone Airport Upgrade Project was conceived after the airport identified pavement failures under existing Q400 operations.

“The project’s scope included an upgrade of runway pavements to B737/A320 capability and terminal works needed for larger aircraft and passenger/checked bag screening.”

(-MORE-)
Cr Sellers said an important consideration during the project was to ensure Gladstone Airport continued to provide regular passenger transport while the runway was reconstructed with the new terminal officially opened in April 2011.

“Gladstone Airport was also recognised for their extensive community engagement throughout the project to ensure that locals were kept in the loop,” Ms Wilkie said.

“The team at Gladstone Airport is to be congratulated on the success of such a major project that will ensure that the airport continues to deliver significant social and economic benefits to the Gladstone region.”

(-ENDS-)