

Media release

Works commence on KI Airport Upgrade

23 January, 2017: Kangaroo Island Council is pleased to announce the main works associated with the Kangaroo Island Airport Upgrade Project will commence in January 2017. The \$18M upgrade of the runway and terminal is being jointly funded through the Australian Government's *National Stronger Regions Fund* and the South Australian State Government.

South Australia's Minister for Tourism Leon Bignell said the project would help to address access issues for Kangaroo Island.

"Kangaroo Island is one of the most stunning places on earth and the local economy is heavily reliant on visitors spending their money in the KI Community," Mr Bignell said.

"Last year, 126,000 visitors stayed 511,000 nights and the airport upgrade will ensure this number continues to grow. As well as boosting tourism, we also can expect to see a big increase in the amount of premium produce exported from the Island to east coast markets".

Federal Minister for Regional Development Fiona Nash agreed saying, "Kangaroo Island is a truly amazing destination and these upgrades will allow more people to experience the beauty of this region.

She added, "this is a real game-changer for tourism and growth potential for the people of Kangaroo Island. The upgrade will enable direct flights from Melbourne and Sydney, opening Kangaroo Island to the east coast as an easily accessible weekend getaway."

The Project requires the lengthening and strengthening of the existing sealed runway (01/19) and the construction of a new Terminal facility both capable of managing larger turboprop and regional jet aircraft which will allow the Island to receive direct flights from Melbourne and Sydney in addition to the regular service between Adelaide and the Island.

The works have been split into four main packages:

-) Early, enabling works that will be conducted by Council and revolve around site access, and preparation works together with upgrade works to the main alternate runway (15/33) which will be used during the period February to end March 2017.
-) Material raising and crushing: a considerable quantity of crushed rock is required for the upgrade and two contracts have been awarded – to NBS and Willson Earthmoving.
-) Airside works: all earthworks, drainage, lengthening, strengthening and sealing of the main runway (01/19) and associated taxiway, apron and lighting requirements. This tender is complete and awarded to BMD who have commenced mobilisation with main works starting in January and completion due in mid-April.
-) Terminal works: construction of the new terminal building and associated works. The design is now complete and fully documented which will allow the five shortlisted companies – including two Island businesses – to tender for this work in January. It is expected that tenders will close in early February and that we will be



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in a position to award the contract for a March 2017 commencement with an expected completion date of end of December 2017 / early January 2018.

Kangaroo Island Council CEO Andrew Boardman said, “all the main works have been awarded on the basis of significant local sub-contractor involvement. A range of other small-scale works, and then ongoing service provision, will be tendered and let over the course of the next few months, which will see the opportunity for further local business involvement”.

There will be no interruption to, or restriction of, current services between Adelaide and Kangaroo Island throughout the construction period with the alternate runway being extended by 221m, sealed and lit prior to the main works commencing. The Island’s current air service provider, REX, has confirmed they are able to operate their current schedule of services off this alternate airstrip without any operational impact. At this point negotiations with potential future airline service providers are positive and ongoing, and it is expected that flight services in addition to the current Adelaide / Kangaroo Island sector may commence from November 2017 onwards.

The airport upgrade project is a significant step forward for the Island and aims to address the time/ease and cost of access challenges that are experienced currently and which limit higher-value visitation to the Island. The business case for the upgrade was completed in 2015 and submitted for funding consideration under the Australian Government’s National Stronger Regions Fund with a commitment of matched funding from the Premier of South Australia.

Mayor Peter Clements commented, “We expect that there will be 30,000 plus domestic passengers per year from east coast capital cities together with significant uplift in international visitation given the ability to more directly and cost effectively access the Island. We also expect to see a strong uplift in the export of the Island’s high value, short-shelf-life fresh produce with lucrative east coast markets and export points being able to be accessed directly and regularly”.

For further information on this exciting project please contact Kangaroo Island Council Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Boardman, on kicouncil@kicouncil.sa.gov.au or review the Council’s webpage at <http://www.kangarooisland.sa.gov.au/airportupgrade> .

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