



DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GRANT

MEDIA RELEASE

10 July 2018

Federal Government pledges \$3.5 million in funding for airport

Federal Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government Hon Dr John McVeigh MP has announced the federal government will commit \$3.5 million in the Mount Gambier Airport redevelopment project.

The announcement was made this morning on site at The Mount Gambier Airport, following a meeting last week with stakeholders and community leaders about the economic and social benefits the airport upgrade will provide business, industry and the wider Limestone Coast community.

The Mount Gambier Airport has operational limitations due to runway and apron size and strength. There is a need to upgrade the terminal, lengthen the runway and strengthen aprons to accommodate larger aircraft including business jets, and improve the efficiency and service delivery of the region's air transportation system.

The State Government will contribute \$4million to the project, the District Council of Grant will contribute \$1.1million and City of Mount Gambier will provide a financial contribution of \$500,000.

After extensive lobbying for the airport re-development project, Mayor Richard Sage is delighted by the announcement. "This project will unlock the regions potential, catering for larger aircraft and provide critical air transport infrastructure as a platform for regional growth" Mayor Sage said. "The District Council of Grant will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the project, and congratulations must go to the dedicated team at Council who under the guidance of the CEO and Council have secured this vital funding".

In late 2017, after meetings with key stakeholders, which included workshops and information sessions, a revised scope for the project was costed and endorsed by Council at an Ordinary Council Meeting on 04 December 2017. This was subsequently approved by stakeholders.

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Key outputs for the project include:

- Lengthened main runway by 120 metres
- Grooving of runway to increase safety and cater for jet aircraft
- Heavy aircraft apron that will cater for parking larger and heavier aircraft, increase fire bomber capabilities and increase freight capability
- Airfield ground lighting
- Extended and upgraded terminal building, including a covered passenger drop off zone
- 20kw Solar System
- Recalibrated GPS approach

Where possible Council will use local contractors and throughout the delivery of the project and Council will work closely with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority to maintain the availability of the infrastructure for existing services as much as possible during the upgrade process.

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