



MEDIA RELEASE

21 June 2011

GREEN LIGHT FOR AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Townsville Airport today welcomed the Federal Government's approval of its 2011 Airport Master Plan.

The Master Plan is a twenty year strategic planning document. The Master Plan will guide future development inline with community, business and environmental needs.

The 2011 Townsville Airport Master Plan resubmission was a statutory requirement under the Federal Government's *Airports Act 1996*. The process included a rigorous community consultation program.

Townsville Chief Operating Officer Kevin Gill said the approval was well received.

"The approval of the Townsville Airport Master Plan by the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP is important as it means the Airport's plan meets a rigid framework outlined by the Government.

"This is excellent news for the future protection and development of Townsville Airport as an integral piece of tourism and business infrastructure for the North Queensland region.

"Under the *Airports Act 1996*, all leased airports within Australia are required to resubmit their approved master plans every five years for revision by the Federal Government," Mr Gill said.

"Our approved plan continues the prudent planning policies that have served Townsville Airport well over the past several years."

Key elements of the 2011 Townsville Airport Master Plan include:

- Increased aircraft parking to meet current and future growth in forecast airport passenger numbers;
- Redevelopment of the existing terminal to enhance efficiency and the customer service experience including the provision of expanded airline lounges. The existing food and beverage and retail offer will be improved in line with changing customer needs;
- Improved landside transport access for the public and also transport operators alleviating wait times and enhancing general security;
- Refinements to noise charts utilised to ensure regional planning is compatible with current and future airport operations including civil and defence requirements;
- More and improved access to public car parking creating a seamless 'car park to aircraft' customer experience;

- Improvements to stormwater and drainage networks allowing the airport to better manage heavy rain episodes;
- Continuing development of the Northern Australian Aerospace Centre of Excellence (NACCEX) to cement Townsville's growing presence as a significant Australian aviation precinct.

In a recent statement the Minister's Office said Townsville Airport delivers vital aviation services across North Queensland and is a vital gateway to the region, with passenger numbers expected to grow by an average of 3.7 per cent a year to more than 3.5 million by 2030.

"Looking to the future, the Master Plan allows Townsville Airport to continue to deliver a world-class aviation precinct which will compliment and enrich our region," Mr Gill said.

"It is important to note the new Community Aviation Consultation Group will provide opportunities for the community to obtain information about the Airport's longer term plans as well as act as a mechanism for working through issues of concern."

The Preliminary Draft of the Townsville Airport Master Plan is available for download at www.townsvilleairport.com.au

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