



The Port Lincoln Airport continues to be a hive of activity.

Runway re-seal

Council is pleased to have now completed resealing work at the airport with Fulton Hogan undertaking the work on the Taxiway and Apron during the past week.

This completes a \$500,000-plus reseal project, which included the main runway which was sealed in March this year.

Council is extremely grateful to the state government's Support Regional Aviation funding program, which provided 50 per cent of the project funding.

Passenger numbers

Financial management of the airport remains a priority for Council with passenger numbers having declined from 190,000 to 175,000 over the last two years.

This has had a negative impact on the airport budget to the tune of in excess of \$100,000 per year.

The eight per cent decline in passengers is in line with the trend in regional aviation across Australia in recent years.

Council has welcomed news of Regional Express recently introducing mid-day flights from Port Lincoln to Adelaide. Council believes this adds opportunity for half day trips to and from Adelaide, as well as opening up a new opportunity for people to visit friends and relatives.

Qantaslink has also shown commitment

to its operations in South Australia, under pinned by its Adelaide to Port Lincoln leg.

Council has budgeted to make a small operating loss of \$7000 at the Port Lincoln Airport for the 2017/18 year.

However within this budget Council has made allowance to repay \$450,000 of debt during 2017/18, which is in-line with the long-term financial planning strategy to repay all airport debt over the next seven years related to the \$13m terminal and car park upgrade works, which were completed in 2013.

Passenger levy and car park fees

To ensure financial sustainability for the airport, Council has made modest increases to both the passenger levy and the car parking charges.

The passenger levy paid by airlines operating Registered Passenger Transport services between Port Lincoln and Adelaide will be increased by \$0.50 per passenger from January 1, 2018, while car parking charges have been increased to \$4 per day, noting that four-hour free parking is allowed to enable drop off and pick up of passengers at no cost.

The airport charges remain on the lower end of industry standards, as Council makes every effort to minimise the impact on passenger ticket pricing from airport costs.

Car park charging is aimed at ensuring

a contribution is made by users towards maintenance and upgrades to car parking facilities, while ensuring that car parking spaces are available to the general public.

Marketing and promotion

Council has this year budgeted to spend a small percentage of passenger tax on marketing and promotion to raise the profile of Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula as a destination.

This initiative has been discussed with Regional Express and Qantaslink, and Council aims to work with the South Australian Tourism Commission to enhance experience-based marketing campaigns to highlight our abundant attractions and visitor experiences.

Farewell Barrie

Airport Manager Barrie Rogers will conclude his employment with Council on Friday, September 29.

Council thanks Barrie for his contribution to the Port Lincoln Airport over the last four years and wishes him well in his new role at Parafield Airport in Adelaide.

Council has restructured its airport staffing model, and welcomes Peter O'Rielly as the new Airport Operations Manager.

Peter comes with a wealth of experience in the airport industry, most recently at the Kalgoorlie airport in Western Australia.

Work to start on Tulka S-bend

The Council would like to advise the general public that the shoulder widening on the Proper Bay Road S-Bend has recommenced.

Works are expected to be completed by early January. Council is well aware that the long delays have been an inconvenience to people using Proper Bay Road, and we ask for continuing patience as this project is concluded.

Council intend to limit the impact on the public as much as possible; however, in order to provide safe access for road users and a safe work environment for our construction staff there

is a need for traffic control within the project site.

Council asks that members of the public take care when they are in the area and follow the directions of the traffic control.

Council is well aware that the long delays have been an inconvenience to people using Proper Bay Road, and we ask for continuing patience as this project is concluded.

Commodity routes assessed

GLOVER Road, Proctor Road and Harold Freeman Road have been assessed against the requirements for Restricted Access Vehicle HML use by an Accredited Road Safety Auditor.

Glover Road has been approved for HML Commodity Use permit access for the coming harvest with some deficiencies able to be dealt with as minor maintenance and some requiring longer term major works. Therefore HML Commodity use can only be considered on Glover Road on a short-term basis subject to prevailing road conditions.

Proctor Road and Harold Freeman Road cannot be considered for Commodity HML use as they both contain deficiencies requiring significant works, in particular pavement widths and culvert condition.

Council has no current budget allocation to address these issues and this will need to be considered in future budgets against other priorities.

New award category

A NEW category has been introduced for the 2018 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Awards.

Council voted at its August meeting to add 'Sportsperson of the Year' to the program.

Council is developing criteria that will help people in making their nominations.

The categories for the awards are: Citizen, Young Citizen, Young Sportsperson, Community Event/Organisation, Employee and Business of the Year.

That award presentation arrangements for the event be finalised at the December meeting of Council.