



MEDIA RELEASE

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Airline & business support packages

Businesses operating from the Port Lincoln Airport will benefit from a new COVID-19 support package from the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Council considered the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the aviation industry and the Port Lincoln Airport at its meeting on Friday (April 17).

Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley said the Coronavirus and subsequent government travel restrictions had resulted in a drastic drop in travel demand and Council had received requests from a number of businesses based at the airport seeking support ranging from rental assistance through to agreements spanning eight years.

"Multiple businesses including airlines, hire car companies, hospitality companies such as café's and the airport itself are heavily dependent on the number of travelling passengers," Mayor Quigley said.

"As a result Council has resolved to offer fair and equitable support packages for businesses operating out of the airport, including the airlines.

"This package shows that Council are working co-operatively with each business at this hard time."

Mayor Quigley said it was an unprecedented time and businesses across all sectors were hurting.

"Our Council has spent an extraordinary amount of time and effort in seeing what we can do to ensure the Airport and the businesses who rely on it, are supported through the Coronavirus pandemic."

The support package is provided in two distinct ways.

Council is offering QantasLink and Regional Express the following:

1. A waiver of all rental charges on leased areas for a period of six (6) months beginning in April 2020.
2. A complete waiver of passenger levy for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020.
3. In order to assist cash flow, the value of passenger levy payments, up to \$200,000 can be accrued and payment deferred until October 2020 at which time a payback plan may be negotiated.

"This package, together with the funding provided to airlines by state and federal governments is an extraordinary level of support to ensure the continuity of aviation services in regional South Australia," Mayor Quigley said.

Council acknowledges that the airlines are not the only businesses in need of support and has also resolved to offer the commercial tenants operating out of the airport terminal a Fee Reduction Package.

"Council recognises these businesses depend heavily on the number of travelling public for their income, so we wanted to be able to help them get through this pandemic," Mayor Quigley said.

"Measures like these will ensure that our business partners are able to stand with us and survive beyond Coronavirus."