



MEDIA RELEASE
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Screening update - Port Lincoln Airport

Lower Eyre Council will continue to strive to bring the best possible service to Port Lincoln Airport users and the community following the recent announcements from Rex Airlines that it will discontinue its service at Whyalla Airport.

Chief Executive Officer Delfina Lanzilli said Council was mindful of the need to keep the cost of flights affordable, and the frequency and reliability of flights dependable as it provided a critical service and connection to the community of southern Eyre Peninsula and beyond.

“We are committed to finding operational efficiencies and alternative revenue sources to cover airport operational costs to minimise the need to pass costs on to airlines,” Ms Lanzilli said.

“We want to avoid any costs being passed onto the passenger via airfare pricing.”

Lower Eyre Council has been proactive in advocating what is a critical issue for our region and all regions reliant on air connections, to the Federal Government.

Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley said Council would continue to urge the government to consider cost recovery methods for security screening charges required under the current legislation.

Lower Eyre Council is working with other regional airports in urging the Federal Government to:

- Amend the Aviation Transport Security Amendment (Security Controlled Airports) Regulations 2019 regulations to require any port that triggers screening should require all departing passengers be screened, regardless of the service they are using.
- Continue funding support to regional airports impacted by changes to Federal Government security screening legislation.
- Revise the national screening funding model in recognition of the inequitable cost imposition on regional airports relating to the operational cost of providing security screening to meet the new federal legislation.

“Lower Eyre Council has been advocating for, and strongly supports, a nation-wide approach to cost recovery of security screening provision,” Mayor Quigley said.

“These requests also form part of a motion on notice Council has put forward for the National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in Canberra next month.”

“As it currently stands, the legislation is inequitable for the regions and the fewer passenger volume the more disadvantaged the regions are under the existing model.”