
**Media Release
December 19 2008**

Sunshine Coast Airport says it will try again for Infrastructure Australia funding

The Sunshine Coast Regional Council is philosophical about today's advice that the Sunshine Coast Airport's Runway Project is not yet on the Infrastructure Australia interim project list.

Mayor Bob Abbot said that while council is disappointed that our project is not yet on the approved interim project list, we will continue to advocate our projects' strong credentials when applied to Infrastructure Australia's funding selection criteria.

"Both council and the airport worked very hard to have this catalytic project included in the final Infrastructure Australia Building Australia project list but all is not lost," Mayor Abbot said.

"We'll keep badgering them as the Sunshine Coast Airport's runway project is very worthwhile for everyone."

Divisional Councillor Debbie Blumel said the new runway project will provide long term jobs and diversifies and supports the Sunshine Coast economy.

'It will enhance the safety and amenity of our region, apart from the fact that the Sunshine Coast Airport currently employs over 600 people and contributes \$475m to the Sunshine Coast Economy," Cr Blumel said

"It supports the infrastructure demand of one of the nation's fastest growing sea change communities,"

Sunshine Coast Airport General Manager Peter Pallot said our funding application and advocacy of the project was very strong and whilst we have not yet secured Commonwealth funding the visibility of the project in Canberra has had a major lift.

"Our presentation was well received and we still have a chance to make the final list in March 2009," Peter Pallot said.

"Should this project be confirmed by Infrastructure Australia next year our project will commence immediately and be delivered well before the current 2020 forecast."

End.

For further information, please contact Sunshine Coast Airport General Manager, Peter Pallot on 5453 1515