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**Media release**

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## **Sunshine Coast Airport best in the nation**

Sunshine Coast Airport was last night recognised as the Australian Major Airport of the Year at the 2011 Australian Airports Association Annual Convention in Brisbane.

The award acknowledged the Sunshine Coast Council-owned and operated airport's recent terminal redevelopment project's innovative qualities in resolving complex design issues, Airport General Manager, Peter Pallot, said.

"This project required the confidence of our council and council executive team and would not have been possible without the commitment, dedication and plain hard work of the entire airport team to deliver," he said from Brisbane this morning.

"It is a wonderful achievement and everyone involved should feel very proud today."

Sunshine Coast Airport won the award for a successful terminal redevelopment "which captures the unique feel of the destination", Australian Airports Association Executive Director, Caroline Wilkie, said.

"As a supporter and driver of the growing Queensland economy, Sunshine Coast Airport has grown from a tin shed to a modern, stylish and efficient facility catering for almost one million passengers a year," she said.

"The airport's terminal redevelopment project is the latest stage in the evolution of the airport and signifies a future of substantial growth for airline access to the region."

The redevelopment features a rainforest walkway link check-in with departures, allowing the airport to recover terminal space for additional retail.

Other airports nominated for the national award included Alice Springs, Avalon, Cairns, Gold Coast, Karratha, Rockhampton, and Townsville, Mr Pallot said.

Acting mayor Tim Dwyer congratulated Mr Pallot and the entire Sunshine Coast Airport team on the award win.

"This is fantastic news and it shows we are on the right track with this major asset," he said.

"Under the leadership of Peter we are seeing the airport perform very well considering the present economic difficulties affecting the aviation and tourism industries.

"Apart from the excellent work in the terminal redevelopment, the airport is on track to capture a piece of the lucrative fly-in fly-out market, while the proposed new runway has been given priority project status by the State Government."

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**ENDS**

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