

## media release

October 14, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Another major Airport reconstruction milestone reached**

The Gladstone Airport Runway Reconstruction Project has reached another major milestone with the first landing of a 76-seater Dash 8 Q400 aircraft on the newly extended runway due tomorrow morning.

It will be the first time in two months that a Q400 series aircraft has serviced the Gladstone Region, and signals the successful completion of Stage Two of the \$65 million reconstruction project, which sees the operational runway length increased from 1000 metres to 1300 metres.

The flight is due in tomorrow at 7.20am.

Gladstone Regional Council Airport Portfolio spokesperson, Councillor Clyde Cameron said the reintroduction of the Q400 series aircraft signalled it was back to business as usual at Gladstone Airport for the commuting public.

“The only reason our airport was able to continue to operate within the restrictions of a shortened runway during the period of Stage 2 works was due to a commitment by QantasLink to operate its Dash 8 Q200 36-seater series aircraft,” Cr Cameron said.

“In doing so QantasLink has made considerable modifications to its regular routes, aircraft allocation and crew rosters, and for that we thank them.

“While we’ve tried to minimise the impact to the travelling public during this shortened runway period, the community has been very understanding and accommodating of the change in flight sizes and schedules during this time.”

Cr Cameron said the reintroduction of the Q400 series aircraft not only meant back to business as usual for the travelling public in terms of flight schedules, it also heralded the half-way mark in the reconstruction project.

“Work on the first two stages of the reconstruction project was really without incident. Golding Contractors are to be congratulated for completing the stages on schedule. The commitment to meet the target dates was a team effort from both the management and construction teams. Council is confident the final two stages will be much the same,” he said.

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Following the completion of the reconstruction project the Gladstone Airport runway will have an operational length of 1960 metres.

Other reconstruction works currently in progress at the airport include the lengthening of the eastern end of the runway, and construction of an accompanying culvert in Briffney Creek (Stage 3).

Stage 4 works are due to commence in March 2010 and involve the upgrading of the central western section of the runway.

Cr Cameron said while every effort had been made to minimise interruption to commuter services, he acknowledged the patience and cooperation of nearby residents during the reconstruction program.

“Nearby residents have been extremely supportive, and Council appreciates their continued support in relation to the most significant infrastructure project facing the Gladstone Region at the moment,” he said.

“Council also continues to value all feedback from the community, and any residents with concerns about the reconstruction works are urged to phone the toll free 24 hour project hotline on 1300 419 991.”

For more information on the Gladstone Airport Runway Reconstruction Project visit Council’s website at [www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](http://www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au) and follow the link under ‘Major Projects’.

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information, or to organise an on-site photograph of this major milestone contact Council's Airport Manager Peter Freemantle on 4978 1606.**