

## Media Release – Completion of Major Works

Diamantina Shire Council recently completed major works at its Birdsville Airport which included a large extension to the airport apron. With airline traffic increasing each year, the apron extension will assist in streamlining passenger turn around whilst also providing an additional area to cater for larger aircraft and an increase in aircraft numbers.

The project saw resealing to include the north/south runway, taxiway, plane parking area and both the existing and new apron areas.

With the sealing works requiring the airport to be closed for two days, through consultation with local stakeholders, Council was able to implement sufficient contingency plans to avoid total disruption to air traffic particularly where tourism would be affected. Council valued the consultation process with stakeholders and appreciated the cooperation of everyone involved to enable the project to proceed efficiently.

The apron extension and bitumen sealing works valued at \$870,000 was delivered under an equal joint venture between Council and the Regional Airport Development Scheme (RADS) - an initiative of the Queensland Government's, Department of Transport and Main Roads.

In conjunction with the above, funding from the Department of Infrastructure and Local Government and Planning of \$1.26 million has supported the construction of new airport terminal buildings in both Bedourie and Birdsville. The new terminal buildings are expected to be completed and opened by mid-September, 2011.

Diamantina Shire Mayor, Cr Rob Dare stated: "that with the new works now totaling \$2.13 million, the Shire was now well placed to handle any increased air traffic, particularly at Birdsville, and was confident that both the local tourist operators and travelling public arriving at and leaving from both airports would benefit from and appreciate the upgrades". Mayor Dare also complimented the way the sealing contractors, Rock and Road Bitumen based in Townsville, carried out their task and said: "it was a credit to see a group of professionals in action".



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