



## **District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**26 JUNE 2019**

#### **Flight training at Port Lincoln Airport**

Flight Training Adelaide has advised the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula that they will put on hold plans for a permanent flight training school at the Port Lincoln Airport.

FTA approached the DCLEP in late 2018 to establish a training footprint at Port Lincoln Airport to cater for overflow from their Parafield flight training school, aimed at training in the order of 120-140 pilots in a custom built facility by mid – 2019.

Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley said that at that time FTA was in the process of divesting themselves from an interstate training opportunity, and given the commercial sensitivities of that arrangement and negotiations with our State Government, FTA and the DCLEP signed a non-disclosure agreement, and agreed to go public with future plans when the Development Application was submitted to the State Government.

FTA has described their operational trial at Port Lincoln as exceeding their original expectations, and have been surprised at negative reaction from a minority in the community, however the greater Port Lincoln community and the DCLEP have been very supportive of the FTA training initiative.

FTA has recently been chosen as the provider of choice for the Qantas Group Pilot Academy in Queensland, adding complexity to FTA pursuing a permanent solution in Port Lincoln at this point in time.

With all these variables in play, FTA in conjunction with the DCLEP have decided it is best to put the current development application on hold and limit its activity in Port Lincoln to its current proof of concept training footprint of about 6 aircraft and about 40 students in Port Lincoln, with an option to review this position at the end of October 2019.

Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley said that the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula respects the right of Flight Training Adelaide to put on hold their development application for a permanent flight training facility at Port Lincoln Airport, congratulating FTA on being appointed as the training provider for the Qantas training school in Queensland, noting this is a significant win for the proud South Australian based training provider.

Mayor Quigley said that Council also respects that flight training from the Port Lincoln Airport is not a concept that is supported by some local residents, and welcomes the news that FTA wish to work with the wider community of Port Lincoln and southern Eyre Peninsula in the development of any future concept for flight training at the airport. FTA have said that such a development will not occur without the majority support of the local community and stakeholders.

Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula CEO Dion Dorward observed that International students injected \$32bn into Australia's economy last financial year. The FTA project offers Eyre Peninsula a slice of this pie. It can grow and diversify the local economy by conservatively \$10m pa, boost the population, create new job opportunities and increase the sustainability of one of the regions most critical assets, the Port Lincoln Airport.

Mayor Quigley said that until such time as FTA next reviews its temporary operation from Port Lincoln in October 2019, the Council will continue to work with FTA in the refinement of weekend flight times and circuit and navigational paths to appease as best is possible the concerns of local residents who have not supported flight training.

**Mayor Jo-Anne Quigley**  
**District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula**