



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

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**30 May 2018**

#### **Bid for pilot training academy**

The Port Lincoln Airport has been submitted as a possible location for a Qantas Pilot Training Academy to be developed in Regional Australia. Mayor Julie Low said that the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula has submitted the Port Lincoln Airport to the South Australian Government who are coordinating proposals for presentation to Qantas.

Mayor Low said that a Qantas media release on 22<sup>nd</sup> February advised that they were looking to develop a Pilot Training Academy which will initially train around 100 pilots a year for direct entry into the Qantas Group, including for Jetstar the Regional Carrier.

Qantas has advised that they will partner with one of several existing flight training providers, and will develop their academy following engagement with Federal and State Governments to discuss possible locations.

Mayor Low said she believes that Port Lincoln and the Lower Eyre Peninsula has much to offer Qantas as a site for their academy, with the region offering a lifestyle second to none which would be seen as attractive to potential students.

Mayor Low said the closing date for submissions was June 8 and shortlist would be announced before a final decision on the Academy's location is made in the third quarter of this year.

The confidentiality requirements of the Qantas Group limit the amount of information that can be released. However Mayor Low did say that while the timeframes allowed for developing a green fields operational Academy are very tight, the prospect of building a new purpose built facility meeting the needs of Qantas should be a significant selling point.