



Media release

Nod of approval for new KI Helipad

17 March, 2017: Kangaroo Island's new, and permanent, MedSTAR Helipad has received the nod of approval from Dr Evan Everest, the Retrieval Consultant for MedSTAR Emergency Retrieval Service, and Operations Manager of the South Australian State Rescue Helicopter Service.

Dr Everest, who is also the Senior Consultant, Intensive Care Unit, Flinders Medical Centre, visited the Island last week to inspect the new Helipad. He said, "I am delighted to see that Kangaroo Island now has an excellent Helipad, which will make landing and taking off far safer in all weathers, and I would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the Council and the Community for achieving it together.

"As a service we are dependent on local people providing us with facilities and ideally, we would like every country hospital to be equipped with this type of high standard facility."

The Helipad project was led and part-funded by the Kangaroo Island Council with significant funding support being offered by the Kangaroo Island Community through Rotary, Lions, the Health Advisory Council, the KI Health Care Auxiliary, Emu Ridge, and the Penneshaw and Parndana Progress Associations. Generous in-kind support came from Island Electrical's Ray Wadsworth, and Tony Wilson of A&G Willson Earthmovers who made a considerable donation of labour, plant, equipment and rubble.

Deputy CEO Kangaroo Island Council Ted Botham said, "on behalf of Council I would like to say thank you to all the Community groups, organisations, associations, businesses and individuals who were able to and who so readily supported this important Community project. The response was fantastic and the result is a great reflection on the strength of this Island's Community spirit.

"Tony Willson deserves special acknowledgement as he undertook much of the work in his own time on weekends and after hours on weeknights."

Dr Everest approached Council almost two years ago seeking support for an improved landing surface and location. The Seaview Road site was chosen because it offered several key factors such as available Council land with a reasonably level surface and good proximity to power and to sealed roads and the Hospital - providing easy access for SA Ambulance Service.

In the course of the project, technical advice was received from other areas where similar facilities have been installed such as the Victor Harbor and Peterborough Hospitals. Now Council is in a position to be assisting the Mid Murray Council with technical advice as they prepare to deliver a landing site in their district.



The project took several months to construct and was undertaken in various phases to accommodate the high workload, and generous donations of plant, labour & time of Tony Willson and Ray Wadsworth.

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