



MEDIA RELEASE

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## Kangaroo Island... you've really arrived!

Kangaroo Island now has an airport worthy of its magnificent attractions and status as one of the four icons of Australian tourism.

The new \$18 million Kangaroo Island Airport was opened officially today by the Prime Minister of Australia the Hon Malcolm Turnbull PM and the Premier of South Australia the Hon Steven Marshall MP, and is the culmination of several years work and collaboration between local, State and Federal governments.

The business case for the new airport was made by the Kangaroo Island Council and attracted equal parts funding from the State Government and the Federal Government in recognition of the Island's importance on the national and world stages.

Its state-of-the-art design and commitment to a low carbon footprint reflects the Brand Values of Kangaroo Island and, like all great airports, is much more than a transit lounge.

Brand images and themes, plus works from local Island artists create interest and transform the light and spacious interior into a gallery – a visitor's first glimpse of the natural wonders of the Island and how locals have been inspired by their Island home to create unique interpretations in various media.

Kangaroo Island Mayor Peter Clements said the announcement of the new airport had been the catalyst for Qantas to launch flights to the Island to supplement the daily Regional Express services already operating.

"Now the new airport is open we are optimistic Qantas can make further commitments to expand its schedule and other airlines will see the benefits of direct flights.

"The sense of arrival is simply awesome for everyone who travels to the Island and we can now meet the expectations of international travellers with a professional service and all the conveniences they expect," Mr Clements said.

"This is what the people of Australia elected us to do, at all levels of government. Working together and leveraging the taxpayer dollar provides enormous benefit to everyone and I am particularly pleased that both State and Federal Governments have recognised that a strong focus on regional development is good for Australia.

"If you were to ever doubt that investment in public infrastructure was beneficial, let me tell you that Kangaroo Island has already seen an uplift of over 12% in the numbers of visitors flying into Kangaroo Island. This is real time progress!"

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