



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL WEDNESDAY JULY 22**

### **Airport upgrade reflects flying economy**

22 July 2009

Geraldton Airport will undergo a \$3 million security upgrade this year in anticipation of continued growth in passenger numbers for business, tourism and mining.

To be funded by the City in addition to a \$1.1 million grant received earlier this year through the Regional Aerodrome Development Scheme – part of the State Government’s Royalties for Regions funding program – the upgrade will put in place the security measures required for the airport to host jet services.

Tenders for new security hardware, including X-ray baggage scanners, were received this month. The contract for installing the cutting edge security hardware is to be awarded in the near future.

The upgrade also involves construction of a secure lounge area, which will require an extension of the existing departure terminal. The terminal will stay open while this work is completed, causing only minor disruption to passengers.

Geraldton Airport manager Bob Urquhart said the substantial upgrade would bring the facility up to the highest standards in regional WA.

“The upgrade signifies the growth of airborne visitors to Geraldton-Greenough expected in coming years,” he said. “As business increases in the City – whether that’s in mining, business or tourism – we will see more people flying here regularly.

“With this upgrade, we will be well placed to keep pace with the growth of Geraldton-Greenough’s economy.”

When the upgrade has been completed (expected by June 2010), Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) passengers at Geraldton Airport are expected to reach in excess of 100,000 per annum.

**ENDS:**

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