

## Media release

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### **Major Health Investment to Deliver New Patient Transfer Facility at Gladstone Airport**

Gladstone Airport will be home to a new purpose-built Patient Transfer Facility, delivering a major boost to regional health infrastructure and improving aeromedical patient transfers for the Gladstone region.

The \$5 million facility is being delivered through an airport led partnership supported by the Federal Government, major Gladstone industry partners Rio Tinto, ConocoPhillips the downstream operator of Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG) , Santos GLNG and Shell QGC, and local businesses including architect Fab Ideas Pty Ltd, builder Lawrie Building Services and local subcontractors.

Construction was launched at a ceremony on site in Gladstone today and is expected to be completed next year.

The new facility will support more than 700 aeromedical transfers each year, improving efficiency for ambulance services, aeromedical crews and emergency responders, while significantly enhancing the experience for patients and their families.

Designed specifically for medical transfers, the facility will provide a secure and comfortable environment that allows families to remain together right up until departure, helping ensure dignity, reassurance and compassionate care during what can be a deeply challenging time.

Gladstone Airport Corporation Chief Executive Officer Mark Cachia said the project would deliver lasting benefits for health outcomes, airport operations and the Gladstone community.

“This Patient Transfer Facility is a critical investment in the way aeromedical transfers are handled in Gladstone,” Mr Cachia said.

“Having a dedicated, purpose-built facility improves transfer times, supports clinical teams and, most importantly, provides a more dignified and supportive experience for patients and their families when they need it most.”

Mr Cachia said the project would also generate opportunities for local businesses during construction and was designed to meet future needs.

“The facility has been designed to accommodate current and future aeromedical aircraft and includes sustainable features such as off-grid solar power and battery storage, supporting reliable and environmentally responsible operations.”

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the project demonstrated the value of industry, government and community working together.

“This is a fantastic example of industry stepping up alongside government to deliver real, practical benefits for our region,” Mayor Burnett said.

“Aeromedical transfers are a crucial part of healthcare in regional communities like Gladstone, and

this facility will help ensure people can access specialised care more quickly and with greater support.”

Mayor Burnett said the investment reflected a shared commitment to strengthening community infrastructure and health services.

“Between them Rio Tinto, ConocoPhillips APLNG, Santos GLNG and QGC employ around 3,500 Gladstone locals, which is why it’s great to see them getting behind this important local infrastructure,” he said.

“Projects like this don’t happen without collaboration. The support of industry partners shows a genuine commitment to the wellbeing of our community and to building infrastructure that will serve our region well into the future.”

Once completed, the Patient Transfer Facility will provide the Gladstone region with improved access to specialised medical care and a dedicated space designed to support patients and families during some of their most critical moments.

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