

media release

Outback Communities Authority Media Release. 29 September 2010

More than \$2 million to improve safety of Outback airstrips

More than \$2 million in Federal and State Government funding has been allocated to improving the safety of four Outback airstrips jointly managed by the Outback Communities Authority (OCA).

The funding for the Oodnadatta, Balcanoona, Glendambo and Mintabie airstrips was announced last week under the Federal Government's Remote Aerodrome Safety Program, with matching funding already secured for the projects through the South Australian Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI).

OCA Chairman Bill McIntosh says the allocation of Federal funding continues a long history of success by the OCA (formerly the Outback Areas Community Development Trust) to attract funding that benefits the Outback community.

"OCA aerodrome projects have attracted more than 15 percent of the funding allocated nation-wide by the Federal Government over the last four years," Mr McIntosh said.

"This shows that our review of Outback airstrips, completed in 2007, to establish the cost of bringing nominated airstrips to 24-hour, near-all-weather condition has delivered results.

"This network of airstrips provide vital emergency access for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

"By the end of this financial year, we will have completed safety improvement works on the majority of the airstrips owned and or jointly managed by the OCA."

The funding has been awarded as follows:

- \$1,870,000 for the Oodnadatta airstrip to reconstruct and seal the main runway, taxiways and aircraft parking areas;
- \$66,000 for the Mintabie airstrip to install solar runway lighting, a concrete start-up pad, and fuel shed;
- \$48,700 for the Balcanoona airstrip to install solar runway lighting;
- \$40,000 for the Glendambo aerodrome to install fencing around the perimeter.

"I would also like to congratulate other successful South Australian applicants who attracted funding for other remote aerodromes and airstrips across South Australia," Mr McIntosh said.

Design work on the airstrips is expected to start as soon as contracts are finalised from next month.



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