

# News Release **Minister Geoff Brock**

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

Wednesday, 23 April 2014

## New safe jet refuelling at Port Pirie opened

A new jet refuelling facility at Port Pirie Airport that will improve safety and boost the region's economy will be opened tomorrow by Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock.

Mr Brock said the 24-hour site, supported by a \$41,960 State Government grant from the Enterprise Zone Fund for the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback, provided an alternative refuelling stop, as Port Augusta and Whyalla were previously the closest facilities to Adelaide.

"The installation of this new around-the-clock facility now provides for safe jet engine fuelling at a key location in the State," Mr Brock said.

"It will service helicopter and aircraft charter companies and small turbine-powered charter aircraft operating to Port Pirie.

"The facility offers a refuelling point for operations to mining and mining exploration areas along the Barrier Highway and also quick, safe refuelling access for SA Police and the Search and Rescue helicopter.

"SA Power Networks' line maintenance teams, Parks and Wildlife, Search and Rescue and aerial survey aircraft are among other users that will be able to use the service, instead of pumping fuel from drums.

"This project has allowed Port Pirie to become a significant service and residential base for the resources and energy sectors and will provide significant positive economic, social and environmental benefits throughout the Mid North," Mr Brock said.

Facilities Manager for Port Pirie Aviation Fuel, Steven Joyce said the project meant a great deal to the community, local industry and the Port Pirie Flying Group.

"With our new refuelling capability, Port Pirie will be able to play a bigger role in the development of the region's tourism industry, particularly in relation to access to the Flinders Ranges," Mr Joyce said.

"The facility will also mean safer work practices, as drums of Jet A1 fuel will no longer need to be stored at the aerodrome."

The facility is operated by Port Pirie Aviation Fuel, a volunteer enterprise through the Port Pirie Flying Group.

Mr Brock said the Enterprise Zone Fund for the Upper Spencer Gulf and Outback had now granted funds of \$4 million to support 11 projects, leading to the creation of 116 new jobs and a total investment of nearly \$14 million for the region.

Editor's Note: opening and inspection at Port Pirie Airport at 12.15pm Thursday, April 24.

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