

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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Helipad hardstand for Peterborough

The State Government has committed \$70,000 for the construction of a hardstand helipad at the Peterborough Airstrip.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock made the announcement at today's community forum in Peterborough ahead of tomorrow's Country Cabinet meeting at Jamestown.

"This project is due to start immediately with the funding coming from the enhanced \$15 million a year Regional Development Fund," Mr Brock said.

"I visited Peterborough earlier this month to hear first-hand from community leaders about the local issues they're dealing with and several clear messages emerged from that consultation about their priorities.

"I inspected the Peterborough Airstrip with them and there's no doubt that supporting the immediate construction of a hardstand helipad will have a tangible and profound impact on the community and those who serve them.

"Peterborough's geographical isolation combined with the demands placed on the Peterborough Memorial Hospital means that effective emergency service delivery to the town is critical.

"The State government is committed to stronger, more sustainable regions and the delivery of crucial regional infrastructure, such as the Peterborough helipad, is one way in which this commitment is being realised," Mr Brock said.

District Council of Peterborough Mayor, Ruth Whittle said that a hardstand helipad at the Peterborough Airstrip could make the difference between a life and death situation for the community.

"The airstrip is unsealed, so currently the emergency helicopter lands on the town oval, placing both the pilot and passengers at some risk and also damaging community infrastructure", Ms Whittle said.

"In future, emergency helicopters will be able to come directly to the Peterborough airstrip allowing for the smoother and safer transfer of emergency patients.

"Efficient transfer to intensive and other specialist care in Adelaide is now assured for Peterborough patients, which directly translates to lives saved," Ms Whittle said.