



**ARRIVALS:** It's business as usual as their airport runway upgrade continues.



**BRIDGE:** The upgrade includes work on the bridge at the Callemondah-end of the airport.



**MORE PASSENGERS:** The car park is being expanded to accommodate more flyers.

# Upgrade right on course

By SIMON CRASE

THE Gladstone Airport redevelopment is still on course to reach its July/August target for completion.

It was business as usual inside the terminal and on the tarmac yesterday, as all manner of heavy machinery was working on the eastern section of the runway, the car park and the bridge at the Callemondah-end of the airport.

It was a frantic scene as water trucks, graders and dozers were busy preparing the foundations for what will be the new runway.

Meanwhile, airport management was busy in regular meetings to discuss the progress of the \$65 million Gladstone Airport Runway Reconstruction Project.

Gladstone Regional Council CEO Graeme Kanofski told *The Observer* the project was on schedule, even with the rain interruptions which have occurred.

The upgrade will see an expansion in the arrival and departure areas, and there will be more space for security screening facilities. The Federal Government

allocated \$5.5 million to the project as part of the economic Stimulus Plan aimed at assisting the economy through job creation.

With the expected growth in Gladstone over the coming decades, the project is seen as pivotal for the region's future.

With the number of passengers

“The upgrade will see an expansion in the arrival and departure areas.”

taking flights doubling in the past seven years, the amount of flyers using the airport is tipped to continue rising.

The runway's eastern extension is expected to be completed by the end of May.

More details about progress of the construction work in tomorrow's *The Observer*.



**PROGRESS:** View of trucks and the runway in front of Gladstone's iconic Mt Larcum. The completion date is expected to be at the end of May.  
Pictures: CHRISSY HARRIS airp140410-102

## WIN TICKETS

The Wendy Matthews Holiday Tour

Thursday:  
April 22nd, 8pm  
Gladstone Entertainment Centre

**The Observer**  
has five double passes  
to give away

If you would like the chance to win a double pass then simply send your entries to:

Wendy Matthews Holiday Tour,  
PO Box 351 Gladstone QLD 4680 or drop it into the Observer Office. Competition closes Monday, April 19th, 2010 at 12 noon.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Daytime phone: .....



**FOUNDATIONS:** Paving the way for a new future in air travel to and from Gladstone.



**SOLID:** Water trucks help prepare the foundations for the new runway.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Fines paid

FINE dodgers paid up in record numbers in March. Attorney-General Cameron Dick said March 2010 was the State Penalties Enforcement Registry's (SPER) highest recorded collection month in its history. Last month SPER collected a record \$15.6 million – the first time SPER has cracked the \$15 million mark, beating the previous monthly record set in July 2009 by \$1 million. The tough new laws which came into effect on January 1 target chronic fine-dodgers by increasing SPER's enforcement powers, allowing it to clamp wheels, seize property and suspend driver licences for fines relating to all offences, not just motor vehicle-related offences.

### Eisteddfod entries

THE eisteddfod office (32B Tank Street) will be open on April 30 and May 1 from 9am to 5pm to receive entries for the 2010 eisteddfod. All other times entries may be placed through the hatch in the front door or mailed to P. O. Box 5220, Gladstone 4680. Entries will not be accepted after May 1. For further information phone Marguerita Dobrinin on 4979 0467.

### Business insights

GLADSTONE small business owners can learn about the financial implications of new federal Fair Work laws at a free Telstra Country Wide business event in Rockhampton on Wednesday, April 28. At

the Business Insights 2010 Working Lunch and expo, workplace experts Workforce Guardian will discuss how small business owners can manage Fair Work obligations and everyday staff issues at an affordable price. For more information visit [www.working-lunch.com.au](http://www.working-lunch.com.au).

### What's on

FIND out what's happening during the weekend in the Gladstone region with our What's On section. What's On can be found every Friday in The Observer and details all weekend events to make planning your activities easier. If you have a contribution for this section, email [miranda.cashin@gladstoneobserver.com.au](mailto:miranda.cashin@gladstoneobserver.com.au).