

# MEDIA RELEASE

**RUTH FORREST MLC**  
PO BOX 104  
WYNYARD TAS 7325

Tel. 03 6443 8600  
Fax. 03 6443 8603

## **BURNIE/WYNYARD AIRPORT SHOULD BE NORTH WEST TASMANIA'S REGIONAL AIRPORT**

Concerns expressed in May this year by Ruth Forrest MLC, regarding shortening of the runway 623 at the Burnie/Wynyard Airport, have recently been raised again by the Tasmanian Ambulance Service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service in relation to safety issues associated with landing light aircraft in cross winds at the Burnie/Wynyard Airport.

Expansion and further development of the Burnie/Wynyard Airport is planned and described in the 'Burnie Airport Master Plan', which has been formally adopted by the Burnie Airport Corporation Board.

"The Burnie/Wynyard Airport should be upgraded to, and promoted as, the regional airport for the North West Coast. The Burnie Airport Master Plan must be progressed to ensure the long term viability of the airport", Ms Forrest said.

Whilst the Waratah-Wynyard Council state that its hands are tied because it can only decide how land is zoned, the council should work with Burnie City Council to ensure there is no loss of capacity at the Burnie/Wynyard Airport.

"The Burnie/Wynyard Airport should be expanded, developed and promoted as the 'Air-gateway' to the North West, providing many benefits to tourism and employment and more competitive prices for air travel, as well as a greater capacity to open up freight opportunities", Ms Forrest said.

"New markets for export of local produce from agricultural, seafood and flower growers could be opened up, with improved opportunity to sell product to the mainland and overseas buyers, which will benefit the whole region", stated Ms Forrest.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.