MEDIA RELEASE

12 June 2020 – Embargoed until 6am Saturday 13 June 2020

KEMPSEY AIRPORT RECEIVES VITAL MAINTENANCE FUNDING

Kempsey Airport is an important regional airport and it’s set for a major upgrade thanks to $327,928 from the Australian Government’s Regional Airport Program.

Federal Member for Cowper Pat Conaghan said the project would repair extensive pavement sections at the airport and widen and repair the taxiway.

“Kempsey Airport is a really important piece of infrastructure to the Macleay Valley region, a fact laid bare during the recent bushfires when it was used extensively by the Rural Fire Service,” he said.

“It’s great to be investing $327,928 in its maintenance and assisting Kempsey Shire Council and the community.

“The Morrison-McCormack Government’s $41.2 million Regional Airports Program helps to support the regional aviation services rural and regional people rely on and I thank Deputy Prime Minister for allocating $327,928 for Kempsey Airport.”

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said the Regional Airports Program would assist the owners of regional airports to undertake essential works, promoting aviation safety and access for regional Australians.

“For our regional communities, the local airport is an essential link to the rest of Australia,” Mr McCormack said.

“The Government is investing in regional airports because we know this infrastructure is key to securing our regional aviation network now and into the post-COVID future.

“We are investing $100 million over four years from 2019-20 to 2022-23 to help owners of regional airports right across Australia deliver safer runways, taxiways and other safety upgrades such as new fencing and safety equipment.”

This funding is in addition to the Federal Government’s total package of support for Australia’s aviation industry of more than $1.2 billion. Port Macquarie Airport received a major boost through
the Regional Airport Program too - $3,538,260 to construct a taxiway parallel to the runway, something the Civil Aviation Safety Authority had recommended.


ENDS

**Media Contact:** Mr McCormack – Dean Shachar 0418 202 860
Mr Conaghan – Liz Spry 0418 928 744