



Media Release

31 August 2010

Page 1 of 3

MACKAY AIRPORT LAUNCHES MAJOR RECYCLING PROGRAM

Mackay Airport is set to embrace recycling from today with the official launch of its new public place and “back-of-house” recycling initiatives.

Through a partnership between Mackay Airport Pty Ltd (MAPL), airport tenants, JJ Richards and the Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) of the Australian Food and Grocery Council, new recycling systems have been introduced to divert at least 50 per cent of waste material generated at the airport each year from landfill.

New public place recycling bins throughout the airport will provide almost one million passengers each year with the opportunity to recycle. Each bin carries the *Do the Right Thing, Use the Right Bin* message, a call to action used nationally to encourage people to deposit their plastic and glass bottles, paper, cardboard and aluminium cans in the right bin for recycling.

New “back-of-house” recycling systems have also been established to enable terminal tenants to divert glass, plastic, steel and aluminium bottles and containers, paper, magazines and cardboard from landfill.

MAPL General Manager, Terry Simpson, said Mackay Airport welcomes almost a million passengers each year and operates in an area of high ecological value.

“Doing what we can to reduce our impact on the environment and improve environmental sustainability makes very good sense,” Mr Simpson said. “This initiative is part of MAPL’s Waste Management Strategy of which the capital contributed to date is in excess of \$40,000.”

“We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous financial and in-kind support of the Packaging Stewardship Forum who have developed partnerships across Australia to help provide away from home recycling opportunities to the public.”

“As part of our Sustainability Strategy we will be investigating further initiatives which reduce our consumption of natural resources and ultimately improve our environmental footprint.”

“MAPL thanks all the airport users and tenants who support our recycling initiatives. Every time you use our public recycling bins or “back-of-house” recycling systems you are helping to make this program a success and we will all share the benefits to our environment.”

“We also acknowledge the valuable partnership we have formed with JJ Richards to facilitate the processing of the recyclables collected here at Mackay Airport.”

PSF General Manager, Jenny Pickles, congratulated Mackay Airport on its commitment to environmental sustainability. “Recycling is one of the easiest and least costly environmental systems to put in place, and one which will have great returns in terms of positive customer feedback.”

The PSF has also recently completed the installation of new recycling systems at Cairns and Gold Coast Airports.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Helen Laird, Communications Advisor, Mackay Airport Pty Ltd

Ph: 0418 191 652 helen.laird@ Cairnsairport.com.au

.../3

SOME RECYCLING FACTS

Once it is collected, sorted and compacted by the Council and JJ Richards, these materials can be reused in various ways. For example -

- Glass is converted into new glass products.
- Plastics are converted into wheelie bins, pipes, garden edging, polyester fibres and multi-layering on soft drink bottles.
- Milk and fruit juice cartons are used to make white office paper.
- Paper and cardboard are used to make paper and packaging products.
- Steel and aluminium cans are smeltered into steel and aluminium sheeting.
- Over 30% of the material used in glass production now comes from recycled glass.
- Recycling just one tonne of cardboard/paper saves 30,000 litres of water.
- One tonne of recycled plastic saves around 35 cubic metres of landfill space, saves enough energy to power a light bulb for 30 hours and avoids 1.3 tonnes of CO2 emissions.
- There is no limit to the number of times an aluminium can may be recycled. One can may be recycled 20 times using the same amount of energy it takes to produce just one new aluminium can. Recycling just one aluminium can save enough energy to power a TV for 3 hours.



Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF): The

PSF is a forum of the Australian Food and Grocery Council. It partners with government, industry and business to deliver industry recycling, litter reduction and education programs across Australia. The PSF does this on behalf of its members, Australia's major beverage companies and their suppliers. PSF members are Amcor, Bundaberg Brewed Drinks, Coca Cola Amatil, Fosters, Golden Circle, Lion Nathan, Owens-Illinois, Schweppes and Visy.