



Archerfield Airport Corporation

ABN 31 081 619 123
ACN 081 619 123

PO Box 747
Archerfield Qld 4108
Top floor Terminal building
Grenier Drive Archerfield Airport

p (07) 3275 8000
f (07) 3275 8001

MEDIA RELEASE

ARCHERFIELD AIRPORT THANKS THE AVIATION COMMUNITY

The General Manager of Archerfield Airport, Corrie Metz, today thanked the aviation community of Brisbane for the cooperative spirit that helped the airport play a critical support role during last week's devastating floods.

The airport proved to be a vital resource for the numerous rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft involved in the crisis. The capacity of the Archerfield-based Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) centre was also protected.

"While some low-lying parts of the airport were affected by flood waters and several tenants there were evacuated, the runways and control tower continued to operate throughout the disaster response period," Mr Metz said.

"Aircraft using Archerfield played a key role ferrying personnel and equipment to set up emergency communication stations in the devastated communities between Ipswich and Toowoomba. The airport also became the transit centre for business and communications helicopters that were deployed to the region.

"The level of cooperation from the aviation community during this heightened activity at the airport was greatly appreciated."

Mr Metz said he was particularly proud of the performance by Archerfield Airport Corporation (AAC) staff under testing conditions. The crew at Archerfield responded to flood warnings as early as Monday, January 10. The emergency lighting plant was checked and fuel tanks were primed to capacity. Preparations were completed to relocate vehicles from the concrete batching plant to higher ground.

On Tuesday, owners of aircraft in danger of inundation were offered the chance to relocate to sealed surfaces in the vicinity of the main runway and the Terminal Building. Cattle that were trapped by the rising waters within the airport boundary were herded to higher ground beyond the boundary.

As surrounding roads became impassable, airside escorts were conducted by ground crew and security staff. This allowed technical workers to access the Western Precinct of the airport to support helicopter charter and rescue bases there. It also allowed EMQ crew access to private and commercial facilities such as Coopers Colonial Motor Inn, for fatigue management.

Wednesday brought heightened alertness with predictions that flood heights could exceed the 1974 levels. This placed at risk the runway lighting system which could be destroyed if activated under inundation. Plans were formulated to disconnect the runway lights, and an implementation level was predetermined. Fortunately, the flood level threat did not eventuate, allowing the airport to remain operational 24/7 throughout the crisis.

"The flood was a tough test of airport and personnel capability, and a reminder that Archerfield is a vital community asset," Mr Metz said. "The old fellows certainly got it right when they selected the Archerfield site in the 1920's."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION : Corrie Metz 07 3275 8000

Issued 20.1.11