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*****MEDIA RELEASE*****

GOLD COAST AIRPORT SPONSORS TWEED HEALTHY WATERWAYS PROJECT

GOLD Coast Airport has reinforced its commitment to managing the environmental values of its catchment by contributing significant financial support to the Tweed Shire Council's 'Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program' (EHMP).

The EHMP will assess the water quality from the Cobaki and Terranora Broadwater and their catchments.

Data collected from the program will assess biological aspects and water quality which will provide Tweed Shire Council, in collaboration with the International Water Centre a greater appreciation of the catchments ecological health.

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer, Paul Donovan said Gold Coast Airport was keen to be involved in the program as it complements practices the airport already employs to ensure sound environmental management of airport operations in limiting any impacts to water quality and ecological health of the Cobaki Broadwater. The outputs of the EHMP will provide valuable information in relation to the effectiveness of management measures and also help identify any areas for improvement.

"As a key stakeholder we felt it was imperative for ongoing management of the catchment to be involved in the pilot program and we applaud the Tweed Shire Council for their initiative.

"It is integral as part of our environmental management strategy to minimise impacts to the Cobaki catchment and we, in cooperation with the Council and other major stakeholders implement a whole of catchment approach.

"This will ultimately provide sufficient data that allows us all to identify key stresses on the catchment enabling better management of our ecosystems," Mr Donovan said.

Gold Coast Airport adopts over and above accepted environmental practices and voluntarily committed to an ISO14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) that



is an internationally recognised system for ensuring environmental management practices are conducted in an appropriate and timely manner.

Tweed Shire Council's Waterways and Coast Coordinator, Tom Alletson said they were most appreciative of the financial support provided by Gold Coast Airport.

"The Airport is a major stakeholder with a significant operation that could affect the Cobaki Broadwater's and foreshore environment if not managed correctly," Mr Alletson said.

"By contributing in this manner Gold Coast Airport demonstrates their commitment to the regions environment and ongoing health of the waterways," he said.

The first suite of water quality data from Cobaki and Terranora Broadwater EHMP has been received by the Tweed Shire Council with further investigations and reporting associated still under way.

Gold Coast Airport Pty Limited is a Queensland Airports Limited company.

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