

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 19 May, 2023

Adelaide Airport scores international green airports award

Adelaide Airport has won an international aviation award in recognition of its efforts to eliminate the use of single-use plastics.

The airport scored gold from Airports Council International, Asia Pacific, in the Green Airports Recognition 2023 awards for airports between 8 and 15 million passengers per annum. Central Japan International Airport secured platinum in the category and Bahrain International Airport secured silver.

The awards are aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental best practices to minimise aviation's impact on the environment. This year's theme was elimination of single-use plastics.

Adelaide Airport Managing Director, Brenton Cox, said the award reflected the airport's leadership efforts to eliminate plastics use and prioritise recycling of organics waste.

"We have enjoyed our work with terminal food and beverage retailers to establish an organics waste stream and substitute single-use plastics with biomaterials including compostable food serviceware. This has allowed us to be part of the circular economy with all organics collected and distributed for the manufacture of premium compost, soil and mulch for farmers, viticulturalists, landscapers and home gardeners," Mr Cox said.

"Maximising the recovery of recyclable material is an important part of achieving our sustainability targets of 30 per cent reduction in waste and 60 per cent increase in recycling by 2030.

"Adelaide Airport has specific clauses in our terminal tenant lease agreements to introduce compostable food serviceware and mandate recycling. We've also collaborated with Plastics Free SA in an education and induction program that involves working directly with our food retailers to assist them to switch from single-use plastics to better alternatives.

"Three-waste-stream bins have been installed throughout our terminal as well as a 12 cubic metre organic waste compactor."

Adelaide Airport has an internationally recognised carbon program. In 2013, it became the first airport in Australasia to receive Level 1 Airport Carbon Accreditation under the independently assessed global program run by Airports Council International (ACI). It is currently accredited at Level 3 - Optimisation, in recognition of Adelaide Airport's success in reducing carbon emissions.