



**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
AVALON AIRPORT  
SUNDAY, 4 FEBRUARY, 2018**

***SUBJECTS: Avalon Airport***

**RICHARD MARLES:** Thank you Catriona, can I acknowledge the Wathaurong, the very many dignitaries, my Parliamentary colleagues, including Joanne Ryan, the Member for Lalor, who are present.

When a day which has been so clearly imagined, so anxiously hoped for, so purposefully worked toward finally arrives, it really is a great day. I mean there is a certain arrival at the promise land. And while the logic of this promise has always seemed so obvious along the journey, the promise itself has at times felt very uncertain. And so we gather here in this moment, really is very special, and I have no doubt that the significance of this moment in the economic history of Geelong is profound.

Airports employ people. Governments of all persuasions, state and federal have wanted and supported this project for so long. But in the end, I come back to a comment that was made by my friend John Eren, in his first speech to Parliament right back in 2003. We are so lucky to have a company which is so visionary, so patient, so smart as LINFOX to be the owners of our Airport. I'd like to thank Tony at AirAsia, whose involvement in this decision on your part as well, and you won't regret it. But David and Lindsay, through you, I'd like to thank the entire LINFOX family on behalf of all of us. We really are deeply grateful.

And if I might particularly acknowledge Justin Giddings because here in Geelong, over the journey day by day we see this journey through the face of Justin this is an enormous tribute to you, it really is, and you should feel very, very proud.

***ENDS***