

**10 October 2019**

**Airport Safety Week kicks off next week  
with  
'FOD' (Foreign Object Debris) Walk  
to be held on  
Wednesday 16 October**

Airport Safety Week kicks off at Darwin International Airport on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The theme of this year's Airport Safety Week is *Our Airport, Our Community*. An interactive program of events is on offer, including the popular annual 'FOD' (Foreign Object Debris) Walk for airport staff and contractors. During the FOD Walk, participants walk along the airport's aprons and taxiways picking up rubbish or other stray objects that may have the potential to be ingested in an aircraft engine and cause damage and the potential for injury to personnel.

"Safety is our number one priority at Darwin International Airport – we put the safety and security of our staff, stakeholders and passengers first", said Director of Property and Operations, Ross Baynes. "Airport Safety Week gives us the opportunity to demonstrate to the community and travelling public our commitment and determination to maintain a safe environment for everyone."

"The annual FOD walk is a great opportunity to promote awareness of the safety risk foreign objects pose and how we can all work to minimise FOD and its effects," said Mr Baynes.

Something as simple as a nut, coin or coffee cup, pieces of luggage through to larger items such as pavement fragments or aircraft parts can cause substantial damage if ingested by an aircraft. FOD also poses a significant hazard to people working on the airfield, as it can be thrown at force by the jet blast of aircrafts.

Other events on offer during Airport Safety Week include a Human Factors display, promoting a Safety Culture, a Mental Health First Aid workshop, spills training and a pre-cyclone season briefing.

Airport Safety Week is a joint initiative of the Australian Airports Association and the New Zealand Airports Association. It aims to encourage all staff and contractors working on an aerodrome to provide a safe environment for all airport users.

ENDS

### **Media Call | Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October | 0815 for 0830 start**

Media are invited to attend and film/photograph the FOD Walk.

**Date:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Time:** 0815 for 0830 for safety briefing and departure to airside location

**Meeting Point:** Proceed through security screening and meet at The Green Room located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor near Gate 9

**Please wear/bring:** Closed in footwear, hat, sunscreen

**We will provide:** Water and high vis vests

### **RSVP is essential due to Airside Security Requirements**

Visitor Identification Cards (VIC) are required for each individual who wishes to attend. If you are intending to join us, please complete the attached pre-registration form and return together with a scanned copy of your photo ID, **no later than 10 am Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019** to [jill.morris@ntairports.com.au](mailto:jill.morris@ntairports.com.au)

### **For media enquiries, please contact:**

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*The images below are some of the unusual items of FOD previously collected on*

*DIA aprons and taxiways*

