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Screening backflip



PLANS to security screen some Regional Express passengers in the new Port Lincoln Airport terminal are expected to be scrapped following a council backflip.

The Lower Eyre Peninsula District Council has reviewed its December decision to screen Rex flights departing at a similar time to QantasLink flights once the new terminal was finished.

After the council made the decision, Aviation Transport Security Regulations were amended giving regional airports greater flexibility to accommodate both screened and unscreened flights.

This encouraged the council to look at its options again.

The council's chief executive officer Rod Pearson said only passengers on aircraft above the 20,000-kilogram regulatory threshold (QantasLink) would be subject to screening unless the aircraft operator requested it.

Mr Pearson said screening would only operate during check in for the screened flight, and it would stop once the flight had boarded.

The council still needs Office of Transport Security approval, but similar security arrangements are already operating in other regional airports.