

Media Release

Stage One of \$130 million Runway Upgrade Underway

18 September 2024

One of the most complex and important infrastructure projects in Tasmania's history is underway with the Stage One work to strengthen 829 metres of runway at Hobart Airport.

The \$130 million upgrade of the Hobart Airport runway will comprise three stages, to strengthen the runway to accommodate larger aircraft and enable direct international flights to Asian hub airports.

Stage One will upgrade the northern end of the runway, Stage Two the middle and Stage Three the southern end, with works to be completed by mid-2025.

Over the entire project more than 30,000 tonnes of old asphalt will be removed and around 100,000 tonnes of new placed – that's around the weight of two Tasman Bridges.

Around 140 workers from expert airport construction company Downer will be directly involved in the project, including locals and specialist airfield project managers and engineers who have flown in from across the country.

There will be up to 50 vehicles, plant and equipment on site every day including specialist equipment shipped in especially for the project – from an asphalt manufacturing plant to superpavers, pavement heaters and macro rollers.

Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter it was exciting to see the works underway in earnest.

"This is a highly technical project with hundreds of expert workers and specialist equipment involved," Mr Carter said.

"They have a big job on their hands, to unlock direct access to the world for Tasmanian travellers and exporters, and all the opportunities that will come with that.

"Right now, travellers will notice that things are looking a little bit different when they fly in or out of Hobart Airport.

"The Stage One works have started on the northern end of the runway, temporarily shortening the runway by 829 metres.

"Travellers can be assured that there is still plenty of runway for safe landings and take-offs, this just ensures we have a safe construction zone.

"Stage Two works on the middle of the runway are scheduled to start in October. This will include temporarily closing the runway each night after the last flight lands, upgrading an approximately 80 metre wide strip, and then reopening it before the first flight departs.

"We've worked closely with our overnight users to ensure alternate plans are in place to minimise any potential disruptions while this important work occurs.



“Like all good things, this will take time, but we’re confident any short-term pain will lead to huge long-term gains for Tasmanians.”

Downer's General Manager of the Specialised Pavements and Projects business unit, Simon Abrahams, stated: “You can rest assured that Downer is an expert in upgrading airport runways across the nation. We are a trusted partner for some of the largest airports across Australia and New Zealand, and we are committed to delivering the highest quality for Hobart Airport and the travelling public.

“The early contractor involvement process implemented by Hobart Airport provided the opportunity for the joint project team to conduct thorough planning, assess risks, and ensure comprehensive mitigations and contingencies were in place before the work commenced.

“Delivering works within displaced thresholds is core business for our specialised pavements and projects team. Our planning and construction methodology focuses on quality and safety while adhering to committed timeframes and minimising disruptions.”

Mr Carter said the \$130 million runway upgrade is in addition to Hobart Airport’s \$200 million terminal redevelopment and investment of over \$20 million in the carparks, forecourt and road network,” Mr Carter said.

“This is all part of our plan to build a better Hobart Airport that delivers more space, more choice and more jobs for Tasmanians.”

Hobart Airport Runway Upgrade Project Outline

Stage One – Upgrade of the northern end of the runway, around 829 metres, with works from September to December 2024

Stage Two – Upgrade of the middle section of the runway, around 1069 metres, with works from October to early 2025.

Stage Three – Upgrade of the southern end of the runway, around 829 metres, with works from the first half of 2025 to mid 2025.

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