



Sky's the Limit with Upgraded Runway Open for Business

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The sky's the limit for passengers travelling to and from Tasmania with the official opening today of Hobart Airport's strengthened runway, taxiways and aircraft parking bay.

The upgraded runway will enable Hobart Airport to host larger aircraft such as the Airbus A350 and Boeing 787 for direct flights to and from places like Singapore and Hong Kong.

It will also help secure Hobart's place as Australia's gateway to Antarctica, and better support Australian Defence Force operations.

"Along with the \$200 million terminal expansion which is now well underway, the upgraded runway means that the sky's the limit for passengers and freight to and from Hobart Airport", Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter said today.

"We already have international flights to Auckland, and this upgraded runway now provides us the opportunity to take the airport to the next level and secure direct services to an Asian Hub such as Singapore or Hong Kong.

"The upgraded runway is worth an estimated \$122 million per year to Tasmania's tourism, agriculture and Antarctic industries, and more than 1,200 jobs."

Mr Carter said that the upgraded runway was the result of a partnership between the Australian Government who provided \$60 million, and Hobart Airport who contributed \$70 million.

"I want to sincerely thank the Australian Government for their support, especially Infrastructure Minister Catherine King and our own local member Minister Julie Collins.

"We are very proud that the project has come in safely, on-time, on-budget and with minimal impact on travellers, which is pretty amazing when you consider the work required to upgrade our only runway while maintaining flight operations.

"It's been a fantastic job by all our team and contractors."

Mr Carter said that with the runway upgrade now live, efforts would continue in earnest to secure a service to an Asian hub.

"It's early days, but we hope to see flights start within the next few years", Mr Carter said.

Hobart Airport Runway Upgrade facts:

Current total passengers to and from Hobart Airport: 2.8 million per year

Proportion of total passengers to and from Tasmania coming through Hobart Airport: nearly two-thirds

Total cost: \$130 million (\$70 million Hobart Airport, \$60 million Australian Government)

Cubic metres of asphalt laid: 103,000

Truckloads of concrete laid: more than 200

Time taken to build: 12 months

Hours worked on the project: More than 200,000

Main contractor: Downer

Other contractors: Planned Performance, GHD, Hazell Bros, ADB Safegate

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