



# Media Release

*Sunday, 23 June 2019*

## Hobart Airport ramps up accessibility

Hobart Airport is ramping up its commitment to improving accessibility, with today's announcement that it has purchased five new ramps, dramatically increasing safety and aircraft accessibility for passengers.

The new ramps will mean many visitors will arrive at the Airport, check-in and board their aircraft without a single step getting in their way, making Hobart Airport one of the most accessible airports in Australia for those requiring mobility assistance.

Chief Operating Officer Matt Cocker said the airport had listened to concerns over the safety of aircraft stairs and had worked closely with airline partners to find an alternate boarding solution.

"We're very much aware that stairs can be difficult for passengers to negotiate, especially for those requiring mobility assistance" Mr Cocker said.

"In many ways, these new ramps will be a much better solution than aero-bridges.

"The graduating slope means wheelchair and walking-frame users are able to navigate the ramps reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the need to use the lift.

"It also allows passengers to wheel carry-on luggage on and off the plane, making the passenger journey to and from the aircraft easier for all travellers.

"As a single storey building there are no stairs for passengers to navigate inside the terminal and we want to ensure this accessibility is extended throughout the entire customer journey."

The ramps have been through extensive trials since September last year and have been well received by travellers.

Hobart Airport expect to receive the new ramps and have them fully operational on flights, in time for the summer season.

Along with the addition of the ramps, Hobart Airport has plans to improve safety measures at the terminal entrance as the airport continues to prepare for international flight opportunities.

"Keeping airport users safe and secure is our number one priority and is the foundation of all of our decision-making," Mr Cocker said.

"We have seen a steady increase in security measures in the aviation industry over the past 15 to 20 years."

"While we are lucky to feel safe and secure in Tasmania for the most part, it is important that we recognise and take steps to mitigate any potential threats to safety at our airport.

"This is particularly important as we continue to grow and open up international flight opportunities to and from Hobart."



Over the coming months travellers can expect to see changes to the entrance to the terminal, with upgrades to existing infrastructure as well as the addition of new safety measures including bollards and traffic management barriers.

“Not only will this improve safety, it will also ease congestion on the forecourt road system as the number of passengers and vehicles accessing the airport increases,” Mr Cocker said.

**ENDS**