



Media Release

Friday, 26 July 2019

Hobart Airport begin push back operations

The paint is drying on the new line markings and the tugs are in place as Hobart Airport commence their first week of push back operations.

The \$2.8 million project has seen the airport realign their current apron, increasing the number of aircraft parking bays from five to seven to better accommodate demand ahead of the busy summer period.

Chief Executive Officer Sarah Renner said forecasting suggested an immediate need for six bays to meet current demand levels.

“As demand for travel to and from Hobart continues to grow, we needed to make room for more aircraft to park and be serviced at our airport at any given time,” Ms Renner said.

“Realigning the existing apron was a cost-effective way of increasing our aircraft parking capacity without needing to construct an expanded or new apron area and significantly minimised the amount of capital spend.

“We were pleased to see the final stage of the project implemented successfully over the past week with minimal disruption to our day to day operations.”

Previously, aircraft at Hobart Airport have used power in power out operations which sees planes use their own power and thrust to enter and exit the parking bays.

Chief Operating Officer Matt Cocker said the move to push back operations will see aircraft pushed out of the bays using a specialised ground vehicle attached to the front of the aircraft.

“The increase in bays will allow the airport to better accommodate off schedule arrivals and departures and improve the safety and efficiency of apron operations,” Mr Cocker said.

“We are less likely to see delays due to unserviceable aircraft occupying bays and the push back operations give us a more effective and reliable way to turn aircraft around, particularly during busy periods.

“As part of our commitment to keeping airport users safe, we have also installed new LED apron flood lighting to improve efficiency and visibility on our apron at night.”

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