

# Media Release

## **\$130 million Runway Upgrade Project to Unlock Trifecta of Opportunities**

**1 May 2024**

Construction will begin in July one of the most significant projects in Hobart Airport's 60-year history with the help of \$60 million in funding from the Federal Government.

The total \$130 million Hobart Airport Runway Upgrade Project will upgrade the runway non-stop international flights between Tasmania and Asia.

Currently, Tasmania is the only state or territory in Australia without a runway strong enough to allow for wide-body aircraft operations. Once complete, aircraft such as the Boeing 787 and the Airbus A350 will be able to operate at Hobart Airport.

Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter said the \$60 million in Federal funding together with the Airport's \$70 million would unlock unprecedented opportunities across Tasmania.

"This is one of the most significant projects in the Airport's 60-year history, both in terms of investment and opportunity," Mr Carter said.

"The combined \$130 million investment will pave the way for a trifecta of opportunities across tourism, trade and the Antarctic.

"When this project is complete in 2025, it will open the door for international travellers to be able to fly directly to and from Hobart to Asia and beyond, removing the time and cost burden that comes with additional stops that puts off many tourists. It also brings opportunities for Tasmanians to travel one-stop to Asia and Europe, without the need for mainland stopovers.

"It will provide Tasmanian farmers with the opportunity to have non-stop flights to key Asian markets to get their produce to market quicker and for a higher premium, cutting the 10 to 36 hour travel time of having to go via Melbourne's Tullamarine.

"Tasmania's position as the Gateway to the Antarctic will be bolstered, with direct access from polar and research programs based here in Tasmania, and one-stop Antarctic flights for international programs operating across Asia."

The Runway Upgrade Project will create 197 jobs during construction, and once completed it is forecast to support over 1,200 jobs, plus an annual economic boost of \$122 million.

National airport pavement specialists Downer will deliver the project. Downer EGM Stuart Billing said: This is a reflection of Downer's ongoing investment into Tasmania and recognises our long-term collaborative relationship with Hobart airport.



“Our approach to constructing the works draws upon Downer’s extensive experience in delivering airfield projects, minimising disruption and ensuring the safety of aircraft and the travelling public,” Mr Billings said.

“We’re proud to be involved with this project which will have such a positive economic impact on the state.”

The first sod will be turned in July, with work expected to be completed in mid-2025, allowing for the wide-body aircraft to touch down in late 2025.

Mr Carter said the Runway Upgrade Project was part of the Airport’s Master Plan, and commitment to making tomorrow’s Tasmania possible.

“We’re backing Tasmania with the \$130 million investment to upgrade the runway, plus our \$200 million investment in the terminal, and other \$20 million investments in the carparks, forecourt and road network,” Mr Carter said.

“The world wants what Tasmania has to offer, and we’re committed to doing everything we can to meet the demand for Tasmania as a destination and as a producer.

“I thank the Federal Infrastructure Minister Catherine King, Minister Julie Collins and Senator Carol Brown for their continued support.”

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