


Intended release date	TBC, prior to 15 August 2023
Distribution	State - NT
Background	<p>Defence is undertaking major resurfacing works of the main runway and taxiways at Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin / Darwin International Airport (Airport Development Group, ADG) during 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>CASA reviewed the plan for the works on 21 July 2023 and airfield works are scheduled to commence on 15 August 2023. The announcement needs to be made within this window, as close to the CASA review as possible.</p> <p>There has been considerable local and media interest in the Territory surrounding the impact of the runway works both for locals planning their own travel and on the tourism industry.</p>
Approved spokesperson	<p>Air Commodore Ron Tilley, Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure, Department of Defence.</p> <p>Tony Edmondstone, Chief Executive Officer, Airport Development Group Pty Ltd.</p>
Social Media	<p>LinkedIn:</p> <p>Defence is delivering essential airfield resurfacing works at RAAF Base Darwin/Darwin International Airport to ensure ongoing passenger safety.</p> <p>The \$200 million package works will support expected military and civilian air traffic into the Northern Territory to at least 2040.</p> <p>The initial works program has been reviewed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and will commence on 15 August 2023 and continue through until late 2024.</p> <p>The works are essential to ensure the integrity of the runways and taxiways and the safety of aircraft and passengers.</p> <p>The works will inject money into the NT economy, with an expected average daily workforce of between 60–90 personnel.</p> 
Digital Media	Defence Imagery: Search: 20140729raaf8540638_0209.jpg



DEFENCE

MEDIA RELEASE

RUNWAY WORKS SET TO BEGIN AT DARWIN AIRPORT

13 August 2023

A significant package of resurfacing works for the runways at RAAF Base Darwin and Darwin International Airport will begin this week and continue until late 2024.

The \$200 million works program will help support military and civilian air traffic into the Northern Territory to at least 2040.

These essential works will ensure the integrity of runways and taxiways and the safety of aircraft and passengers.

Extensive efforts continue to be made to minimise disruption to airline schedules and the community.

The following schedule of works will occur in 2023:

Phase	Duration	Impact
1	15 Aug 23 – 8 Oct 23	Runway length reduced with no impact upon airline operations
2	9 Oct 23 – 30 Nov 23	Main runway closed daily from 0200 to 1130. Regional airline traffic to operate from secondary runway if required

Runway works will cease over the wet season and recommence from 2 April 2024. An updated schedule of works for 2024 will be released in October 2023.

Some disruptions are unavoidable. The secondary cross runway at Darwin airport does not have lighting to support night flights and is neither long enough nor strong enough to support large airliners. As such, major airline traffic cannot be diverted to the cross runway.

Airlines have been provided the schedule of works to determine their own scheduling impacts. Travellers are encouraged to check with their airline carriers' websites and schedules.

As well as being an important civilian airport, the runway at RAAF Base Darwin is vital military asset; it has supported Australian and multinational aircraft as part of peacekeeping efforts, as well as supporting casualty evacuations after the 2002 Bali

bombings and relief efforts in Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami. More recently, in 2021, the base received repatriating Australians due to COVID-19 and assisted with the reception of evacuees from Afghanistan.

Quotes attributable to Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure, Air Commodore Ron Tilley

“The works at Darwin airport will also support investment into the Northern Territory economy, costing approximately \$200 million and with an average daily workforce of between 60-90 personnel.”

“The Darwin airport works are being sequenced to minimise the impact on tourism and the local community during peak travel periods, including the school holidays.”

“Defence thanks the Northern Territory community for their support and patience while these important works take place to support future airport operations.”

Quotes attributable to Chief Executive Officer, Airport Development Group Pty Ltd, Tony Edmondstone

“The method of work program is now finalised enabling airlines to review impacts and provide certainty to the travelling public.”

“Air connectivity is crucial for Territorians and these works are essential to support the safe and efficient operation of the airport for the next couple of decades.”

“Airport Development Group recognises the disruption that this project will cause, and will work with airlines to rearrange flight schedules to maintain connectivity for Territorians and visitors alike.”

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and time
<i>MR drafted by</i>	Todd Fitzgerald	Regional Manager Public Affairs–NT, MECC	06/07/2023
<i>Other relevant line area consulted in drafting</i>	GPCAPT Adrian Carswell	Director – National Air and Space Program, SEG	07/07/2023 Updated:
<i>Other relevant line area consulted in drafting</i>	Tegan Smith	A/g Director Communication, SEG	09/07/2023 Updated 26/07/2023
Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and time
<i>Clear by: 1* Lead Group/Service</i>	AIRCDRE Ron Tilley	Director General Capital Facilities and Infrastructure, SEG	26/07/23 21:00
<i>Clear by: Airport Development Group (ADG)</i>	Tony Edmondstone	Chief Executive Officer, Airport Development Group	31/07/23 18:14
<i>Clear by: MECC Embedded Communications Director/Strategic Communications Advisor (see note above)</i>	Tegan Smith	A/g Director Communication, SEG	01/08/23 10:45

<i>Clear by: 2* of other relevant line area/service that was consulted</i>	Pat Sowry	A/g First Assistant Secretary Infrastructure, SEG	11/08/23 8:43
<i>Clear by: Defence Media</i>	Claire Galliford	<i>Director Media</i>	11 August 23
<i>Clear by: OSEC/OCDF</i>		<i>No acronyms</i>	

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