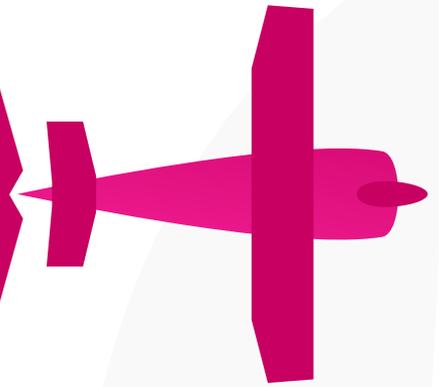


# MAREEBA AIRPORT UPGRADE



*An upgraded Mareeba Airport will provide an alternative to Cairns Airport for activities like pilot training, maintenance and some general aviation, resulting in catalytic economic benefits for the region.*

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## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Mareeba Airport is located approximately 22 nautical miles (10-15 minutes' flying time) west of Cairns International Airport. Mareeba Airport's origins date back to the Second World War when the entire Mareeba district had strategic military significance and played a major role in the success of the Battle of the Coral Sea campaign. The airport was constructed at this time and was used as a refuelling and re-armament base for Australian and American bombers. The current runway was one of two originally constructed, over what was then a vast military complex.

Mareeba Airport is now integral to the state's economy in terms of aircraft movements, tourism, industrial precinct facilities, expansion capacity and a hub for general aviation in the Far North Queensland/Cairns Region. The Mareeba Airport is in close proximity to Cairns, has a very large training area, excellent weather conditions, uncontrolled airspace (with controlled airspace near at hand when required) and a relatively low population base. This makes Mareeba Airport an ideal facility for general aviation maintenance and training.

The Mareeba Airport Upgrade Project is funded by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government through the National Stronger Regions Fund and the project is being delivered by Mareeba Shire Council. Work on the Mareeba Airport Upgrade commenced in the 2015-16 financial year and the project is scheduled for completion by August 2018.

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## MAJOR PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The project will deliver:

- runway, aprons and taxiways strengthened (45,000kg maximum take-off weight);
- runway lengthened to 1855m (usable length 1680m);
- additional taxiways and extension to apron parking;
- construct a 52-lot aviation commercial precinct connected to water, sewerage, power and telecommunications;
- upgraded drainage, lighting, and airport fencing; and
- upgraded surrounding roads.



## PROJECT BENEFITS

Increase **employment opportunities**, produce a sustained improvement in regional **economic growth**, deliver **socio-economic benefits** and provide **diversification** of the Mareeba Shire, Cairns region, Atherton Tablelands and Cape York **regional economies**.

It is expected that the upgraded airport will generate an economic multiplier effect over the short, medium and longer terms to the Far North Queensland region.

The upgrade will build export income by providing access to growing international demand in flight training from Asia and provides a regional solution for growing aviation demand. Regionally, the upgraded Mareeba Airport will be an effective facility for use in the case of disaster management. The new facility will increase employment as it becomes a base for development of regional capabilities in avionics and aircraft maintenance. Economic modelling has shown that the upgraded Mareeba Airport will satisfy the needs of growing regional aviation demand flowing from major projects and developments identified in the Australian Government Northern Australia White Paper.

Economic modelling predicts that the upgraded Mareeba Airport will create employment for 639 people in direct and flow-on positions over a 30 year period, with 238 new jobs to be generated within the next ten years.



## FAST FACTS

	EXISTING AIRPORT	UPGRADE
Runway Length	1505 metres	Additional 350 metres length
Runway Width	30 metres wide	No change
Runway Shoulders	3.5m wide sealed shoulders	Additional 3m sealed shoulders
Runway Strip	90 metres wide	No change
Runway Strength Capacity	Unrated (recommended 5700kg MTOW)	44,500kg MTOW
Taxiways Length	330 metres	Additional 2,700 metres
Area of Aprons	32,500 square metres	Additional 35,000 square metres
Number of Lease Sites	19 lease sites	Additional 52 lease sites
Number of Car Parking Bays	50 parking bays	Additional 120 parking bays

# MAREEBA AIRPORT UPGRADE

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