

MEDIA RELEASE



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Expansion project to deliver tourism and trade opportunities to the Territory

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has welcomed the announcement of a \$300 million expansion of airport facilities at Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs airports, supported by the single largest investment loan to date from the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund (NAIF).

AAA Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie said the project would unlock job opportunities for Territorians and create new international trade markets for the local agriculture industry.

“NT Airports has recognised the value of direct international services from the Territory, as evidenced by the highly successful start of services to China recently,” Ms Wilkie said.

“This new funding will allow more agricultural businesses in the Territory to access global markets and grow their operations.”

The expansion project is expected to create 1500 local jobs and will include the construction of cold storage at Darwin International Airport and solar energy farms at Darwin, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek airports. An off-site multi-user battery will also be located 80km from Darwin.

The runway, taxiway and apron of Alice Springs Airport will be resurfaced, and new runway lighting will be installed.

Ms Wilkie said the landmark \$150 million loan from the NAIF was a welcome boost to get the project underway and demonstrates the Government’s recognition that airports deliver genuine community and economic benefits through a variety of exciting and innovative projects.

“It is great to see the NAIF being utilised to help deliver airport infrastructure that is driving real economic growth and capitalising on opportunities for Northern Australia,” she said.

“This project will allow bigger aircraft to bring more tourists direct to the NT, while also increasing freight capacity for local businesses.

“It will undoubtedly create huge opportunity for the local economy and community and the financing agreement will ensure these benefits can be realised as soon as possible.”

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