

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Funding on the way for regional airports

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) welcomes the second round of the Australian Government's Regional Airports Program.

AAA Chief Executive James Goodwin said funding for regional airport infrastructure had never been so important.

"COVID-19 has knocked regional airports for six pushing passenger numbers down by more than 70 per cent resulting in \$7 million of lost revenue every month," Mr Goodwin said.

"To make it even more challenging, council-owned airports don't have access to JobKeeper but they continue to stay open as a critical service for the regional communities which rely on them.

"This program will help regional airports deliver projects which create long-term benefits, so communities can continue to connect to work, essential services, family and friends no matter where they live.

"Regional Airports will be able to take advantage of fewer aircraft landing to start work on critical projects such as runway upgrades, taxiway improvements, new fencing and lighting to make air travel safer and more reliable.

"Due to strong advocacy by the AAA, the Federal Government has changed the program guidelines so that local government and Indigenous corporations with projects of \$300,000 or less will be fully-funded by government rather than split 50:50.

"The Regional Airports Program was established following a campaign by the AAA to help our policy makers recognise the unique challenges our regional airports face and the need for infrastructure upgrades."

Round 2 of the program follows a successful first round where 61 regional airports shared in \$41.2 million.

Applications open on 3 November 2020 and close on 15 December 2020.

For more information visit: <https://business.gov.au/rap>.

Ends.

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