

# MEDIA RELEASE

17 November 2021



## Innovation and excellence celebrated at airport industry awards

The many and varied achievements of Australia's airport sector have been recognised following what has been an incredibly challenging year at the Australian Airport Association's (AAA) virtual National Airport Industry Awards 2021.

AAA Chief Executive James Goodwin said 86 airports and organisations which provided services to the industry nominated for this year's prestigious awards.

"Despite navigating the most difficult period the sector has faced in living memory, as resilient as ever Australia's airports have taken the challenges in their stride and continued to adapt and innovate, finding new ways of doing things, forging ahead with major infrastructure projects, diversifying their businesses and developing new partnerships," Mr Goodwin said.

"Australia's airport sector strives to make a difference and continues to develop infrastructure that enhances the passenger's experience whilst making a valued contribution to our wider community."

Sydney Airport was the big winner of the afternoon taking home three awards including Capital City Airport of the Year, Airport Excellence Operations Award and Airport Excellence Sustainability Award.

Newcastle Airport was named Major Airport of the Year for cementing its role as a regional leader shaping the future growth of the Hunter region and northern New South Wales, while Archerfield Airport was awarded Metro Airport of the Year for the completion of a range of key infrastructure projects including the full reconstruction, lengthening and strengthening of the main runway.

Emerald Airport in Central Queensland won the Large Regional Airport of the Year Award for its major upgrade of existing assets including Australia's first bespoke designed Stone Mastic Asphalt runway, while Shellharbour Airport on the New South Wales South Coast took home the Small Regional (RPT) Airport of the Year for its \$20 million upgrade of the terminal, runway and taxiways.

Orbost Airport in East Gippsland was presented the Small Regional (non-RPT) Aerodrome of the Year Award for the critical role it played in the 2019/20 summer bushfires which ravaged the region.

Several innovation and excellence awards were also presented, showcasing a range of projects from across the industry.

AAA Chair Tom Ganley said an enormous amount of planning and hard work went into all projects and initiatives recognised during today's ceremony.

"I congratulate this afternoon's winners and nominees on their high level of professionalism, community spirit and commitment to the passenger that is clearly demonstrated across each category. It's clear the future of our sector is in very capable hands," Mr Ganley said.

A full list of winners can be viewed below.

Category	Winner	Description
----------	--------	-------------

<b>Capital City Airport of the Year</b>	<b>Sydney Airport</b>	<b>COVID-19: A lesson in values</b>  The impact of COVID-19 on Sydney Airport has been severe, operationally, financially and on its people and passengers. Guided by its purpose and values, the airport sought to achieve four objectives since the crisis commenced: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Keeping the airport open as an essential service</li> <li>2) Pulling its partners through crises</li> <li>3) Caring for its customers and community</li> <li>4) Protecting its people and the business</li> </ol>
<b>Metro Airport of the Year</b>	<b>Archerfield Airport</b>	<b>Revitalisation of a national icon</b>  The past 12 months has seen a hive of activity at Archerfield Airport following an extensive period of planning. Key projects completed include Project AIM (Airfield Infrastructure Modernisation) and the opening of Archerfield Logistics Estate. Project AIM (Stage 1) is the airport’s largest infrastructure build in more than 50 years. It involved the full reconstruction, lengthening and strengthening of the main runway 10L/28R, new ALER and replacement of all airfield lighting following Major Development Plan (MDP) ministerial approvals. The Airport has also completed the civil works associated with its first industrial estate.
<b>Major Airport of the Year</b>	<b>Newcastle Airport</b>	<b>Delivering the airport the region deserves</b>  The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on the aviation industry. In the second half of FY21, Newcastle Airport emerged with a best-in-class recovery in passenger numbers and a stronger, more diversified and valuable business. Its aspirations were bold and its influence became greater, cementing its role as a regional leader that will shape the future growth of the Hunter and northern New South Wales. Unerringly guided by its purpose to be the airport the region deserves, it has, through sustained advocacy at all levels of government and the strengthening of key partnerships, galvanised its region setting a benchmark for aviation.
<b>Large Regional Airport of the Year</b>	<b>Emerald Airport</b>	<b>Emerald Airport Master Plan Stage 1 implementation – Upgrade of existing assets</b>  For two years, Emerald Airport’s airside and landside operations have undergone a \$20.8m upgrade. Iconic projects included:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Australia's first bespoke designed Stone Mastic Asphalt (SMA) runway</li> <li>○ General Aviation Pavement Reconstruction and Expansion Project</li> <li>○ Satisfying enhanced security screening equipment requirements</li> <li>○ Terminal Redevelopment Project which included relocating and upgrading the passenger drop-off zone and carpark, installing paid car parking equipment with number plate recognition, upgrading the firefighting equipment and systems, communications and IT backbone infrastructure, CCTV systems, access and wayfinding systems and numerous other safety and user-experience related upgrades.</li> </ul>
<b>Small Regional (RPT) Airport of the Year</b>	<b>Shellharbour Airport</b>	<p><b>A world class regional airport facility</b></p> <p>Amid a global pandemic, Shellharbour City Council has seen significant growth in its airport precinct environment and has reached major milestones as part of a \$20.35 million upgrade project, creating a truly world-class regional airport facility. Works included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a newly built passenger terminal</li> <li>○ renewal of the main runway</li> <li>○ upgrades to the cross runway, taxiways and additional aircraft parking space.</li> </ul> <p>The strategic development by Shellharbour City Council will enable the airport to grow and foster opportunities for future economic development, tourism and jobs growth.</p>
<b>Small Regional (non-RPT) Aerodrome of the Year</b>	<b>Orbost Airport</b>	<p><b>Safety, security &amp; presentation</b></p> <p>Orbost Airport was a critical piece of Infrastructure owned by East Gippsland Shire Council during the 2019/20 summer bushfires which ravaged the region. It housed critical emergency service aircraft including ADF / RAAF and emergency service personnel for up to eight weeks to assist in combating the devastating bushfires. The Airport played its part in the response and recovery. Over the past 12 months, the two council aerodrome staff have worked hard to improve the safety and security of the airport as well as visually enhancing its presentation for all current and future users to enjoy.</p>

<b>Commercial Award</b>	<b>Darwin International Airport</b>	<b>Cold &amp; freight storage and training facility</b>  Revolutionising export in the Territory, Darwin International Airport is positioning itself for the future with the completion of a \$15 million cold and freight storage and training facility. With the only vapour heat treatment (VHT) plant in the Northern Territory (NT), allowing high-end, time-sensitive products to be directly exported overseas, this first of its kind Territory facility also has airside access, temperature gradients, X-ray and security scanning capabilities. Consolidating Darwin International Airport as a major contributor to the NT, economists estimate the facility will generate \$208 million a year for the Territory and create 468 jobs in agriculture, tourism, and freight.
<b>Infrastructure Award</b>	<b>Brisbane Airport</b>	<b>Brisbane's new runway</b>  Brisbane's new runway (BNR) was funded by Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC), with the Airfield Works delivered by SkyWay – a joint venture between BMD Constructions and CPB Contractors. BNR was one of the largest aviation projects ever undertaken in Australia and by 2035, is expected to generate 7,800 new jobs and an additional \$5 billion in annual economic benefit to the region. By effectively doubling the airport's capacity, it secures Queensland's aviation future. While COVID-19 restricts current aircraft movements, the runway will play a crucial role in recovery and provide a platform for delivery of major growth opportunities for the state.
<b>Innovation Award</b>	<b>Brisbane Airport</b>	<b>BAC airside driving simulator</b>  Using computer gaming concepts in a real-world setting, Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) took an innovative approach to Operational Readiness and Testing (ORAT) compliance for Brisbane's New Runway (BNR) by combining an interactive digital model of the new airside environment and a digital Hilux utility to create the BAC Airside Driving Simulator. This innovation is a virtual 3D simulation with scenario-based training modules and induction programs, enabling BAC to train 130 staff in the new airside operations. BAC's Airside Driving Simulator was crucial in obtaining ORAT compliance and familiarising BNE staff with this new infrastructure.

<b>Operations Award</b>	<b>Sydney Airport</b>	<b>Implementation of an Airport Operating Licence (AOL)</b>  In April 2021, Sydney Airport implemented a new Airport Operating Licence (AOL), setting minimum enforceable standards to improve outcomes and personnel behaviour with regards to safety, security, environment and operational performance amongst the airport community. The AOL agreement was developed over a three-year period with the assistance of IATA and extensive stakeholder consultation. It aligns with international best practice, establishing a direct relationship between the airport and ground services providers as recommended under the ICAO Manual on Ground Handling. Twenty-one organisations have already signed the agreement.
<b>Sustainability Award</b>	<b>Sydney Airport</b>	<b>Investing in resilience: Net Zero by 2030 (resilience + mitigation)</b>  While every aspect of Sydney Airport’s business and operations were disrupted throughout last year and this year due to the pandemic, the organisation remained steadfast in its commitment to sustainability. In May 2021, this was demonstrated when Sydney Airport announced its commitment to be net zero by 2030 for emissions under its operational control. It builds on its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2025, and its initiatives to drive down Scope 3 emissions, which cover emissions generated by third parties on the airport precinct.
<b>Corporate Project of the Year Award – Small Regional Airport/Aerodrome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Avionics Airfield Lighting</b></li> <li>• <b>Boral</b></li> </ul> (Joint winners)	<b>Norfolk Island Airport Ground Lighting Upgrade works</b>  The Norfolk Island Airport Upgrade Project was delivered as a Design and Construct Contract by Avionics Airfield Lighting which consisted of an asphalt overlay to both runways, the taxiway and parking Apron. The scope for the AGL works consisted of AGL Design, Supply and Installation of all new LED Runway and Taxiway Lighting and associated infrastructure, including new Apron Floodlighting and new ALER and AGL Control System.  <b>Norfolk Island Airport Resurfacing Project</b>  Boral Asphalt Queensland was awarded the Design and Construct contract for the resurfacing of the existing airport runway on Norfolk Island which

		<p>coincidentally Boral last completed in 2005. Norfolk Island is approx. 1,400km ESE of Brisbane and does not possess any heavy industry for raw material extraction or manufacturer of this scale therefore all construction materials, mobile asphalt and concrete batching plants, construction plant and equipment were required to be imported. In addition, no unloading facilities for bulk vessels or barges exist therefore an unloading rock groyne was constructed as part of the project and subsequently removed post completion.</p>
<p><b>Corporate Project of the Year Award – Large Regional Airport</b></p>	<p><b>Fulton Hogan</b></p>	<p><b>Hervey Bay Airport Upgrade Project</b></p> <p>The Fraser Coast Regional Council appointed Fulton Hogan to deliver the Hervey Bay Airport Upgrade. The scope of works included apron and taxiway construction, asphalt overlays, aeronautical ground lighting and the installation of apron flood lighting. In 42 Asphalt shifts and 72 civil shifts, 45,000 tonnes of asphalt was laid, 32,500 Litres of JetBond sprayed as a tack layer, 8000 metres of unbound material was placed, 6000 metres of trenching and ducting was accomplished as a part of AGL system upgrade, 181 new AGL lights were installed and 54,000 metres of conventional grooving was accomplished.</p>
<p><b>Corporate Project of the Year Award – Major, Metro and Capital City Airport</b></p>	<p><b>Enever Electrical</b></p>	<p><b>Design and installation of new runway and taxiway lighting at Archerfield Airport</b></p> <p>The project was the replacement of Archerfield's ageing taxiway lighting system with new LED ground lighting on the main runway 10L/28R and taxiways. The design incorporates, for the first time at Archerfield, new visual aids at both ends of the runway including Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPIs) and Runway Threshold Identification Lights (RTILs). The new system delivers significant safety, environmental, economic and operational benefits. The project is part of Archerfield Airport's Project AIM (Airside Infrastructure Modernisation), a program of upgrades that facilitates the needs of existing and new airport users and cements Archerfield's position as Queensland's premier general aviation airport.</p>

Ends.

**Media Contact: Hannah Maguire – 0429 920 254**