



**Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm**  
Assistant Minister for Regional Development

# 21 new remote airstrip projects set to take flight

The Federal Government is delivering \$13.4 million to improve the safety and accessibility of airstrips across remote Australia.

Delivered under Round 10 of the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program (RAUP), airstrips across remote areas of the Northern Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales will receive grants of between \$5,000 and \$3 million to complete upgrades by 2026.

Many of the successful applicants manage airstrips which service remote First Nations communities, aiding their access to vital services and supplies.

Remote airstrips and certified aerodromes, also provide remote communities with critical access to urgent supplies, life-saving medical flights and to family, friends and services in larger towns.

This latest funding will allow the operators to deliver priority safety and access works including runway resurfacing, fencing, lighting and drainage works.

The installation of new lighting will allow aircraft, including emergency service flights, to land at night. While upgraded fencing will prevent animals from entering airstrips and causing damage or creating a safety hazard.

Given the recent spate of heavy rainfall in remote Australia, crucial upgrades to drainage will also prevent airstrip surfaces from flooding and eroding, and runway resurfacing will ensure air operators can land safely – without damaging their aircraft.

Round 10 of the RAUP brings the Australian Government’s total funding through the program to over \$115 million, delivering 470 projects nationwide. A list of successful projects, and further information on the program can be accessed [here](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/regional-remote-aviation/remote-airstrip-upgrade) (<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/regional-remote-aviation/remote-airstrip-upgrade>).

**Quotes attributable to Assistant Minister for Regional Development & Education, Senator Anthony Chisholm:**

“Safe and accessible airstrips are critical to safeguarding the quality of life in many remote and very remote communities across Australia, as they keep essential services running and allow businesses to grow and thrive.

“Which is why I’m thrilled to announce \$13.4 million in funding to help ensure the safe operation and longevity of twenty-one airstrips, so that remote and isolated communities continue to have access to essential goods and services.

“Following the recent floods across remote Australia, improving the durability of these airstrips has never been more crucial. This improved resilience will also mean people who grow up in remote areas can continue to live, do business and retire there, knowing they will have access to the emergency and other services needed in any stage of life.

“I look forward to seeing the impact these airstrip projects will have as they get underway, supporting jobs while delivering lasting upgrades that will service communities well into the future.”

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Aerodrome</b>	<b>Project features</b>	<b>Australian Government Funding (GST exc) \$</b>
Bogan Shire Council	NSW	Nyngan Airport	Lighting upgrade	116,550
Marthakal Homelands and Resource Centre Aboriginal Corp	NT	Elcho Island Airport	Generator back-up system	125,835

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Aerodrome</b>	<b>Project features</b>	<b>Australian Government Funding (GST exc) \$</b>
Northern Territory Government	NT	Nyirripi Aerodrome	Perimeter fence upgrade	300,000
Northern Territory Government	NT	Various NT airstrips	Windsock Pole and Signal Circle Black Matting Upgrades	200,000
Northern Territory Government	NT	Willowra Aerodrome	Apron and Taxiway Seal Upgrades	200,000
Northern Territory Government	NT	Oenpelli Aerodrome	Perimeter fence upgrade	400,000
Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council	QLD	Lockhart River Aerodrome	Aeronautical Ground Lighting Upgrade	2,956,799
Aurukun Shire Council	QLD	Aurukun Aerodrome	Purchase and installation of Aerodrome Weather Information Service (AWIS) system	436,600
Maranoa Regional Council	QLD	Injune Aerodrome	Lighting Upgrade	145,324
Woorabinda Aboriginal Council	QLD	Woorabinda Airstrip	Resurfacing and line marking of runway and aprons and lighting upgrade	889,752

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Aerodrome</b>	<b>Project features</b>	<b>Australian Government Funding (GST exc) \$</b>
Balonne Shire Council	QLD	Saint George Airport	Lighting upgrade and replacement of part of fencing	200,000
Etheridge Shire Council	QLD	Mount Surprise & Einasleigh airstrips	Replacement of current fence with animal exclusion fencing around airstrips	450,000
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	QLD	Kowanyama Airport	Runway reseal and restoration of taxiway	1,443,440
Nipapanha Community Aboriginal Corp	SA	Nipapanha (Nepabunna) Angepena Airstrip	Construction of airside passenger shelter and installation of helipad LED lighting	30,705
District Council of Ceduna	SA	Ceduna Airport	Resealing of Runway 11/29, line-marking and upgrade of runway and taxiway lighting to LED	527,972
District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula	SA	Port Lincoln Airport	Runway 01/19 remediation and re-seal of runway (including shoulders), taxiway and apron and line-marking	661,504

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>State/ Territory</b>	<b>Aerodrome</b>	<b>Project features</b>	<b>Australian Government Funding (GST exc) \$</b>
Eibaroooc Pty Ltd	SA	Coorabie Airstrip	Resurface airstrip and purchase new Solar Airfield Lighting	59,850
Blinman Progress Assoc Inc	SA	Blinman Airstrip	Resurfacing of main runway to ensure all-weather availability	149,750
Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation	WA	Balgo Hill Airstrip	Re-sheet and re-contouring of airstrip to support all weather operations and alleviate risk of closure during wet season	2,745,000
Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) Inc	WA	Warmun Airstrip	Pilot Activated Lighting (PAL) and Windssock system, flight navigation procedures and CASA airstrip certification	500,000
Ardyaloon Inc	WA	Ardyaloon Airstrip	Seal current gravel strip to provide all-weather surface with dust suppression	863,106

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 09 May 2024