

## Shaping the future of airfields: Airport experts gather in Western Sydney

Australia's leading airport experts have gathered in Western Sydney this week for the Australian Airports Association (AAA) Pavements & Lighting Forum - including a behind-the-scenes tour of the country's newest major greenfield international airport.

Running from 7 to 9 May, the Pavements & Lighting Forum at the Western Sydney Convention Centre in Penrith has brought together airport engineers, planners, and operations experts from across the country to collaborate on key technical challenges and share best practice across the sector for airports of all sizes.

On Thursday (8 May), around 150 airport representatives toured the \$5.3 billion Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) development, gaining insights into its runway construction, airfield lighting and infrastructure planning.

"We're proud to have brought this important forum to Western Sydney, which represents a major market in Australia's aviation landscape," AAA CEO Simon Westaway said.

"What better way to provide our members with direct exposure to the latest developments than with a tour of Australia's newest international airport as it nears completion.

"The AAA hosts a number of technical forums and events throughout the year to help members stay at the forefront of innovation and infrastructure development across the airport network."

"We were delighted to welcome delegates from across the nation to share our knowledge, insights and lessons learned throughout the construction of WSI - Sydney's only 24-hour airport that remains on track to open next year," WSI CEO Simon Hickey said.

"WSI is an airport built for the next century. That's meant we've been able to leverage our greenfield status to utilise the best technology, the latest systems and the most innovative and sustainable construction practices that will deliver a top-tier service for airlines, passengers and cargo operators from day one, and for decades to come."

### Key themes explored at the Pavements & Lighting Forum 2025:

- Innovations in airfield lighting and apron illumination
- Pavement design and maintenance strategies
- Sustainability practices in airfield infrastructure
- Regulatory updates and compliance considerations

Images of the Forum and WSI tour can be found [here](#).

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