

# New Brisbane airport runway creates jobs and boosts economy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbVhslI-Wdc>

BRISBANE Airport's new runway will deliver a \$5 billion-a-year boost to the economy.

A \$500 million contract for the final, biggest stage of building the 3.3km strip was last month awarded to a joint venture between BMD Construction and CPB Contractors.

The construction workforce will peak at 400 in the middle of next year. Up to 90 per cent of labour, equipment and resources will be sourced locally.

Brisbane Airport Corporation CEO and managing director Julieanne Alroe said the project – the biggest since the airport was privatised 20 years ago – was “on time and under budget” for a 2020 completion.

The parallel runway has figured in masterplans for decades and BAC finally pushed the button in 2013, when flight congestion made the airport the worst in the country for departure and arrival delays.

Air traffic and aircraft flow improvements have since made it the most efficient among Australia's major hubs and the new runway will give Brisbane the greatest capacity in the country.

It will also be a critical catalyst for economic growth as a key tool in efforts to attract more tourists and international students, trade and business investment, benefiting not just the capital but the broader southeast corner and connection destinations such as the Whitsundays and Cairns.

Business modelling prepared for the privately-funded project, costing \$1.3 billion in total, identified that spending by the 20-million-plus additional passengers the airport will be able to handle after the expansion, will create a direct regional economic benefit of \$5 billion a year by 2034.

“It will provide unlimited opportunities for the growth of our city, state and, ultimately, our nation,” Ms Alroe said.

Brisbane Marketing CEO Brett Fraser said the airport expansion was one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the city's history.

“The new runway will give Brisbane unprecedented opportunities to seek out new air routes and expand existing ones, helping us grow existing and new tourism markets and drive trade and investment opportunities,” he said.

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“It will also give local businesses better export opportunities in terms of freight and logistics, providing greater access and connectivity to global and domestic markets and helping Brisbane further cement itself as a major trading centre in the Asia Pacific and beyond.”

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said Brisbane had a very real opportunity to position itself as the key entry point in to Australia, particularly as an Asia Pacific Hub.

“We have many exciting tourism infrastructure projects coming on line over the next few years,” he said. “The potential of these developments can unlock a wealth of opportunities for us to grow business and jobs and help to attract more visitors to Brisbane and enhance our visitor economy.”

Star Entertainment Group's Queensland managing director Geoff Hogg said the capacity created by the second runway was crucial to the Queens Wharf development.



In the future passing through the airport for people like Noelle Walker and Owen Bramley will be a lot easier. Picture: Adam Armstrong

## Check-in of the future

TECHNOLOGY will transform not only air travel but the journey to – and through – the airport over the next decade or two.

The driverless car you ordered picks you up from home and takes you to the airport. Depending on your airline, you could be dropped at Terminal One or Two, with each able to handle both international and domestic flights.

Transiting passengers switching airlines will be able to travel quickly between the terminals on a new elevated mass transit system, using either track or wheel-based vehicles.

While the car heads off to the autonomous vehicle waiting zone, ready for its next job, you make your way to the bag drop, possibly assisted by a robotic luggage trolley/greeter.

You have already checked in online and created a personalised “travel identification token”. You did that by using an app to scan information from the chip in your passport into your smartphone, and taking a selfie which the app compares with the passport details to confirm identity.

The self-service kiosk at baggage drop scans your travel details from your phone and a biometric scanner confirms your identity through facial recognition technology and links them to your baggage details. Your departure gate and boarding details are uploaded to your phone.

Brisbane Airport is already trialling the facial recognition system at check-in and boarding gate in an Australian first partnership with aviation technology specialists SITA and Air New Zealand.

“As we progress, we hope to integrate with various government systems for immigration and border checks,” Brisbane Airport Corporation general manager strategic planning and development said.

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That will give passengers a self-service, paperless passage through departure e-gates, security and border control without presenting passports or other documents, using biometric scanning at each point up to and including getting onto the aircraft.

Security X-rays could also be a thing of the past with the development of laser molecule scanners which can detect prohibited items in luggage as well as the presence of drugs or explosives through clothing or even inside the body. It can scan several people simultaneously from up to 50 metres away.

Once in the departures area, travellers will be able to collect the food and drink they ordered from their mobiles as they arrived at the terminal.

They will browse airport shops featuring real goods or virtual shopping walls of products, scanning codes for those they want to purchase by phone and delivery to their home or destination on a set date. Smartphone alerts will advise of special offers.

Returning passengers will be able to select groceries from the supermarket at the airport in advance and have them delivered to their car if they parked at the airport or to their home.

New generation long-haul aircraft such as the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Airbus A350 are bringing the prospect of non-stop flights from Brisbane to Europe within reach.

And NASA is working with manufacturers on new aircraft we could see within 15 years, including fuel-efficient, low-emissions planes, blended wing aircraft and a new wave of supersonic jets that could shave the trip from Brisbane to London to 10 hours.