Airside Development



The number of aircraft and passengers that will travel through Melbourne Airport each year is set to grow over the coming decades.

To accommodate this growth, airside enhancements are required to the existing runway, taxiway and apron infrastructure.





Melbourne Airport's third runway – providing parallel north-south runways;



Taxiways to support the third runway;



Improvements to air traffic management capabilities.

Melbourne Airport's Third Runway

Melbourne Airport is planning to build a new, third runway, in a north-south orientation. Since the 1960s long-term plans for Melbourne Airport have envisioned a future four-runway configuration to cater for increases in air traffic movements. From 1990, these plans have identified parallel east-west and north-south runway systems.

In the 2013 Master Plan, Melbourne Airport identified the preferred orientation for the next (third) runway as east—west. However, in November 2018, Melbourne Airport announced a pause to the preparation of the east-west planning document to undertake a 'Planning Review' of the project.

The review yielded strong evidence to suggest that the north-south system had become a better option in terms of availability, capacity, long-term investment profile and overall community impacts.

In November 2019, following extensive industry, stakeholder, government and community consultation, the airport formally announced its preference for the third runway to be oriented north-south.



As the airport expands beyond the existing terminal precinct, additional taxiway infrastructure will be required to help provide efficient access around the airport.

Taxiway infrastructure enhancements will be required to:



Support third runway operations



Improve runway capacity through additional runway exits and entries to improve efficiency



Improve operational flow and capacity around the terminal precinct



Provide opportunity to expand apron and terminal infrastructure



Ensure existing taxiways are maintained