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AUSTRALIAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CODE AIX)

ANNOUNCEMENT HEADING:

MELBOURNE AIRPORT COMMENCES A380 WORKS

The Australian Infrastructure Fund (AIF) is pleased to announce that works have now commenced on the project to widen Melbourne Airport's main north/south runway in preparation for the new A380 aircraft.

The project will be complete by May this year, with construction taking 4-6 weeks.

See attached press release from Melbourne Airport.

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BRACKS STARTS WORK TO PUT MELBOURNE ON THE A380 MAP

Victorian Premier Steve Bracks today launched the most significant component of Melbourne Airport's program to make Melbourne Australia's first A380- ready city.

Works have now commenced on a project to widen the airport's main north/south runway in preparation for the new A380 super-jumbo aircraft. The widening of the 3.7 km runway by 15 metres for its entire length is the largest single airfield construction project undertaken at Melbourne Airport since it opened in 1970.

The entire project will be complete by May this year, with construction taking 4-6 weeks.

Melbourne Airport CEO, Chris Barlow, said the project will be one of the most efficient, safe and sophisticated development programs that Australia has ever seen.

"Around the world, airports have planed for several months of construction to complete widening works as part of their A380-ready programs. Here in Melbourne, construction staff will work around the clock to complete this enormous project in just 4-6 weeks," said Mr Barlow.

"The short time-frame will minimise inconvenience for the 30 airlines that operate at Melbourne Airport and their passengers."

Melbourne Airport will remain operational 24 hours, 7 days a week throughout the construction process. Works will only occur on the airport's main north/south runway, with all operations continuing as normal on the international standard east/west runway throughout the works period.

Single runway operations period are likely to cause some delays for passengers traveling during peak travel periods at Melbourne Airport.

“People flying in or out of Melbourne during peak travel times whilst the widening works are underway should prepare of the possibility of delays between 10 and 30 minutes, depending on weather,” said Mr Barlow.

“Anyone travelling between now and early May should allow plenty of time when planning flights to time-critical appointments interstate or overseas.”

The A380 will be the world’s largest commercial passenger aircraft, carrying around 550 passengers. Five of Melbourne’s international carriers have already placed orders for the new aircraft: Qantas, Singapore Airlines, Emirates Airline, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways.

Works to make Melbourne A380 ready will put Victoria at the forefront of aviation, and ensure we are ready to welcome the new aircraft and the tourism benefits it will bring, as soon airlines are ready to fly it here.

The A380 works are part of a broader \$220 million development program currently underway at Melbourne Airport to accommodate growing passenger traffic. With all works on-schedule, Victoria will continue to reap the benefits that come from having a world leading airport on its doorstep.

Facts and Stats - Runway widening Project

- Around 81,000 tonnes of earth excavated
- Over 100 construction employees working on-site throughout April
- 65,000m² of pavement widening and verge construction area.
- 25,000m³ of excavation.
- 40,000m² of new pavement (concrete).
- 150km of new lighting cable.
- 500 new runway lights.
- 14,000m² of couch grass turf vegetation.
- 7km of drainage.

Additional A380 background information available on request:

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