



**Australian Infrastructure Fund Limited**  
A.C.N. 063 935 553

Level 15, 90 Collins Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000 Australia  
Telephone (613) 9654 4477  
Facsimile (613) 9650 6555

**TO:** Australian Stock Exchange Limited  
Company Announcements Office  
10th Floor, 20 Bond Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**FROM:** Kim Rowe, Company Secretary

**DATE:** 05 May 2005

**PAGES:** 4

**AUSTRALIAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CODE AIX)**

---

**ANNOUNCEMENT HEADING:**

**VICTORIA ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING A380-READY**

The Australian Infrastructure Fund is pleased to announce that Melbourne Airport's main north/south runway is open for business again, less than one month after works commenced to prepare it for the new generation A380 aircraft.

Please refer to the attached media release from Melbourne Airport.

For further enquiries, please contact:

Mitchell King  
Chief Operating Officer  
Australian Infrastructure Fund  
Tel: (03) 9654 4477  
Fax: (03) 9650 6555  
E-mail: [investor\\_relations@aif.net.au](mailto:investor_relations@aif.net.au)  
Website: [www.aif.net.au](http://www.aif.net.au)

**Kim Rowe**  
**Company Secretary**  
**Australian Infrastructure Fund**

## **VICTORIA ONE STEP CLOSER TO BEING A380-READY.**

Melbourne Airport's main north/south runway is open for business again, less than one month after works commenced to prepare it for the new generation A380 aircraft.

Anticipated to take between 1 to 1 ½ months, the project has been completed in just 29 days, with the runway opened this morning by Federal Tourism Minister Fran Bailey and Qantas Chairman Margaret Jackson.

The widening works were the major stage of Melbourne's A380-ready development program and the largest single airfield construction project in the airport's 35-year history.

The works involved laying 7.2 kms of concrete pavement to widen the main north/south runway by 7.5 metres each side so that it can accommodate the huge wing span of the A380 aircraft. Some concrete replacement was undertaken as part of the project and the runway's lighting and other airfield services have been upgraded.

Melbourne Airport CEO Chris Barlow said he was delighted with the excellent project time.

"We have completed a major construction project without an accident or a work place injury, and we have delivered it in record time. This is a credit to the contractor John Holland, the unions and workers on site and my project team," he said.

"I also commend the incredible work of our airline partners, pilots and air traffic controllers in ensuring flights continued to operate smoothly throughout the works period, minimising any impact for passengers."

Curfew-free Melbourne is the only airport in the world to suspend activity on an operational runway to carry-out widening works around the clock. Many airports operate with a curfew which enables night works to occur.

The world-leading strategy adopted by Melbourne Airport has delivered the fastest and safest possible construction, with minimal impact for the airport's passengers and airlines.

Melbourne Airport remained operational 24 hours, 7 days a week throughout the construction process, with all passenger services continuing as normal on the international standard east/west runway throughout the works period.

"The entire upgrade occurred with minimum disruption to our airline customers and the estimated 1.6 million passengers who used the airport while the main runway was closed. The whole project team has been superbly focused on the safest possible conditions and minimum disruption to the traveling public," said Mr Barlow.

Preparation for the new generation A380 is part of a \$220M airport expansion, one of the biggest private sector infrastructure projects currently underway in Australia.

"This additional infrastructure is being delivered without any price increase to airlines or passengers as it all covered by the five year price agreement with have in place with our airline customers. We are one of the lowest charging airports in the world and that will not change because of these works," said Mr Barlow.

#### **MELBOURNE'S A380-READY PROGRAM - AT A GLANCE:**

|                 |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Complete</b> | Apron area   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Construction of two new aircraft parking bays that can accommodate the A380.</li><li>- Replacement of over 30,000m2 of aircraft strength concrete slabs.</li><li>- Creation of 0.6ha of aircraft equipment storage area.</li></ul>                                                                                          |
| <b>Complete</b> | Runway       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Entire runway widened by 15 metres to accommodate the A380's larger wingspan.</li><li>- Replacement and upgrade of runway lighting and aircraft landing aids.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Underway</b> | Terminal     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- International terminal being expanded by over 5000m2</li><li>- Installation of two double tiered aerobridges to allow passengers to board and disembark from both levels of the double decker A380</li><li>- Construction of a new third level above the terminal expansion for use as penthouse airline lounges.</li></ul> |
| <b>TBA</b>      | A380 arrives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 5 of Melbourne's international airlines have placed orders for the A380 aircraft.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

**Further information from Melbourne Airport Media Unit – (03) 9335 3666**