



Lord Howe Island

Airport Runway Extension Feasibility Study

Background

Regular air services play a critical role in Lord Howe Island's tourism-based economy and are a crucial mode of transport for tourists and the local community to access the Island. The community need regular and reliable air services to support local tourism and provide access to vital services and amenities.

Currently QantasLink's Bombardier DHC-8 200 aircraft provides flights to the Island and will continue services until 2023. However, beyond this, QantasLink may not be in an economic or operational position to do so. The DHC-8 200 is QantasLink's only aircraft that can currently service the Island and it is reaching the end of its expected 20 year lifespan.

Why do we need to consider a runway extension?

The current runway length of 888 metres limits the type of commercial aircraft that can viably operate at Lord Howe Island Airport. Without extending the runway, QantasLink and other airlines will be severely restricted by the types of aircraft that can provide air services to the Island.

Although the Lord Howe Island Board has considered other options such as leasing other aircraft able to operate on the Island or getting other airlines to provide the service route, these are all short-term solutions.

We need to start considering our options now for the provision of air services in the long-term, beyond 2023.

Feasibility study

The Board has engaged an external consultant, AECOM Australia Pty Ltd, to undertake a feasibility study to investigate if a runway extension is possible.

The feasibility study will consider the technical, economic and environmental aspects of a possible runway extension, including:

- determining the extension which could be built in line with safety regulations; physical obstacles that could impact landing and take-off; and width of the airfield
- identifying aircraft able to land on the possible extension and airlines interested in providing this service
- the engineering design of the extension
- environmental and world heritage impact studies
- the estimated construction cost of the extension
- the economic benefits of the extension.

The initial report will be made available in a few months for public comment.

We will keep you informed throughout the year as we progress with the feasibility study.

More information

If you would like more information, please:

Call (02) 6563 2066
(Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm)

Email administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au

Visit www.lhib.nsw.gov.au to read the frequently asked questions.

