

# Environmental Management

*The new runway project has been designed to minimise or avoid effects on the environment where reasonably practicable. Extensive technical studies to design, assess and mitigate the effects of the new runway have been undertaken.*



## Commitment

Continual improvement in environmental management



## Sustainable

Working towards sustainable development of Perth Airport



## Partnerships

Building enduring environmental partnerships with Government and the community



*Building on a proven record of environmental management, we are moving towards a sustainable future through integrated planning, adoption of new technologies and innovative solutions.*

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## Perth Airport is committed to effective environmental management

*Perth Airport's primary role is to operate a major international airport. In doing this, we are committed to effective environmental management of the estate.*

The Perth Airport Master Plan 2014 includes the Perth Airport Environment Strategy which outlines our approach to the management of environmental factors and sustainable practice which encompass our Environment Management Framework.

The Environment Strategy addresses environmental factors which have been identified as having the potential to be impacted by airport development and operations.

These include:

- Aboriginal heritage and engagement,
- air quality,
- biodiversity (flora, fauna and wetlands),
- ground based noise,
- groundwater and surface water,
- hazardous materials and spill response,
- resource use (energy, water and waste), and
- soil.

Importantly, to achieve a balanced approach to development and the environment, we work to minimise the impacts of our projects, such as the new runway, where reasonably practicable. However, it is unavoidable that some areas of environmental significance will be affected, mostly through the clearing of land.

## What approval process is undertaken?

*In 1997, the operation and management of Perth Airport was transferred from the Commonwealth of Australia to Perth Airport Pty Ltd under a 50-year lease with a 49-year option for extension.*

Projects on the airport estate are governed by Commonwealth legislation and approvals for development, such as the new runway, are undertaken via the Commonwealth *Airport Act 1996* process of a Major Development Plan.

The Major Development Plan has been prepared to meet the requirements under the *Airports Act 1996* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for environmental impacts. The Major Development Plan details the extensive environmental assessment that has been undertaken for the new runway.

# How will the new runway project manage environmental impacts?

As part of our environmental impact assessment, we have undertaken extensive technical studies to design, assess and mitigate the impact of the new runway across the following areas:

- air quality and greenhouse gas,
- fauna,
- flora,
- geology and soils,
- ground-based noise,
- hydrology, and
- landscape and visual impact.

## Impacts due to clearing

While we understand and recognise the importance of achieving positive environmental outcomes, the development of the new runway requires clearing of approximately 129 hectares of vegetation that is in good or better quality.

Some areas of environmental importance will be impacted as a result of essential work such as clearing. This includes:

- approximately 44 hectares of the threatened ecological community, Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain,
- two threatened flora species, *Conospermum undulatum* and *Macarthuria keigheryi*, and
- black cockatoo habitat.

The NRP area includes introduced species and declared pests and weeds of national significance that are not of conservation significance.

The clearing will result in the unavoidable loss of habitat that this vegetation provides for various fauna. Mitigation efforts include translocation of species where appropriate.

Forty per cent of the vegetation within the site is infested with *Phytophthora cinnamomic* (dieback). Weed and pest management measures and vehicle movement management will be applied to mitigate the risk of dieback infection to other areas within the estate and into surrounding communities.

## Environmental offset strategy

To mitigate the impacts of vegetation clearing, we will implement an environmental offset, aligned with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* Environmental Offsets Policy (October 2012) (the offsets policy) and will focus on addressing the impact specifically to the EPBC Act listed *Macarthuria keigheryi*, *Conospermum undulatum* and Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Although it is acknowledged that offsets do not reduce the actual impacts of a development, it may change the net effect of a proposal on the environment because of the reparation or 'environmental gain' achieved through those actions.

The development of the offset strategy has included:

- undertaking an extensive assessment of the environmental values within the estate, and specifically the new runway project area,
- identifying suitable offsite areas and assessing the values contained within those areas,
- applying the environmental offsets calculation guidelines to confirm that offsets areas met the policy requirements, and
- identifying suitable additional measures including indirect offsets such as research programs.

We propose to transfer direct offset land, at no cost, to the State Government for protection in perpetuity.

For further information on the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy's Offset Policy, please visit: [environment.gov.au](http://environment.gov.au).

## Proposed environmental offset overview



Banksia Woodlands	Black cockatoo habitat	<i>Conospermum undulatum</i>	<i>Macarthuria keigheryi</i>
<b>Direct Offset</b>			
• Offsite land purchase	• Offsite land purchase	• Support existing translocation programs	• Support existing translocation programs
<b>Indirect Offset</b>			
• Research projects (e.g. surveys, habitat requirements) • Threat abatement	• Research projects (e.g. nesting boxes) • Threat abatement	• Research projects (e.g. propagation, translocation) • Threat abatement	• Research projects (e.g. propagation, translocation) • Threat abatement



## What does constructing a new runway involve?

*The new runway will occupy 293-hectares, be 3,000 metres long and will be located parallel to the existing main runway with a 2 kilometre separation so that both runways can be used independently.*

The new runway project will also include taxiways, lighting, navigational aids, other ground-based infrastructure and emergency response facilities.

Construction will take four to five years, with construction generally taking place between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

## How will environmental impacts be managed during construction?

Prior to any works commencing on site, the construction contractor will be required to develop and implement a comprehensive Construction Environment Management Plan that addresses the identified environmental aspects and mitigation measures. Key elements of the plan include identifying management measures to mitigate impacts, the management and reporting of environmental incidents, community complaints and consultation, and performance monitoring and compliance reporting.

### Did you know?

Located within the Airport South precinct, the Kwenda Marlark Wetland has been created and planted with local native species and is the setting for walking trails where you can spot habitat regulars such as bandicoots, frogs and scorpions.



### FIND OUT MORE

For more information about the new runway project and to register to receive updates visit [newrunway.com.au](http://newrunway.com.au)

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