

Western Victoria Aviation Precinct Ballarat

Project Cost: \$15 million

Runway upgrade: \$12 million

Upgraded terminal building and patient transfer facility: \$3 million



Overview

Runway

The runway upgrade will rebuild the original 1,250 metre section of the airport's main runway, following a stage one upgrade which added 550 metres, taking it to a total length of 1,800 metres.

The original 1,250 metre section is at the end of its useful life and needs upgrading. It is not certified to accommodate aircraft heavier than 5,700kg and needs ongoing repairs to safely remain open.

Upgraded terminal building and patient transfer facility

The repurposing of the unused Ballarat Airport terminal building and creation of an aircraft apron (the area where aircraft are parked, loaded, and unloaded) will accommodate aeromedical flight services which use the airport to transfer patients to and from Ballarat. Patient transfers currently take place in the open air and in all weather.

The refurbished terminal building will also host aerial firefighting teams based at Ballarat Airport during summer.

Benefits

Economic

The runway upgrade will see the runway rebuilt to the same standard as the newly extended section. This will extend the runway's operational life and enable the investment in the stage one runway upgrade to be fully realised.

The runway upgrade will enhance commercial aviation opportunities by:

- Creating an air freight capability for high value and express parcels, completing the vision for the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) to be an air, road and rail multi-modal precinct
- Enabling the operation of larger aircraft for industry, which will allow businesses to locate facilities and workers in Ballarat while providing access to other markets, customers and suppliers for industry in Western Victoria
- Allowing the operation of Large Aerial Tankers (LAT) during the summer fire season, greatly increasing the bushfire detection and suppression capabilities for Western Victoria

- Supporting Ballarat based aviation businesses to perform maintenance on larger, more sophisticated aircraft, resulting in additional apprentices being trained at the airport, and
- Setting the stage for the future introduction of airline services into the Western Victorian region which will provide a huge boost to economic growth, productivity and tourism along with improved lifestyle and social benefits for our community.

Community

The refurbishment of the airport terminal building will add to the comfort, safety and dignity of patients being transferred via Ballarat Airport. Without this project, some patients may have to be transferred by road or wait longer for a smaller aircraft to become available.

Regional

An upgraded runway will enable most aircraft types operated within Australia to fly in and out of Ballarat Airport. This may mean the introduction of an airline service, or the capability to have large groups such as sporting teams visit Ballarat by air, or having the LAT fleet based in Ballarat, far closer to the fire risk than the current base.



The upgraded runway and development of an aeromedical transfer and emergency services facility will allow the full suite of medical transport services to continue to be provided to residents of Ballarat and Western Victoria.