

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

COMMENCEMENT OF RUNWAY WORKS AT GURNEY AIRPORT, MILNE BAY PROVINCE

The National Airports Corporation wishes to advise the travelling public, airline operators and key stakeholders that we will soon commence works on the Airside of Gurney Airport in Milne Bay Province, as part of our airport upgrade works under the Civil Aviation Development Investment Project II (CADIP II). This transformative project includes the resurfacing of the existing runway with hot-mixed asphalt and the upgrading of associated facilities to meet international safety and operational standards. This work is expected to commence in January 2025 and run through to July 2025, subject to Weather and or any unforeseen event that may affect the commencement and progress.

Timing and Impact on Air Travel

NAC has carefully considered the project timeline to minimize inconvenience to the travelling public, particularly during the peak travel period. The project must now proceed as scheduled to meet contractual milestones, financial requirements, and the broader goal of completing these improvements on time.

During this period, travellers may experience some disruptions, including the temporary reduction in aircraft sizes servicing Gurney Airport. NAC acknowledges that these adjustments may pose inconveniences, but they are necessary to ensure the timely and successful delivery of a safer and more efficient airport for the region. Nonetheless, works will be undertaken in such a manner and timing where Regular Passenger Transport services into and out of Gurney are minimally affected.

Works will be implemented in the following stages and timing, with the critical stages being stages 9 to 12 where the aircraft size will be very limited.

Stage	Work area	Nature of works	Period	Available Runway Length (m)
1	Apron widening (Eastern portion)	Apron expansion works	01 st Sept 24 to 31 st Dec 2024	Full Runway length
2	Apron widening (GA)	Apron expansion	01 st Jan 25 to 01 st Mar 25	Runway length varies subject to Runway works
3	Apron widening (Western portion)	Apron expansion	2 nd Mar to 10 th Apr 25	Runway length varies subject to Runway works
4	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	1 st Jan to 17 th Jan 25	1800
5	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	18 th Jan to 25 th Jan 25	1650
6	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	26 th Jan to 2 nd Feb 25	1500
7	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	3 rd Feb to 10 th Feb 25	1350
8	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	11 th Feb to 18 th Feb 25	1200
9	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	19 th Feb to 26 th Feb 25	1050
10	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	27 th Feb to 6 th Mar 25	900
11	Runway, Taxiway & existing Apron	Asphalt Surfacing	7 th Mar to 30 th Mar 25	850
12	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	31 st Mar to 1 st Apr 25	1110

13	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	2 nd Apr to 9 th Apr 25	1260
14	Runway & existing Apron	Asphalt Surfacing	10 th Apr to 4 th Jun 25	1410
15	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	5 th Jun to 12 th Jun 25	1560
16	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	13 th Jun to 20 th Jun 25	1710
17	Runway	Asphalt Surfacing	21 st Jun to 1 st Jul 25	1860

Project Update

The project commenced in April this year and is approximately 14% complete with staff housing, the temporary terminal building works and fencing progress considerably well backed up by the apron works on stage 1. The contractor has faced a few delays throughout the year due mainly to inclement weather and procurement/shipment schedules. Nonetheless, the contractor is recovering against its schedule with a major push starting in January 2024 on stage 4 which will help keep the contractor on track to complete works in May 2026 (all factors permitting).

Project Benefits

The Gurney Airport runway works are part of a larger initiative under CADIP II to elevate the airport's standard and cater to future growth in passenger numbers and aircraft operations. Key improvements include:

- Enhanced runway strength and durability through the application of 75mm hot-mixed asphalt.
- Expansion of the apron to accommodate modern aircraft.
- Installation of advanced airfield ground lighting systems for improved safety.
- Upgraded drainage systems to address long-term resilience against weather impacts.

The benefits of these upgrades will be felt for years to come, enabling Gurney Airport to serve as a critical gateway for economic growth, tourism, and improved connectivity for the people of Milne Bay Province.

Our Commitment

NAC recognizes the critical role of aviation in connecting communities and the importance of Gurney Airport as a regional hub. While the construction phase may bring temporary challenges, we ask for the public's understanding and patience as we embark on this journey to deliver an airport that meets international standards and serves the future needs of Milne Bay Province and Papua New Guinea.

The upgrades at Gurney Airport are a testament to the Government's unwavering commitment to investing in infrastructure that drives economic growth, enhances safety, and elevates passenger experience.

NAC is committed to ensuring the safety of passengers and aircraft operations at Gurney Airport. The Contractor and NAC-CADIP team on the ground will manage and minimize delays to ensure work is expedited without compromising quality.

Approved for release

Dominic Kaumu, ML OBE
Acting Managing Director & CEO
National Airports Corporation