BRISBANE AIRPORT AUSTRALIA

BRISBANE'S NEW
RUNWAY

WHY DOES IT TAKE EIGHT YEARS?

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OVERVIEW

- A 3.3 km runway
- 12 km of taxiways
- Access roads
- A 1.7km floodway and other significant drainage facilities
- Navigational aids
- Airfield infrastructure and landscaping

PROJECT UPDATE
JULY 2017

Why is it taking eight years to build Brisbane's new runway?

Eight years sounds like a long time to build a runway, particularly when many roads, tunnels, bridges and buildings around Brisbane are constructed much more quickly.

The critical difference is the ground conditions at Brisbane Airport and the time it takes to build a flat, solid and reliable base on this land.

The new runway is located at sea level on what was historically the Brisbane River delta. As a result the underlying soil is made up of very soft, waterlogged mud and silt.

Every development at the airport has been through a process of engineered compression to form a solid base before building up.

Typically, this involves placing sand (or similar material) on the site to compress the soils below to the required firmness. On the new runway site, this process has taken four years.

Some areas of the site have settled as much as two metres during this process.

Now complete we can begin constructing the runway, taxiways and the rest of the airfield.

Can we build it faster by spending more money or using more resources?

No. Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) built in as many smarts as possible to optimise the ground preparation works including the installation of 330,000 wick drains (the largest wick drain project in Australia) to extract water from the soil as fast as possible.

If we began to build any earlier without allowing the site to settle we would run the risk of the runway breaking up and having to start all over again.

So here's how we are progressing:

1. Access roads, site compounds constructed, and site cleared of vegetation. (2012)
2. 11 million cubic metres of sand has been dredged from an approved site in Moreton Bay and placed on the site at varying heights depending on the softness of the underlying soils. It will be left to settle and compact over a four year period. (2014-2018)
3. The design and layout of the new runway, taxiways, pavements, new aprons and other airport infrastructure is being finalised. (2014-2017)
4. Construction will begin in 2018
5. The new runway is scheduled to be fully operational in 2020

1. 11 million cubic metres of pristine sand from Moreton Bay has been placed on the new runway site to compress the underlying soils to provide a flat stable base on which to build.

About Brisbane Airport: Brisbane Airport is the third busiest airport in Australia and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is Australia's largest capital city airport (by land size) and has two major terminals providing services to 31 airlines flying to 80 international and domestic destinations. In FY17 Brisbane Airport welcomed more than 22.7 million passengers through its facilities.

For information visit bne.com.au/newrunway