Welcome to the sixth edition of Take Off, a newsletter keeping you updated on Brisbane’s new runway. Take Off covers all of the project’s major milestones as we head towards opening in 2020.

With less than 12 months to go until Brisbane’s new runway (BNR) becomes operational, it is well worth exploring the incredibly thorough work being done behind the scenes to ensure all agencies are prepared for the operational changes to come.

It is also the perfect time to explore the many opportunities BNR will enable for Brisbane and Queensland.

Gert-Jan de Graaff
Chief Executive Officer
Brisbane Airport Corporation

For anyone who has flown in or out of Brisbane Airport in the last nine months, you may have noticed just how much the construction program of the new runway is coming along.

So much so that Xs have been placed along the 3.3km-long pavement surface just to be sure pilots above don’t mistake it as being ready to land on.

In addition to these giant white Xs, two 6m x 6m vertical flashing Xs have been placed at each end of the runway to indicate that the runway is not yet open.
With the new runway on track to open mid-2020, and as construction nears completion, the team is now in the process of executing its Operational Readiness and Testing (ORAT) Management Plan.

ORAT is the coordination of activities that need to be undertaken in order to ensure everyone and everything is ready for the runway to open next year. This involves many different organisations working together, including Airservices Australia, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Brisbane Airport Corporation. The objective of the ORAT Management Plan is to ensure all stakeholders are ready to implement operational changes required on the scheduled date, while ensuring all safety, security and regulatory compliance obligations are met.

THE FOUR KEY ELEMENTS OF THE ORAT SCOPE ARE:

1. **Infrastructure testing and commissioning.**
   - New ground lighting, navigational aids and control tower systems

2. **Business readiness activities.**
   - Updating aeronautical publications, procedures and manuals

3. **Regulatory compliance.**
   - Achieving CASA approvals

4. **Airspace implementation.**
   - Implementation of new flight paths in and out of Brisbane Airport

Brisbane Airport Corporation is working closely with stakeholders on all four elements in preparation for parallel runway operations to commence mid next year.
Construction update

‘It’s been a hard day’s night’

They say a picture tells a thousand words. So, it is safe to say that several photographs will be incredibly telling when it comes to providing an accurate construction update.

Since our last edition of Take Off, the airfield has really come along in leaps and bounds, with the team working day and night to ensure the construction program remains ahead of schedule. The biggest change over the last few months being the pavements for the new runway and its supporting taxiways.

The team has completed the Fine Crushed Rock layer of the runway and the Modified Crushed Rock layer of the taxiways. The high-strength asphalt layer that tops the runway has also been completed, with the final layer of the taxiways now more than 90 per cent complete.

Movement Area Guidance signs are currently being installed across the airfield to differentiate the taxiways and rapid exits, and the team is also installing the airside fencing around the perimeter of the airfield.

Brisbane’s new runway remains on track to be operational mid-2020.
Oh, the places you’ll go!

It’s easy to forget that Brisbane’s new runway is something that has been in the works since 1971. The government at the time had the foresight to pick Brisbane Airport’s current location, understanding a wide-spaced parallel runway system would ultimately be needed to cater for growth.

And they were right. Brisbane Airport’s passenger numbers are forecast to double to 50 million by 2040, but when we look at the growth happening in Brisbane today, it is clear to see that the future is now.

Over the past two years, Brisbane Airport has secured new services from seven Asian airlines. Qantas has also confirmed a four-weekly Chicago service and three-weekly San Francisco service commencing from April 2020, bringing Brisbane Airport’s connectivity to 85 destinations (51 domestic and 34 international).

This number is set to grow. Once Brisbane’s new runway is fully operational, the opportunities it will enable for Brisbane and Queensland are endless. Brisbane Airport will have the greatest capacity and most efficient runway system of any airport in Australia, bringing it up with the likes of major international aviation hubs like Singapore and Hong Kong.

And while the number of flight movements won’t automatically double come mid-2020, it is assured that Brisbane Airport will be in the best position possible to attract new airlines and new routes, connecting Queensland to the world more than ever before. The future is looking exciting!