



Archerfield Airport Corporation

ABN 31 081 619 123
ACN 081 619 123

PO Box 747
Archerfield Qld 4108
Top floor Terminal building
Grenier Drive Archerfield Airport

p (07) 3275 8000
f (07) 3275 8001

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Archerfield Airport Named Australia’s Metropolitan Airport of the Year

Brisbane’s Archerfield Airport has been named Australia’s Metropolitan Airport of the Year for 2021 by the Australian Airports Association, thanks to an extensive program of innovative infrastructure modernisation and improvement.

Archerfield Airport was Brisbane’s main international hub in the 1930s. The award recognises the extraordinary efforts undertaken by Archerfield Airport Corporation (AAC) to rejuvenate its ageing infrastructure and lay the foundations for an exciting future to complement its rich history.

Over the past 12 months, AAC has completed Stage 1 of Project AIM (Airside Infrastructure Modernisation), representing the largest infrastructure development at the airport for more than 50 years, including a longer, stronger main runway, upgraded associated taxiways and a new lighting system.

AAC also recently completed the civil works associated with Phase 1 of the airport’s first industrial estate (*Transition – Archerfield Logistics Estate*), opening up more than 13 hectares of leasable land ideal for ‘last mile’ logistics, cold storage, aerospace and manufacturing businesses.

AAC General Manager Rod Parry said the award was fitting recognition of what a small, dedicated team could achieve.

“Project AIM has transformed Archerfield Airport with a modern runway and lighting system that have significantly boosted operational efficiency, economic performance, safety and environmental management,” Mr Parry said.

“Modernised facilities mean Archerfield can better meet the needs of existing and future operators and adapt to aeronautical demand. The runway’s increased strength will enable next generation, quieter aircraft to operate from Archerfield.

“The installation of new LED airfield ground lighting, along with Runway End Safety Areas at both ends, Precision Approach Path Indicators, Runway Threshold Identification Lights, and a new Airport Lighting Equipment Room, means Archerfield can operate safely in a wider range of weather conditions and provide an unmatched training experience for student pilots.

“Project AIM has instigated a surge in enquiries from aeronautical and non-aeronautical businesses interested in working at Archerfield.

“A new, purpose-built, 2,000m² hangar for Flight One is almost finished and two more hangars are in the planning stages.

“The runway improvements are expected to generate more than \$400 million in economic value-adding over the life of the works.”



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In addition to Project AIM Stage 1, the Phase 1 works for Archerfield's new industrial precinct, *Transition*, are complete. The works include the construction of a new intersection along Boundary Road, more than 500 metres of internal roads and associated services, drainage, lighting, CCTV, earthworks and centralised fire tanks and pumps.

Transition will ultimately provide 100,000m² of modern under-roof space. The first building on the estate, an A-grade, 4,500m² under-roof logistics warehouse, is currently under construction and will be available for lease from early 2022.

"All this has been achieved over the past year by a team of only 18 full-time-equivalent staff, during a global pandemic and while Archerfield maintained 24/7 operations. Archerfield recorded the second highest movement figures in Australia during construction," Mr Parry said.

"It has been astounding what we have achieved in only a year and a credit to the Archerfield team who worked tirelessly, conscientiously and cheerfully to bring Project AIM Stage 1 to life while servicing our operators and tenants."

AAC consulted extensively with stakeholders and collaborated with industry partners and experts to ensure the most efficient construction methodologies were utilised to minimise disruptions, maximise materials being recycled, and minimise cost. This included the adoption of road construction and recycling techniques that have rarely been applied to airport pavements, reducing the volume of imported raw materials by more than 30,000m³, taking more than 5,000 trucks off the roads, and saving more than 800 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gases.

This innovative construction methodology is transferrable across Australian airports and demonstrates how airport operators can successfully improve and reuse materials within their existing pavements in a sustainable and cost-effective manner.

AAC would like to congratulate Enever Electrical for winning the Corporate Project of the Year Award in the Major, Metro and Capital City Airport category for their significant contribution to the Project AIM Stage 1 works.

Archerfield is home to a range of aeromedical, rescue and emergency services and its improved infrastructure will help achieve better patient outcomes and improved natural disaster response. Project AIM improvements will also facilitate better freight, trade and connection services for remote communities.

When Archerfield was privatised, most of its infrastructure was nearing the end of its functional life. Prudent investment decisions over two decades positioned Archerfield to launch Project AIM and a Major Development Plan was approved in June 2019. The \$17.8 million project was initially expected to take 10 years to achieve until Archerfield successfully applied to the Queensland Government's Building Acceleration Fund and received a \$13.8 million interest-free loan. This enabled AAC to fast-track Stage 1 of Project AIM and bring forward Stages 2 and 3.

Archerfield Airport is recognised by the Queensland Government as an airport of strategic economic significance. It supports more than 150 diverse businesses and tenants, 450 full-time-equivalent jobs and 400 student pilots annually.

The airport has a rich aviation history: in 1934, it facilitated the first east-west crossing of the Pacific Ocean and Australia's first international airmail services to England. Qantas began operating passenger services to Singapore from Archerfield and it was a major air base during World War II.

The Australian Airports Association's National Airport Industry Awards celebrate and honour contributions and achievements made by AAA members and acknowledge the organisations and individuals who have achieved



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excellence within Australia's airport industry. The Metropolitan Airport of the Year category recognises airports located in the greater metropolitan area of a capital city.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Tracey Wood 0412 180 665