

Alice Springs Airport 2020 Preliminary Draft Master Plan and COVID-19

May 2020

The Alice Springs Airport 2020 Preliminary Draft Master Plan has been prepared with care based on information available at the time of writing. Please note that the content for this master plan was developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and does not take account of the effect this may have on the business of Alice Springs Airport. This means that some of the content and/or timing of the plan may change as a result.

Response to COVID-19

Response measures that Alice Springs Airport put in place to ensure the safety of staff, contractors, visitors and travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic include:

- increased personal protective equipment (PPE) for security personnel at Security Screening Points including masks, gloves and hand sanitiser
- enhanced cleaning regime in key areas of the terminal
- increased hygiene protocols for visitors and workers in the terminal
- temporary closure of food, beverage and retail outlets
- visual cues for social distancing at main congregation areas such as the baggage claim
- roll out of government health messaging
- reduced operating hours and restricted access to the terminal
- support for tenants including relief packages
- establishing an 1800 community hotline
- regular communication and updates to airport stakeholders.

Alice Springs Airport continues to work closely with authorities and follows the relevant guidance provided by the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.

Impacts from COVID-19

Passenger numbers at Alice Springs Airport have significantly decreased due to a reduction in commercial air services resulting from government travel restrictions. Terminal access remains restricted to airport personnel and passengers with a valid ticket only. General aviation has also seen a significant decrease, but essential services such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service continue to operate. The Asia Pacific Aircraft Storage facility has experienced an increase in usage, mostly notably four Singapore Airlines Airbus A380s stored since April 2020.

It is expected that the COVID-19 pandemic will have some, limited impact to the forecasts contained within the Alice Springs Airport 2020 Preliminary Draft Master Plan, which are conservative.

The Alice Springs Airport 2020 Preliminary Draft Master Plan is a 20 year planning document and its growth projection forecasts are modest in nature. As such, it is expected the conservative forecasts will be realised, despite the impacts of COVID-19.