

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Higgins to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics:

Aerodromes Update

1. Please provide an update on the progress of the Batchelor Aerodrome Master Plan?

- Batchelor Airport has significant potential to develop its role as a commercial general aviation hub for the region.
- A concept Master Plan for Batchelor Airport (aerodrome) has been developed with a staged delivery strategy, in consultation with local community members, businesses and industry stakeholders.
- The draft airport concept Master Plan is currently being reviewed prior to its release to stakeholders and finalisation.
- The development of Batchelor Airport has been identified as a priority in the 10 Year Infrastructure Plan and the Master Plan will be used to inform this development.
- The NT Government is currently undertaking improvement works to address a number of current safety and amenity issues at the Aerodrome. These works are in line with the proposed Master Plan.
- In April 2018, a contract was awarded to construct a sealed access road and carpark at Batchelor Aerodrome, construction works are ongoing and are scheduled for completion in July 2018.
- The design of the proposed new Apron and taxiway is nearing completion and the construction is scheduled for completion in early 2019.

2. In BP4, under the revote, there is a jointly funded \$910,000 allocation to “upgrade the Elcho Island aerodrome to meet Civil Aviation Safety

Authority standards”. In what way is the aerodrome NOT compliant to the safety standards? How soon will this work be done?

- The Northern Territory Government carries out a bi-annual Civil Aviation Safety Authority standards compliance inspection on the 70 Northern Territory Government maintained aerodromes.
- The inspection of Elcho Island Aerodrome highlighted the existing apron had reached capacity to cater for the current volume of planes operating at the aerodrome.
- The inspection report recommended to upgrade the apron. The detailed design is underway and construction is scheduled for completion in the 2018-19 financial year.

3. There is also a \$4.6M allocation under the revote for the Bathurst Island aerodrome reconstruction and extension to 1600m to meet Civil Aviation Safety Authority standards. How soon will this work be done?

A contract for Bathurst Island Aerodrome reconstruction and extension project was awarded on 18 June 2018. Works are scheduled to commence on site on 20 August 2018, with an anticipated completion date of 1 October 2018.

4. Generally about the asset management of aerodromes....you have provided us with figures for “aerodrome operators for runway inspection and medivacs” for the costs of those services across the Top End. There appears to have been a noticeable increase in service expenses at those aerodromes. For example, from \$59,250 for the services to Palumpa, Peppimenarti and Port Keats aerodromes to \$82,015 for the same work.

The difference in the figures is two months (Sept 2016 to April 2017 v July 2017 to April 2018) – is that the reason for the increases?

- There is no material cost increase between financial year 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- The key reason the expenses for the period from July 2017 to April 2018 are greater than the period from September 2016 to April 2017 is that it includes an additional two months of expenditure.
- Additionally, the month by month expenditure may vary by community due to the ad-hoc nature of services, such as medical evacuations.