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Media release

NSW Government and Newcastle Airport to kick start Astra Aerolab commercial precinct

Wednesday, 12 September 2018

NSW Deputy Premier, John Barilaro MP, today announced \$11.7 million in funding to create a world-leading aerospace commercial precinct adjacent to Newcastle Airport.

Through the Growing Local Economies Program, the grant will provide the foundation for Newcastle Airport to kick off the development of Astra Aerolab, a nationally significant precinct for defence, aerospace and advanced manufacturing related research, manufacturing and businesses set to generate over 5,500 jobs in the Hunter region.

Making the announcement at Newcastle Airport, Mr Barilaro said this is an exciting announcement in one of the state's most exciting industries and regions.

"This investment will capitalise on the existing economic strengths of the region, securing 76 hectares of special land committed to defence and aviation-related industry and employment. The new Astra Aerolab will house maintenance and support services for Australian fighter jets and drive \$246 million into the NSW economy," Mr Barilaro added.

Located adjacent to the Airport, Astra Aerolab is a unique development with direct airside access from some lots. It will provide a world-leading innovation hub for defence and aerospace, as well as non-aviation related industries such as advanced manufacturing, technology, education, mining and operations.

Port Stephens Council and Newcastle City Council, joint shareholders of Newcastle Airport, will contribute \$7.86m to co-fund the \$19.66m project to activate the lead-in road from Williamtown Drive and site preparation for four development areas comprising 7.4 hectares.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock said, "We appreciate the on-going support of the NSW Government and applaud its vision to ensure that NSW has the vital infrastructure to support and accelerate economic growth. The funding allows us to kick start the development that will grow the region's profile, create jobs, drive trade and business, and enhance education and community outcomes."

The Airport is already home to tenants including BAE Systems and Jetstar. Astra Aerolab provides further opportunities for businesses supporting the sustainment of the new F35 Joint Strike Fighter jets as well as other aviation and aerospace activities, and will provide the ability locally to sustain other platforms.

"We are very proud to be working with the NSW Government on Astra Aerolab. As a community-owned asset, Newcastle Airport takes its role in generating economic and social outcomes seriously. We want to create a precinct that fuels pride as well as growth – a place where people and businesses want to work. In the Hunter, Astra Aerolab, adjacent to Newcastle Airport, RAAF Base Williamtown, and coupled with our unbeatable lifestyle will do just that."

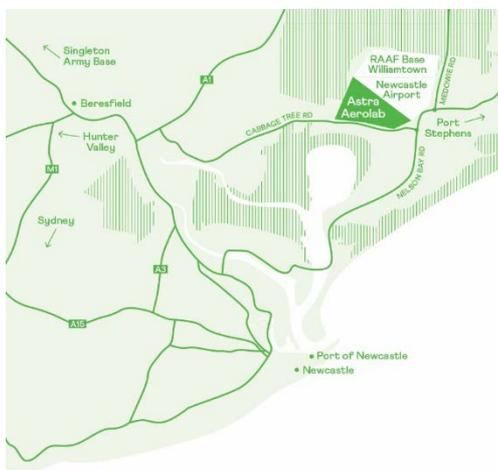


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Astra Aerolab will feature:

- > 46 hectares of developable land, up to 73 lots
- > B7 – Business Park zoning
- > DA for subdivision approved and activated
- > Adjoining Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamtown
- > Direct airside access for selected lots
- > Leading opportunities for advanced manufacturing, defence and education
- > Outstanding onsite lifestyle will include cafes, parks and cycleways
- > Best of the Hunter region – affordable living, quality education, beaches, vineyards and more



For more information visit astraerolab.com.au

Ends.

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Notes for the Editor:

Newcastle Airport <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/>

Newcastle Airport Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ntlairport/>

Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/NTLairport>

Newcastle Airport Master Plan: <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

Astra Aerolab <https://astraerolab.com.au/>

About Newcastle Airport

- > Newcastle Airport is New South Wales' second busiest airport.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to nine direct destinations and onward to more than 65 world-wide destinations with just one stop.
- > In March 2018, a direct service to Adelaide commenced.
- > A direct Auckland service will operate from 22 November 2018 to 17 February 2019.
- > In 2017, Newcastle Airport had a record number of passengers pass through the terminal - 1,276,463 passengers.
- > The record throughput is a result of 25-month consecutive year-on-year monthly passenger growth recorded up until December 2017.
- > A record-breaking 4,823 passengers travelled through Newcastle Airport on Thursday 24 November (the day before Newcastle Supercars). The same weekend (Thurs-Mon), saw more than 21,000 through the Airport.
- > In February 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 17 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995. 2018 will see the 18 millionth passenger.
- > Newcastle Airport is the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, with more than \$43 billion annual output and 48,500 businesses.
- > A significant economic driver, Newcastle Airport contributes more than \$1.1 billion to the state's economy each year. Of this, \$300 million is direct to the visitor economy, supporting 3,300 jobs.
- > Newcastle Airport is internationally ready, the international arrivals and departures fit-out completed in August 2017.
- > In its 70th anniversary year, Newcastle Airport continues to work with its airline partners to increase the number of flights to our current destinations, to add direct flights to even more destinations, and to work tirelessly to secure an international destination.
- > The more people that choose to fly from Newcastle Airport will provide evidence to the airlines that the demand truly exists and that our region deserves more.
- > On 22 March 2018, Newcastle Airport released its 60-year Master Plan which includes a 20-year blueprint for growth, projections and business development of the Airport.
- > On the same day, a new direct jet service commenced to Adelaide operated by FlyPelican. Adelaide represents the first new major city route since the introduction of Gold Coast in 2004.
- > 30 minutes north of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport is located adjacent to RAAF Base Williamtown on land leased from Department of Defence.
- > Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd is jointly owned by Newcastle City Council and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.