



**Newcastle™
Airport**

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Media release

First major contracts for Astra Aerolab works

Friday, 8 March 2019

Astra Aerolab, Newcastle Airport's newly acquired and globally significant Defence and aerospace precinct is one step closer to becoming a reality with local firm Northrop Consulting Engineers and civil contractor KCE selected for the commencement of early stage 1 works.

In September 2018, the NSW Government awarded an \$11.7million grant under the Restart NSW Growing Local Economies program as a catalyst for activity on the site. These are the first major contracts associated with that grant.

Northrop Consulting Engineers, based in Charlestown, has been engaged as the Principal Design Consultant with a contract valued at \$800,000 and an anticipated delivery time frame of 30 weeks.

Civil contractors KCE, based across the Newcastle, Hunter Valley and New England Regions, are the Preferred Contractor to undertake site preparation works with a contract valued at \$400,000.

"This milestone is a strong signal that Astra is not far from reality, nor are the 5000+ highly skilled, high value jobs that it will deliver," said Newcastle Airport CEO Dr Peter Cock.

"Progressing these first contracts for Astra Aerolab is a very proud moment for the Airport. We have taken a great idea, added some government funding and a significant investment from our shareholders and are now about to turn the first sod."

NSW Deputy Premier, John Barilaro MP, says this is a great example of the State Government working with local government and private enterprise to drive jobs and growth in regional Australia.

"The NSW Government is pleased and proud to support Newcastle Airport's innovative aerospace precinct. The Hunter is the state's biggest regional economy and the airport and RAAF base at Williamstown are absolutely key to its future growth."

"With that in mind, our \$11.7million investment is about more than jobs and the \$246 million Astra Aerolab will generate for the NSW economy. It's about this government continuing to invest in the Hunter"

Both contracts were offered through an open tender process which ran across December and January and attracted 11 submissions.

The City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council, as the owners of Newcastle Airport, have invested significant time and dollars to ensure the 76ha parcel of land has been prepared for the commencement of early works.

Site preparation includes the engagement of the Registered Aboriginal Parties of Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council, Nur-Run-Gee and Mur-Roo-Ma to undertake community collections across the site to recover Aboriginal artefacts.

Local ecological experts, Anderson Environment and Planning, have also been engaged to relocate native mammals and reptiles from the site prior to the commencement of the development.

Ends.

Further information

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Astra Aerolab: Key facts

- > 73 lots on 46 hectares of developable land
- > Adjoining Newcastle Airport and RAAF Base Williamstown
- > Direct airside access for selected lots
- > Outstanding onsite lifestyle will include cafes, parks and cycleways
- > Best of the Hunter region – affordable living, quality education, beaches, vineyards and more
- > 5,500 new jobs
- > \$19.66M project funded by the NSW Government, City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council
- > \$246M economic boost
- > Population of Greater Newcastle – 500 000 and growing

Astra Aerolab is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with The City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council.



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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

- > Named 'Major Airport of the Year' at the 2018 Australian Airports Association Industry Awards.
- > Newcastle Airport is the second international gateway into New South Wales and the second busiest airport in the state.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to nine direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.
- > Direct international flights to Auckland New Zealand will operate 22 November 2018 - 17 February 2019. Operated by Virgin Australia, the 13-week seasonal service is the first international route in 16 years.
- > FY17/18 passenger results saw Newcastle Airport break its all-time FY record with 1,272,634 travellers passing through the terminal.
- > 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 December 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 18 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995.
- > 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 more international destinations.
- > 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.
- > 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 City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.