

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 August 2012

Runway stop bars introduced to enhance airport safety

A major new initiative to enhance safety at Sydney Airport has commenced operation.

Runway stop bars have been installed at Sydney Airport to complement current airfield safety practices and to better facilitate low visibility operations, bringing Sydney Airport in line with world's best practice.

Stop bars serve as a visual cue to pilots and vehicle drivers, minimising the risk of runway incursions.

Stop bars consist of a series of inset red lights installed across the width of the taxiway at each runway entry point, as well as elevated lights on the side of each taxiway.

When an aircraft or vehicle is cleared by Air Traffic Control to enter a runway, the stop bar lights are extinguished and green "lead on" lights will illuminate, providing the aircraft with a path on to the runway.

Pilots or airfield drivers will continue to receive verbal clearance before entering the runway, in addition to the stop bars.

Stop bars have been installed at 47 locations across Sydney Airport's three runways over the past 12 months, with the work mainly taking place during the curfew so as not to impact on airport operations.

A comprehensive education campaign for pilots and all airfield drivers has taken place prior to the stop bars coming into service.

"At Sydney Airport, safety is paramount. We have an impeccable safety record and this \$25 million project adds another safety overlay to existing airfield operations," Sydney Airport chief executive officer Kerrie Mather said.

"Sydney Airport has invested more than \$2 billion over the past decade on improvements to the airport, including runway end safety areas to accommodate growing numbers of larger new generation aircraft like the A380.

Contact:

Tracy Ong
Manager, Media and Communications
(02) 9667 6470 or 0437 033 479