

Monday 2 December 2019

Major security equipment upgrades unveiled at Darwin International Airport

Darwin International Airport is among the first airports in Australia to install advanced Computed Tomography (CT) passenger x-ray screening systems and Body Scanners being unveiled to passengers and media today.

The new screening equipment provides enhanced capabilities whilst maximising passenger throughput. Ian Kew, CEO of NT Airports said, "We have always prioritised safety and security; we want to keep our customers safe, ease their transition through our airport and provide peace of mind for everyone."

"Our airport will be equipped with cutting edge security technology on par with the best airports internationally. This will not only lead to fewer physical bag searches, but greater ease for passengers passing through our screening points."

One of the main benefits for passengers and visitors passing through the new screening area is that they will no longer have to remove their laptops from bags prior to x-ray examination. Passengers will still be required to place all bags and loose articles, including belts and any belongings in pockets, into a tray for x-ray examination.

"We know this will be a big change for people travelling through our airport, especially in December one of the busiest times of year at Darwin International Airport. We will have additional security staff on hand during this period to assist with the introduction of the new equipment. The alternative (eastern) screening point will also remain fully operational until the end of December during peak times to assist with passenger flow. There will be no need for passengers to arrive any earlier than the normal check-in times advised by their airline," said Mr Kew.

The revamped screening point will open with limited operating times from 02 December to 08 December. The operating hours during this week will be from 10.00am to 2.00pm and 11.00pm to 1.30am each day. Process and customer service will be reviewed each day and allows for any refinements to be implemented prior to 09 December 2019.

The installation of the advanced CT screening equipment and Body Scanners at both (the main and eastern) security screening points is the beginning in a series of major upgrades planned for Darwin International Airport in the next twelve months.

The next phase of works, anticipated to commence mid-January 2020 will see the installation of self-service check in kiosks and auto bag drops. The self-service automation equipment is designed to reduce queues by increasing speed and operational efficiency resulting in an improved customer experience.

“Following the installation of the self-service check in kiosks and auto bag drops, we will start work on fitting four new state of the art aerobridges. Overall, we will be spending circa \$30 million in the next twelve months in upgrades to our airport terminal to improve safety, security and efficiency for the travelling public,” said Mr Kew.

The advanced CT checked baggage and passenger screening systems will also be installed Alice Springs Airport with works anticipated to start in February 2019.

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Image of CT body scanners



Concept image of Main Screening Point redevelopment