



## PRIME MINISTER

SPEECH AT DARWIN AIRPORT - 16 October 1984  
E&OE - PROOF ONLY

PM: ... I am this Darwin Airport development project. The commencement of these works will cost more than \$95 million being held as a new chapter in the development of the Territory and it emphasises the importance my Government attaches to the contribution of the aviation industry contributes to that development. The size and the location of the Territory coupled with its limited service transport infrastructure is meant that you all realise that aviation is often being the lifeline of the Territory I guess (inaudible) more obvious than in the tragic aftermath of the cyclone Tracey in December 1974. Increases in population, the economic activity in recent years in the Northern Territory due in part to the increasing populatory of the Territory as a tourist destination have resulted in a rapid growth in air transport in your areas. And this has particularly impacted on Darwin itself which is of course not only the major population but also the major supply centre. Now while the existing terminal complex which has survived as we know both war and cyclone has served the city of Darwin well it has without question now almost outlived its usefulness. Increasing conjection, the standard of the buildings (inaudible) facilities have been as we all know the subject of criticism in recent years. In the light that the vital role of aviation in the Territory and also Darwin importance as a international gateway the Government approved this major redevelopment last year. The project which involves the construction of a new airline terminal and general avaiation facilities on the northern side of the airport will ensure that the Territory finally receives an airport of international standard as it deserves. Notwithstanding the pressures and I think you would all be aware of them which have been imposed upon the Government by competing high priority programs all over Australia an amount of \$7.5 million has been allocated in this current Budget for 1984-85 to allow construction proceed. Construction which is expected which (inaudible) to generate 450 on site jobs at its peak in 1986 commenced in June and as you can see the preliminary site works are now well advanced. The major design work will be finalised during this financial year 84-85 and contracts will be arranged for major elements of the project with a view to this facility being ready for operation late in our Bicentennial year 1988. Now while the current project is primarily designed to meet the needs of scheduled operators and their customers it will also be of importance to general aviation. As you know general aviation has played and will obviously continue to play a vital role in meeting the transport and communication of the top end. The new apron and service sites to be provided on the north side will assist in enabling this site to discharge that role. In addition a detailed evaluation of proposed terminal facilities for commuter operators is also in hand. Upon completion of this work Darwin will have an airport of world standard capable of serving the city's needs a long way into the future. Passengers will be able to enjoy a modern airconditioned terminal building equipped with aerobridges

to enable embarkation and disembarkation in total comfort. The architects are I believe to be congratulated for a striking design which appears to have blended both a feeling of flight and the delightful lifestyle and environment of the Territory. I believe also that a tribute should be paid to the various Government officers who have been involved in the planning to this point. These include representatives not only of my own Government Departments of Aviation, Defence and Housing and Construction but also officials from the Territory Government and from the Darwin City Council. The Darwin Airport provisional master plan released in 1983 which canvasses the progressive development of the airport to serve the Territory's needs well into the next century is an example of the cooperation and the necessary cooperation between the three levels of Government: Federal; Territory and Local. Without such cooperation of course the needs of the people of the Territory and whatever area of activity we are talking about will never properly be served. Darwin has indeed an extremely proud place in the history of Australian aviation. It has witnessed the arrival and the departure of many great aviation personalities and it has hosted many aeronautical milestones. Ladies and Gentlemen the completion of this project in 1988 will constitute another such milestone in a very fitting way and to mark the Bicentennial of Australia. I certainly in conclusion have very much pride and pleasure in being associated with you here today in this historic development. Thank you very much indeed.