



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NIUE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RUNWAY

Alofi, Niue – 04 June 2024 - Today marked the official opening of the newly resurfaced runway at Niue Hanan International Airport by the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Right Honourable Christopher Luxon and the Minister for Infrastructure, Hon. Crossley Tatui. This major project involved the comprehensive renewal of the asphalt surfacing on the runway, taxiway, and apron, ensuring the country's aviation infrastructure is future-proofed for the next 30 years.

The upgraded runway is a critical component for maintaining safe and continued air services, which are essential for Niue's economic growth. It facilitates vital family connections, supports tourism, provides for medical referrals, and ensures the delivery of freight. In the event of natural disasters, such as cyclones, the runway will be crucial for delivering relief and humanitarian support.

"The project also supported employment on the island and included training programs through which some of our people have obtained their heavy truck and heavy machinery licenses," said Hon. Crossley Tatui, Minister for the Ministry of Infrastructure.

"We want to express our gratitude to the New Zealand Government and all the New Zealand companies who have contributed to this project – Downer, GHD, Screenworks, and TDZ Projects."

The delivery of the runway upgrade is a significant achievement for both the Government of Niue and the Government of New Zealand. This is an important asset for Niue as it will ensure the safe and reliable continuation of air services and connectivity for Niuean's. It will also support the New Zealand Defence Force's engagement with the country, including for maritime surveillance, emergency flights, and search and rescue.

The renewed runway is part of a \$41.6 million dollar aviation infrastructure upgrade project funded by the Government of New Zealand's international development cooperation programme.

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