

# Advancing the Armidale region

## Resilient Regional Runway



RESTORE & THRIVE

**ARMIDALE**  
Regional Council





## Mayor's Foreword

Regional connections are the lifeline of every prosperous community. The Armidale Regional Airport not only serves the community of Armidale, but also provides regional connections to a catchment of more than 75,000 around the New England High Country including Guyra, Inverell, Glen Innes and Uralla.

As the mid point between Sydney and Brisbane, the Armidale Regional Airport supports a diverse regional economy including the education sector, the visitor economy, agriculture, sporting, leisure and Australia's largest renewable energy zone. The Armidale Regional Airport also has a very important emergency services function which was demonstrated during the 2019 state-wide bushfires. Since those fires, the NSW Rural Fire Service has established an aerial firefighting base at the Armidale Regional Airport to support firefighting in the New England region and northern NSW more generally.

Given that Armidale is on the doorstep of one of Australia's bushfire hotspots, it is critical that the Armidale Regional Airport is fit for purpose. Regrettably, the current runway length and location does not meet the ongoing operational needs to support this critical service for northern NSW, nor does it meet the requirements of a large portion of Australia's regional commercial aircraft fleet.

A commitment of \$140m from our government partners will ensure this critical piece of infrastructure to support and improve the resilience of the New England and northern NSW regions, can be delivered.

**Sam Coupland**  
Mayor



We choose to grow and be more than we are today.

We will be both a region and a regional city of significance in the coming decades.

We will broaden our economic base and ensure that we create sustainable jobs which capitalise on our region's comparative advantages.

We set an aspirational target to grow jobs in our region by 4,000 by 2040 and generate at least 1,000 new jobs over the next 5 years.

## Advancing the Armidale region

Advancing Armidale is Council's commitment to delivering our vision for growing a prosperous and sustainable region over the next decade and beyond. It's our promise for how we will plan, advocate, deliver and celebrate everything that is needed to support and grow Armidale and our region into the future. It's a measure by which we will take every decision - **it's our community contract.**

**Plan** - we will ensure that we have a clear vision for the future of Armidale developed in partnership with our community. Our vision will consider the jobs of tomorrow and how we will grow whilst protecting and enriching the lives of our community and the region.

**Advocate** - we will work with all delivery partners including the Federal and State governments, and the private sector to support the delivery of our vision. We will be transparent and responsible in all of our dealings.

**Deliver** - we will get on with delivery of our vision ensuring that catalyst projects are prioritised and that we are ready for investment and community building opportunities when they arise.

**Celebrate** - we will celebrate the delivery of milestones with our community as we deliver our vision to Advance Armidale.

## Our vision and plan to Advance Armidale will follow 6 key pillars:

**Growing Region** - we will broaden our economic base and develop initiatives to grow existing and welcome new businesses

**Connected Region** - we will improve and provide high quality connections within, and outside of the region

**Future Region** - we will enhance the natural beauty of the region and ensure that growth is sustainable and resilient

**Liveable Region** - we will develop and maintain pristine places and spaces and provide facilities to grow an active and healthy community

**Enriched Region** - we will protect our unique landscape and environment and we will celebrate activities that improve the quality of life for our community

**Strong Region** - we will be a productive, transparent and strong community always putting the needs of our community first

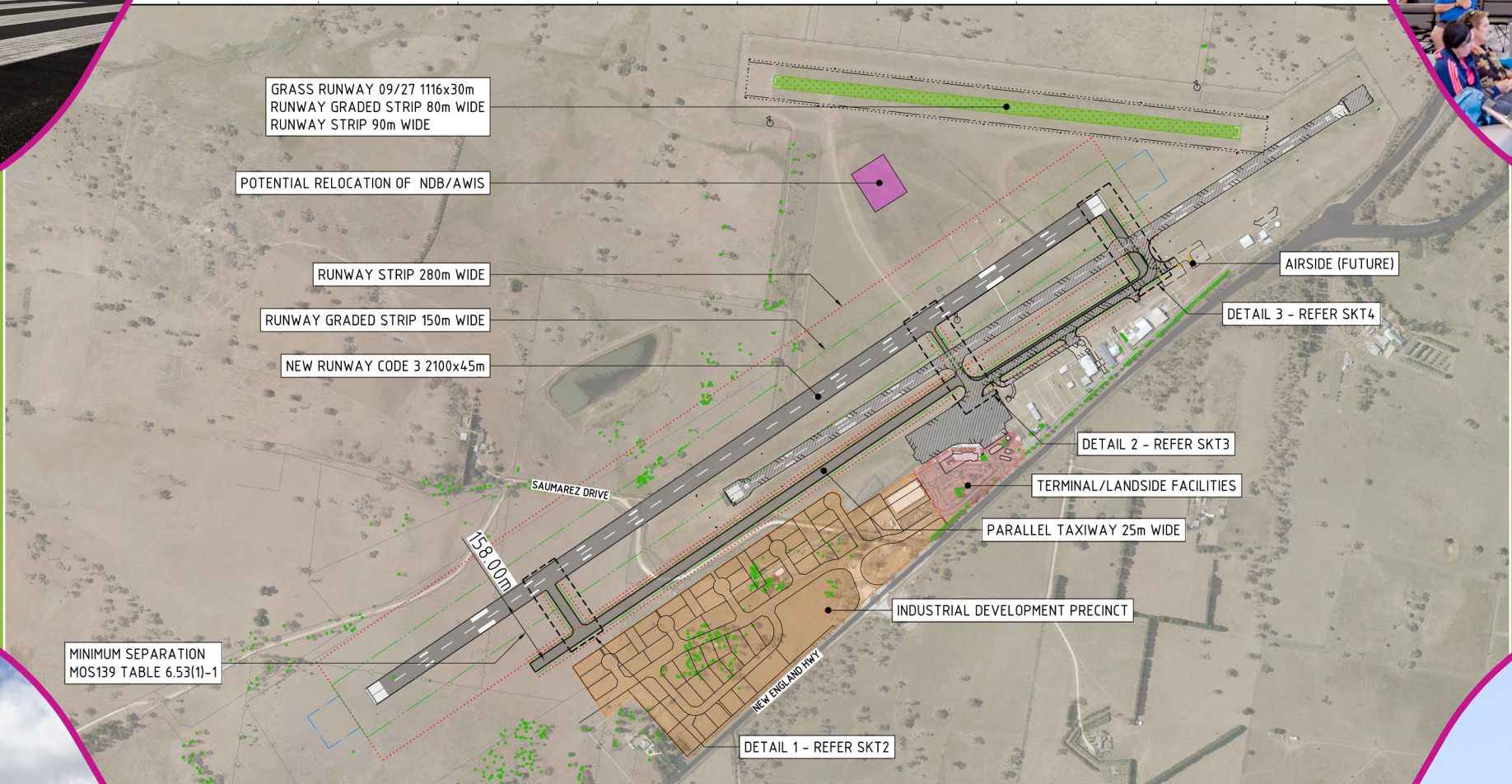


# Armidale Regional Airport Master Plan



Establishing a fit-for-purpose runway to support the operational and safety needs of the New England region and first responder emergency management.

Prior to COVID, Armidale Regional Airport received over 130,000 passengers in 2019 with 3.1% increase over the past decade. In addition, it also supported a busy general aviation environment and the base for New England Rural Fire Control Centre.



Australia's regional aircraft fleet are changing. The current runway does not meet the requirements for the majority of commercial regional aircrafts.

The new Armidale Regional Airport runway will meet the operational and safety requirements of the entire RFS Fleet including the Very Large Airtankers (VLAT) - this will ensure that the northern NSW bushfire hotspot can be fully serviced from Armidale.



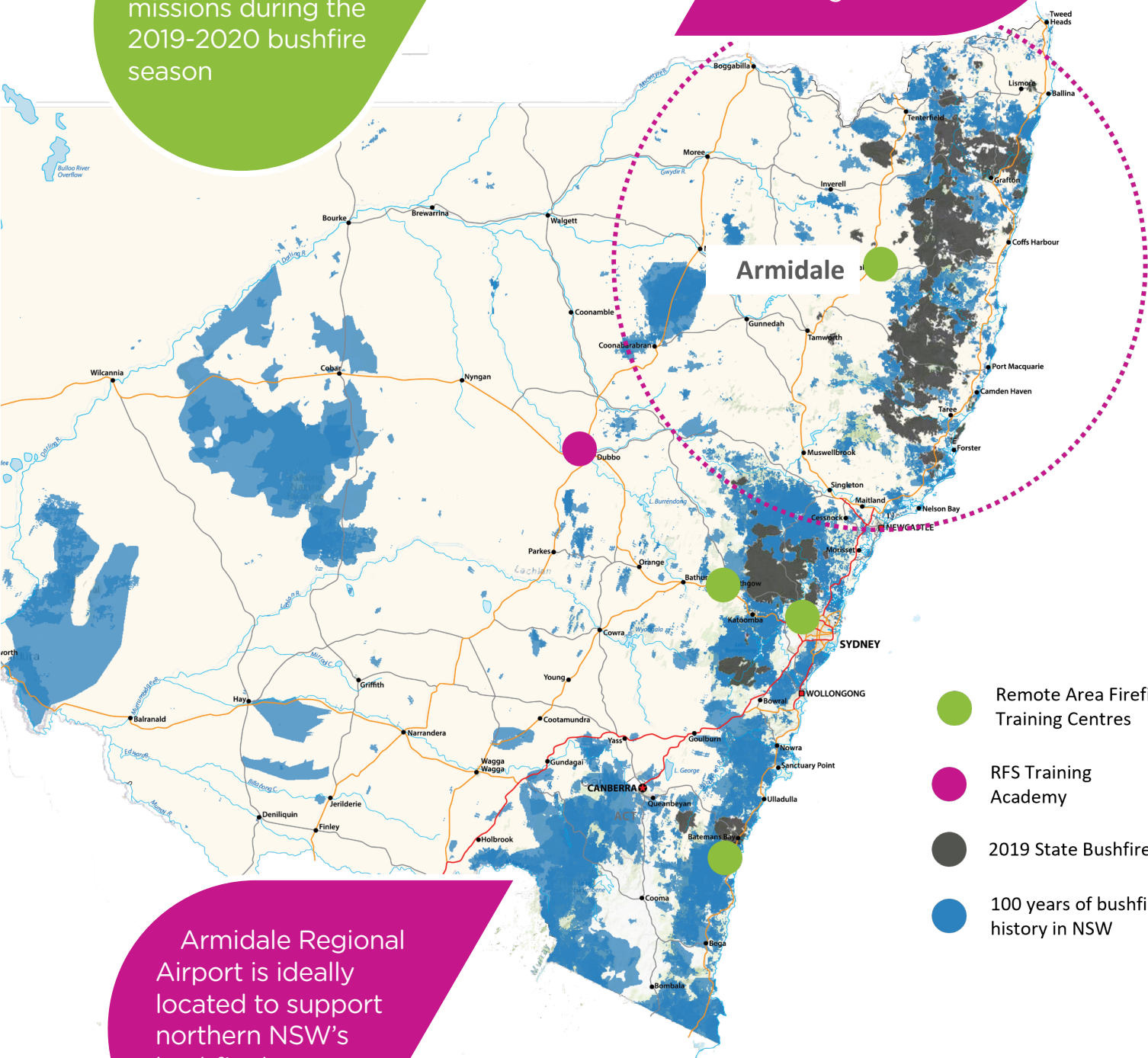


# Regional Resilience

NSW fire response agencies conducted approximately 2,500 missions during the 2019-2020 bushfire season

Armidale Regional Airport's runway needs to be fit for purpose to service the entire RFS Aerial fleet including the VLAT

Armidale Regional Airport is ideally located to support northern NSW's bushfire hotspot



# Delivering a Resilient Regional Runway

Armidale Regional Airport has recently undergone several improvements including:

\$10m project works with an upgraded modern Airport Terminal building, Apron upgrade and expansion to four (4) commercial parking bays

Construction has also recently commenced on airside amenities and a crew rest area and automated gate improvements - \$300,000

Based on commercial passengers alone, the community has valued access to the Armidale Regional Airport at approximately \$30m per annum

The proposed new runway, which will service both commercial and emergency services requirements has an estimated construction cost of \$140m including all necessary runway works, extensions of taxiways and installation of a full instrument landing system.

A preliminary benefit cost for commercial operations and emergency responses indicates that the proposal will have a benefit cost ratio > 1 (tangible and intangible)

Whilst Council is able to complete the design, tender and construction of the proposed runway and associated works within 24-30 months, Council requires a capital grant to deliver the runway. Council and users will be responsible for ongoing maintenance once the new runway is operational.



Resilient Regional Runway Project

Item	Cost
Runway works and extension of taxiway	\$86m
Full instrument landing system	\$13m
Contingency	\$29.5m
Design, procurement and construction management	\$11.5m
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140m</b>



