

Kingdom of Tonga  
Tonga Airports Limited

Project Information Booklet:  
**World Bank financed –  
Tonga Aviation Investment Project  
(TAIP)**

Grant No: H743-TO



### 1. The Tonga Aviation Investment Project (TAIP)

The Government of Tonga has applied for financial assistance from the World Bank (WB) to finance the Tonga Aviation Investment Project (TAIP). The Project involves upgrading airport infrastructure at Fua'amotu International Airport, Tongatapu, and Lupepau'u International Airport, Vava'u. TAIP is being implemented by Tonga Airports Limited (TAL). TAIP is also part of the broader Pacific Aviation Investment Program involving similar activities in Tuvalu, Kiribati, and in future, Samoa and other Pacific countries.

### 2. What constitutes the airport infrastructure upgrades?

The airport infrastructure upgrades are planned to involve resealing (strengthening) of the runways at both Fua'amotu and Lupepau'u Airports; as well as upgrading the terminal buildings, navigational aids, airfield lighting, rescue fire services equipment, security equipment and other similar activities.

### 3. Why is this Project needed?

Air services are essential for travel to visit family and friends, for the import and export of goods, and a prerequisite for tourism development. Airport equipment and infrastructure is highly regulated by international compliance requirements, and in many cases existing airport infrastructure is well beyond its serviceable life. These investments are required to meet ICAO safety and security standards and recommended practices (SARP), as well as airline safety and security standards, ensuring that Tonga's access to international markets and tourism can be maintained. Moreover, the proposed investments will preserve and extend the service life of existing infrastructure assets as well as reduce the energy consumption, thus helping to address the challenge of air transport and climate change.

### 4. What benefits will the Project generate?

TAIP will improve the aviation infrastructure and operations at TAL. Upgrades to the airport infrastructure will improve Tonga's international compliance levels and this will in turn enable Tonga to explore opportunities for increased operations including more modern aircraft. It will be a boost for other sectoral development (i.e. tourism, exports) and for the image of Fua'amotu International Airport as the gateway to Tonga, and Lupepau'u International Airport as a regional international gateway. The project will benefit the population of Tonga by ensuring that its international air travel connections are not reduced due to the failure to provide services in accordance with ICAO requirements. Individual travelers will benefit through the provision of safer international and domestic air travel, and more efficient operations in the airport terminals. TAL will benefit by having significant reductions in operating costs for the terminals through more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable terminals.

### 5. What upgrades are happening and where?

The Project will upgrade/rehabilitate the following activities at each airport:

Description	TBU	VAV
Navigation Aids	X	
Automatic weather station (AWS)	X	X
Automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B)	X	X
Terminal building improvements	X	X
Security screening equipment		X
Airfield lighting and cabling	X	X
Security Fence	X	
Fire Safety Equipment for Fire Crews		X
Satellite Communication Network (VSAT)		X
Design and Supervision Aviation Investments	X	X
Fuelling Equipment		X

### 6. Will the Project require additional land? NO

All Project investments are on the existing airport footprints and no additional land is required.

### 7. What direct impacts will the Project have on the Tongan people?

In the long term -

- Provide opportunities for government development of tourism and agricultural sectors;
- Improve safety and security levels for air transport and more efficient airport terminal operations.

During construction -

- Some areas will be used temporarily by contractors to store or park heavy machinery and to establish facilities.
- It is likely to be dusty and noisy at the location of the works.
- A large amount of waste soil, rubble, and plant material will be created.
- There will be more vehicles, and heavy machinery, using the roads around the airport. This causes an increased risk of accidents for pedestrians and motorists.

Under the guidance of the Environmental Management Plan, the project will try to minimize dust and noise levels, as well as minimize the disruption to schools, churches and other important locations. A traffic management plan will be used to protect the safety of pedestrians and motorists. Waste will be composted, recycled and / or disposed of at a landfill.

**8. If there are disputes or grievances associated with the Project, how will they be addressed?** Any disputes or grievances should be addressed to the Airport Manager of the respective airport. Contact details are provided below:

**Fua'amotu International Airport**

Mr Kinitoni Mafi

Airports Superintendent

Tel: 35001

[kmafi@tongaairports.com](mailto:kmafi@tongaairports.com)

**Lupepau'u International Airport**

Ms Seini Tokolahi

Airport Manager, Vava'u

Tel: 7467135

[stokolahi@tongaairports.com](mailto:stokolahi@tongaairports.com)

**9. Will there be further consultations for the Project? YES.**

During the project, there will be monitoring and evaluation of the upgrades and there will be opportunities for ongoing consultation with the community. Any persons with comments or queries are invited to contact the nominated TAL staff at the contact details provided in this booklet.

**10. Will the Environmental Management Plan be accessible to the public? YES**

This document will be uploaded by the World Bank and Tonga Airports Limited websites, as well as hard copies available from: Tonga Airports Limited Head Office, TAL Airport Offices at Fua'amotu and Lupepau'u Airports, and the Department of Environment.

The Environmental Management Plan also details a monitoring plan, for monitoring of impacts from construction and operation of the upgrades.

TAL will ensure that the Project allows for stakeholders' feedback during implementation and that relevant information about any major changes to project scope is also shared with the affected peoples and other stakeholders.

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO EXPRESS VIEWS AND ASK QUESTIONS  
ON ANY ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROJECT, AT ANY TIME.**

**KEY CONTACT DETAILS ARE PROVIDED BELOW.**

**Fua'amotu International Airport**

Mr Kinitoni Mafi

Airport Superintendent

Tel: 35415

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**Lupepau'u International Airport**

Ms Seini Tokolahi

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