

Project Details

Client

Rio Tinto (Paraburdoo)
BHP-GEMCO (Groote)

Location

Paraburdoo Airport,
Paraburdoo WA
Groote Eylandt Airport,
Groote Eylandt NT

Value

Both projects circa \$8M

Date

February-May 2012 –
Paraburdoo
July-November 2014 –
Groote Eylandt

Duration

6-8 Weeks for Asphaltting
3 Weeks for Grooving

AMS was the designer and lead contractor for 15,000 tonne asphalt overlays required to strengthen the runways at Paraburdoo and Groote Eylandt Airport. For both projects, the works comprised of surveying the runway at a close grid, designing the overlay to achieve MOS 139 compliant gradients (both longitudinally and transversely) as well as achieving the nominal depth (and supplying this information for input into the level-control system utilised for the paving), liaising with the client to ensure that all safety requirements were met before arriving on site (vehicle inspections, SWPs, inductions and personal competencies for all sub-contractor staff), carrying out the overlay on night-shift, raising the shoulders to match new surface levels, reinstating linemarking and carrying out runway grooving approximately two months after the asphalt was laid.

In Paraburdoo, pavement works were also carried out to extend the apron for an additional parking bay, which was then surfaced with asphalt.

AMS managed multiple sub-contractors for both projects, as well as reporting to and liaising with the client, ensuring sub-contractor compliance with safety requirements and work procedures, and acting as the aviation Works Safety Officer for the site. AMS managed the MOWP and NOTAM process, and liaised with RPT operators and CareFlight when their operations impacted on the works.

Both projects had demanding clients that required a lot of attention. The timing of the Paraburdoo works, at the end of the wet season, presented some challenges when deciding whether to begin a shift, as did flooded river crossings between accommodation and site. Groote Eylandt was a major logistics challenge, as all materials and equipment was required to be mobilised and demobilised from Darwin by barge, which was a four day trip.

Concurrent with the Groote Eylandt project, AMS replaced the runway lights and cables.

Project Achievements

- ✚ Use of local contractors already working for the client, to get local knowledge and assistance.
- ✚ Airport specific mix design, with compaction easily achieved.
- ✚ No LTI safety incidents.
- ✚ Aerodromes were returned to service on time after every shift, with no aviation-related incidents.
- ✚ Material profiled from the nightly ramps was re-used for raising shoulders.



