

# 'Assessment Years' Approach to Large Scale Infrastructure Development



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- 01 The challenge: Airport development

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- 02 Heathrow Expansion

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- 03 Sensitivity Testing

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- 04 Future Baseline and Cumulative Assessment


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- 05 Key Takeaways

# Agenda

# The Challenge: Airport Development

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- ✈ Construction and operation overlap
  - ✈ Assessment Phases
  - ✈ Maximum operating capacity  $\neq$  most significant effects
  - ✈ No single year will result in the reasonable worst-case effects
  - ✈ Solution: Adoption of 'core' assessment years addresses the challenge
  - ✈ Guidance: Assessment years must reflect peak impact not just peak development

# Heathrow Expansion



3,500m new runway,  
increased air traffic  
movements



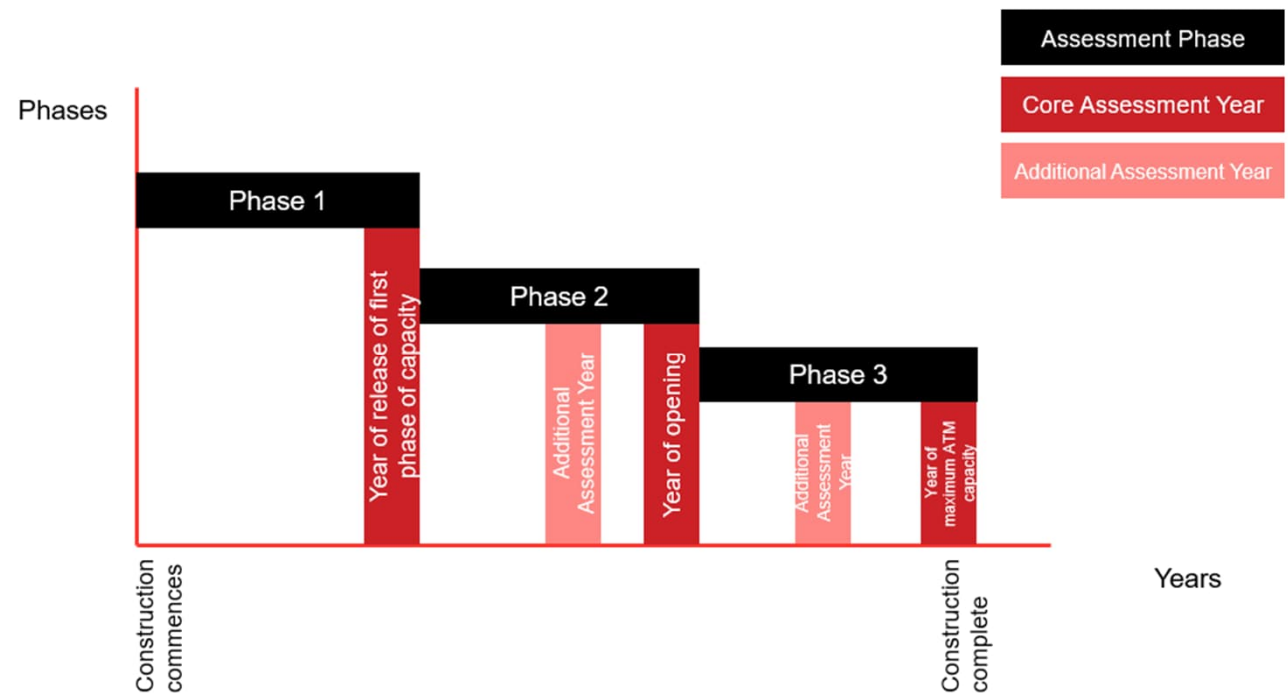
New terminals and  
extensions to terminals



New and upgraded  
supporting infrastructure,  
increased cargo capacity,  
realignment of major roads,  
car parking etc  
~25 year construction period

## Assessment Approach

- ☐ 3 development phases
- ☐ Core assessment years
- ☐ Additional years
- ☐ Collaboration with Heathrow Stakeholders



## Sensitivity Testing

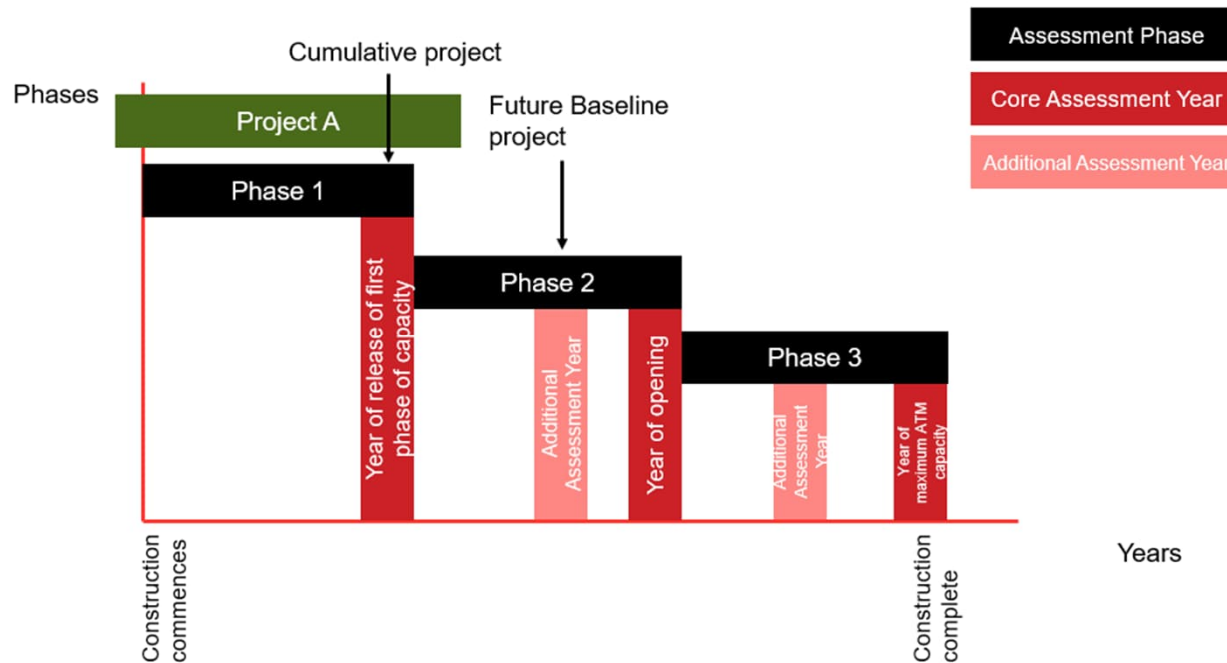
Airport assessments rely on:

- Future passenger numbers
- Aircraft fleet mix (quieter vs noisier planes)
- Flight paths and runway usage
- Background traffic growth
- Emissions factors

Sensitivity testing stress-tests the assumptions to ensure:

- Results are robust and defensible
- Uncertainty is transparent
- Decision-makers understand best-case vs worst-case outcomes

# Heathrow Expansion



## Future Baseline and Cumulative Assessment

The approach needs to take into consideration the various assessment years.

‘Other developments’ shortlisted need to be sorted into baseline, future baseline and cumulative assessment.



# Key Takeaways

- ❑ A 'design year only' approach is insufficient
- ❑ The EIA must consider multiple assessment years
- ❑ Incorporating sensitivity scenarios
- ❑ Stakeholder engagement is important

Final thought:

- ❑ This approach is not industry specific and can be applied to any phased development
  - ❑ Clear growth or usage forecast
  - ❑ Impacts that scale or change over time



# Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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