



NO RUNWAY IN ANTARCTICA

**BOB BROWN
FOUNDATION
ACTION FOR EARTH**

Davis Airport Project – Australian Antarctic Program

- **The project will increase the human disturbance footprint of all nations on the continent by 40%.** The Australian Antarctic strategy says that Australia will aim to: minimise its impact.
- **Weddell seals breed within 500m of the proposed site.** This is four times closer than currently allow.
- **The construction teams will displace science and scientists at Davis for at least 10 or more years.**
- **It will require a staggering 3 million cubic metres of earthworks,** with 60 vertical metres or more of hills and valleys explosively levelled.
- **The Australian Antarctic Division has considered building a runway in the Vestfold Hills in the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s** – and abandoned the idea each time on the grounds of the immense environmental impacts (under both Coalition and Labor governments).
- **The Southern Giant Petrel is an endangered species and is known to nest in the Vestfold hills.** 40 nests were found in a 2014 study.
- **Up to 160,000 Adelie penguins are located near the site.**
- **The Vestfold Hills are known for their unique lakes,** some which never freeze, found nowhere else on Earth. The runway will dam at least one of these lakes forever.
- The coastal ice-free areas of Antarctica are the home to 99% of all Antarctic biodiversity – because of their relatively mild climates and close access to the ocean. If you combine all of these areas, around the entire continent, they make up less than half the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. **Can you imagine the public outrage of building an international-size airport in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area?**
- **The Vestfold Hills have been described as the finest example of an ice-free oasis in Antarctica.**
- **Dust emissions from this project will cause irreparable damage to nearby lakes and vegetation.** These damages have been entirely underestimated.
- **Initial site assessments have shown an entirely unique biology, especially in terms of vegetation/flora.**
- **The Australian Antarctic Division hasn't offered any 'annual' science grants since 2018. During the same time the runway project has received \$68.3 million.**
(<https://infrastructurepipeline.org/project/davis-aerodrome-project/>)