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\$2.4 b plan to expand capacity^{10.5} at Kai Tak

FINANCIAL Secretary Piers Jacobs told legislators that the Government would spend \$2.4 billion to make sure Kai Tak airport could cope with passenger traffic for the next few years.

Replying to Mr Martin Barrow of the Hongkong Tourist Association, Mr Jacobs said they would adopt the expansion suggestions made in a consultancy report on the airport's future last year.

The consultants recommended that the package should be implemented over the next eight years.

"However, in view of the higher growth rate in passengers, the administration is considering, as a matter of urgency, how implementation of the package can best be effected or whether it can be accelerated," he said.

Mr Jacobs said civil work on extending the passenger apron, enabling three extra wide-bodied jets to be parked, was completed four months ahead of schedule.

Work on freight space was progressing while that on the airport entrance and widening of Olympic Avenue will also go ahead.

Mr Jacobs said it was possible that the Government might have to spend more than \$2.4 billion to ensure that Kai Tak could cope with demand until a new airport might be built.