



## A balanced approach to airport planning and noise

The Aviation White Paper sets out long-term policies and actions to guide the next generation of growth and innovation across Australian aviation.

A strong aviation sector is a key enabler of a productive and growing Australian economy.

With a population dispersed across a large island continent, air travel is an essential part of Australia's transport system. Key economic sectors rely heavily on aviation – including tourism, mining, construction, manufacturing and higher education. While aviation is essential to our nation, we acknowledge that aviation noise has impacts on communities, particularly around airports.

When making decisions about airport planning and noise, we are committed to understanding the views of all communities affected, and to minimise impacts on environment and noise wherever possible.

Noise and flight path monitoring systems are currently in place at 10 airports around the country. However, during consultations leading to the development of the Aviation White Paper, community groups have made submissions to express their concerns about the usefulness of that information.

We are committed to providing communities with easily understandable flight path and noise information. We will encourage airports and others in the aviation sector to take steps for early and proactive engagement with communities to explain likely noise impacts.

### Actions from now until 2050

To better manage the impacts of aircraft noise and promote efficient development and utilisation of Australia's airport assets, the Australian Government will:

- ✓ **Create an independent ombuds scheme for aircraft noise.** The current Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO) sits within Airservices Australia and reports to that agency's board. The reformed ANO will have the power to conduct independent investigations into aircraft noise complaints, publish reports, and make recommendations directly to government about the handling of noise complaints, community consultation processes and other matters.
- ✓ **Improve engagement with communities affected by changes to airspace and flight paths.** Airservices Australia will apply best practice consultation in providing clear and transparent information so communities can ensure that their interests are reflected in decision-making processes.
- ✓ **Update the guidelines for community aviation consultation groups.** The government will set out ministerial expectations for greater community input into the work programs of consultation groups for federally leased airports.
- ✓ **Improve land use planning near airports.** Airport development plans for federally leased airports will need to address climate change resilience, decarbonisation and disability access. This is to avoid developments that could lead to inappropriate noise levels and to protect airport operations from potential safety risks.
- ✓ **Produce new guidance for pilots: 'Flying Considerately'.** The Australian Government will produce guidance on a voluntary code for pilots to minimise noise impacts in residential areas.



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- ✓ **Improve transparency about aircraft noise impacts.** Airservices Australia will include additional information in its noise and flight path monitoring system. It will also publish a quarterly report on non-compliance with noise abatement procedures.
- ✓ **Appoint an Airservices Australia executive for noise and environment to lead the agency's work on noise minimisation.** This new role will have responsibility for engaging with affected communities and for ensuring the integration of noise minimisation measures in the operational decisions made by air traffic controllers.

## Engagement with First Nations people

First Nations communities have unique connections to land, sea, waters and sky and they hold unique cultural interests regarding impacts from the aviation industry. We encourage businesses in the sector to look for ways to improve engagement with First Nations peoples about the impacts of aviation operations on, above and through Country.

**Find out more** → Visit our website to read the Aviation White Paper: [infrastructure.gov.au/AviationWhitePaper](https://infrastructure.gov.au/AviationWhitePaper)

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