



# WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT



## Flight paths for Western Sydney Airport

Designing and finalising flight paths is a large and complex task that takes several years to complete. Before the opening of the proposed Western Sydney Airport, a comprehensive airspace planning and design process will be undertaken, with **ongoing community consultation** and a focus on **minimising flights over residential areas**.

### Indicative flight paths

Developing indicative flight paths is the first step in assessing changes to Australian airspace management, such as a new runway or, in this case, a new airport.

The indicative Western Sydney Airport flight paths enable a valid and contemporary assessment of the potential extent and scale of impacts of aircraft operations for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This has provided the opportunity for the community and stakeholders to express their views about the assessed impacts at an early stage of the process. This feedback will inform the future stages of designing the flight paths for a Western Sydney Airport.

In response to community feedback, the Australian Government has determined that the indicative arrival flight paths depicting a single merge point over Blaxland will not be implemented.

### Flight path design

The formal flight path design for the proposed Western Sydney Airport will use international best-practice approaches to optimise flight paths on the basis of safety, efficiency, capacity, noise and environmental considerations, while minimising changes to existing airspace arrangements.

Key principles that will apply to the flight path design process include:

- overflights of residential areas and noise sensitive facilities will be avoided to the maximum extent possible;
- aircraft arrivals will not converge through a single merge point over any single residential area;
- the use of head-to-head operations to and from the south-west, when it is safe to do so, is an important preferred option for managing aircraft noise at night. This preferred option will be thoroughly evaluated through further detailed assessment; and
- in determining the final flight paths, the community, aerodrome operators and airspace users will be consulted extensively and flight path designs will be subject to referral under the EPBC Act.

## Finalising the flight paths

Key activities	Key outcomes	Timing
<b>Phase 1: Planning</b>		
Establish expert steering group Collect stakeholder views on system requirements, including community and environmental inputs Confirm Sydney basin airspace and air route requirements and constraints Establish community and stakeholder reference group Develop and undertake a preliminary environmental assessment of airspace concept options (standard arrival and departure routes)	Consultation with interested parties, including regulatory authorities, government agencies, airlines, other Sydney basin aerodrome operators and airspace users, and the community  Review of airspace concept options and potential noise abatement procedures including identification of a preferred high-level airspace concept option	Approx. 2 years
<b>Phase 2: Preliminary design and environmental assessment</b>		
Evaluate preliminary airspace design	Preferred airspace design concept	Approx. 1 year
Refer preferred airspace design to the Environment Minister under the EPBC Act Prepare and submit any formal environmental assessment documentation required by the Environment Minister Public exhibition and community consultation Property acquisition and noise insulation policy		Approx. 2 years
<b>Phase 3: Detailed design</b>		
Evaluate, validate and refine detailed design taking EPBC Act into account	Final airspace design and noise abatement procedures for implementation  Long term ANEF chart	Approx. 1 year
<b>Phase 4: Implementation</b>		
Notify airspace and air route changes	Airspace change proposal approved CASA  Commencement of air operations in accordance with specific noise abatement procedures and noise management measures identified in the airspace design	Approx. 2 years  Mid-2020s

Consultation

**Community consultation will be ongoing, including through opportunities to comment in the planning, and preliminary design and environmental assessment phases. The Forum on Western Sydney Airport, a community and stakeholder reference group, will be established to ensure community views are taken into account in the airspace design process.**