



Western Sydney Airport

FLIGHT PATHS AND AIRSPACE



The flight paths for Western Sydney Airport are currently being developed. Designing and finalising flight paths and airspace arrangements for Western Sydney Airport is a large and complex task. The detailed work to design the flight paths started in 2017 and will be finalised in 2024 before operations commence in 2026.

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

Who will design flight paths?

The Australian Government is responsible for designing and finalising flight paths. The flight path design process will cover four main phases:

- planning
- preliminary design and environmental assessment
- detailed design
- implementation

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities will work closely with the national air navigation service provider, Airservices Australia, to develop new flight paths and airspace for Western Sydney Airport.



Consultation

Consultation to inform and engage the community will occur throughout the airspace design process. Before flight paths are finalised, the proposed design will be open for public consultation as part of the environmental assessment. This is expected to take place around 2021.

The Forum On Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA), a community and stakeholder reference group, has been established to consult and inform the community. FOWSA's role is to ensure community views are taken into account in the airspace design process, as well as in other aspects of Western Sydney Airport, and that the community remains informed about key developments in the airspace and flight path design process.

An Expert Steering Group oversees the detailed planning and technical design process for the airport's airspace arrangements and flight paths, and ensures compliance with the conditions and provisions of the Airport Plan. The group, which includes representatives from industry stakeholders and regulatory bodies, is led by the department and regularly reports to FOWSA.

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Key principles

The design of flight paths for Western Sydney Airport will be guided by airspace design principles, including:

- ➔ Safety is non-negotiable.
- ➔ Flights over residential areas and noise-sensitive facilities will be avoided as much as possible.
- ➔ Where flight paths are unable to avoid residential areas:
 - where possible, these areas should not be overflown by both arriving and departing aircraft.
 - noise abatement procedures should be optimised to ensure that residents are impacted as little as possible.
- ➔ Procedures will be developed to minimise the impact of night-time aircraft operations on the community while not constraining airport operations.
- ➔ Aircraft arrivals will not converge through a single merge point over any single residential area.
- ➔ Airspace design will consider the impacts of air operations on natural and visually sensitive areas.
- ➔ The community, aerodrome operators and airspace users will be consulted in determining the final flight paths.

The complete list of airspace design principles is available in the Airport Plan at www.westernsydneyairport.gov.au.

Airspace and flight path design process

