

Melbourne Airport Noise Sharing Plan

The addition of a third runway will change how aircraft operate at Melbourne Airport, affecting which runways are used and how aircraft noise is experienced across surrounding communities. With three runways in operation, there will be options for how arriving and departing aircraft are managed, creating opportunities to share aircraft noise.

Melbourne Airport is developing a Noise Sharing and Airspace Concept Plan. The Noise Sharing Plan is one of the conditions set by the Federal Government as part of the third runway approval. Melbourne Airport has engaged independent consultants to develop the Plan.

What is a Noise Sharing Plan?

A Noise Sharing Plan guides how aircraft noise is managed and shared across the communities surrounding Melbourne Airport. Noise-sharing strategies aim to distribute aircraft noise exposure and give communities periods of respite.

The Noise Sharing Plan considers how operations can be varied – such as alternating which runways are used and what times they are used – so that noise is distributed across communities around the airport, outside of peak periods and when weather conditions allow. These variations are called “operating modes”.

Community feedback will help us shape the preferred operating modes.

Why do we need a Noise Sharing Plan?

Victoria's population is growing, and Melbourne Airport's new parallel north-south runway is necessary to support the long-term increase in passengers, freight and aircraft movements. By 2042, more than 76 million passengers are expected to use Melbourne Airport each year. The additional runway will support this growth, but it will also result in some parts of Melbourne experiencing new or changed aircraft noise.

When aircraft noise impacts for the third runway were first modelled in the [Third Runway Major Development Plan](#), they focused primarily on use of the two north-south runways. Now, because of this approval condition, the Noise Sharing Plan will explore runway operating modes that also include the existing east-west runway, to help to share aircraft noise more evenly.

Will all areas of Melbourne experience the same amount of noise?

Noise Sharing Plans are not about equal distribution of flights over all affected communities, but about managing aircraft noise in a way that provides communities with periods of respite and supports community wellbeing.

Some areas will experience aircraft noise for the first time, and others will experience more than they currently have – but efforts will be made to share that noise.



Visit www.melbourneairportprojectshub.com.au

Who will develop the Noise Sharing Plan?

The conditions of approval for the third runway require that Melbourne Airport appoint independent aviation and community engagement consultants to prepare the Noise Sharing Plan.

Consultants Trax and GHD have been appointed to deliver the Noise Sharing Plan. Trax and GHD have extensive experience working on airspace design and engagement for aviation projects in Australia and the United Kingdom, as well as on major infrastructure projects.



How will the Noise Sharing Plan be developed?

The Noise Sharing Plan will take into account both historical and forecast flight and aircraft noise patterns, based on the flight paths outlined in Melbourne Airport's Third Runway Major Development Plan.

In addition to this data, Trax and GHD will lead the engagement with stakeholders and the broader community to inform the plan. Stakeholders include but are not limited to:

- Local communities
- Relevant local councils
- Victorian Department of Transport and Planning
- Essendon Fields Airport and other airports in the Melbourne Basin
- Airlines and operator groups
- Airservices Australia, which manages airspace and flight path design and air traffic control
- Groups with a special interest and knowledge in airspace design

Community members will be asked to provide feedback on how runways are used during off-peak periods. This involves technical information, so resources will be provided to help people understand these modes and provide informed feedback.



How can residents and community members have input?

There will be both online and face-to-face opportunities from late 2025 to learn more about the Noise Sharing Plan project and provide feedback, as well as written and digital communications. Melbourne Airport's [Major Projects Hub](#) is where all of this information will be located.

Will you really take my feedback on board?

Community input will play a key role in shaping the Noise Sharing Plan. Community will be asked to provide feedback on how runways are used during off-peak periods.

While community input is highly valued, certain aspects of airport operations – such as flight paths, altitude and timing – are governed by safety regulations and weather conditions. These factors must take priority to ensure safe and efficient air travel.

Community will also have the chance to review the draft Noise Sharing Plan before it is submitted to the Federal Government for approval.

Visit www.melbourneairportprojectshub.com.au

Who makes the final decision on the Noise Sharing Plan?

Following consultation, the draft Noise Sharing Plan requires endorsement by Airservices Australia before being submitted to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for review and approval.

What is the timeline for the Noise Sharing Plan?

The Noise Sharing Plan will be developed over a two-year period.



What's the difference between the Noise Sharing Plan and the Noise Amelioration Plan?

While both plans relate to aircraft noise, they serve different purposes and focus on different aspects of managing aircraft noise impacts.

- The **Noise Sharing Plan** is about how aircraft noise is shared across different communities through the selection of runways and operating modes. Outputs from the Noise Sharing Plan will also define the noise models that will shape the boundaries for the Noise Amelioration Plan.
- The **Noise Amelioration Plan** is about treating buildings that are most affected by aircraft noise. This typically includes fitting noise insulation treatments like double-glazing or acoustic insulation in homes, schools, childcare facilities and health centres in zones of eligibility.

For more information about Melbourne Airport's Noise Amelioration Plan please visit www.melbourneairportprojectshub.com.au/noise-amelioration-plan-and-program

Do you have any questions?



Email: newrunway@melair.com.au

Phone: (03) 9297 1597

Find out about the third runway by visiting our Major Projects Hub via the QR code.



Visit www.melbourneairportprojectshub.com.au