MELBOURNE AIRPORT



Community newsletter

Building Your Airport

Welcome to our electronic community newsletter for September 2026.

We send this newsletter to keep you informed about our operations and projects, third runway plans, opportunities at the airport and other related news.

New Pick Up and Drop Off opening Tuesday 6 October



Say goodbye to kerbside queues and hello to our new Exit 19 for Pick Up and Drop Off for all terminals.

Plan ahead with our free journey planner tool, or watch a video showing how the new Pick Up and Drop Off zones will work when they open on Tuesday, 6 October.

To help people with mobility needs move around the airport precinct, we're extending our complimentary Melbourne Airport Assist program. From Tuesday, 6 October, Airport Assist will operate from 3am to 1am every day including the new Pick Up and Drop Off zones.

The new Pick Up and Drop Off unlocks the next stage of the airport's growth, creating space for the future expansion of the international terminal.

Explore our Pick Up and Drop Off Hub

Progress update on Melbourne Airport Rail



Melbourne Airport Rail is jointly funded by the Federal and Victorian governments. Stage 1, the West Footscray to Albion Rail Upgrade, is underway, with early works now started at Sunshine. When complete, trains will connect Melbourne Airport to the city via Sunshine and the Metro Tunnel.

Once operational, the elevated airport station will give passengers and staff more choice when travelling to and from the airport.

We'll continue working with government partners to make sure the link is in place to support the construction of the future third runway and expansion of the terminal precinct. Melbourne Airport expects to welcome 73 million passengers a year by 2047.

Find out more at Victoria's Big Build

Consultation continues on draft Noise Sharing Plan



The draft Noise Sharing Plan for Melbourne Airport's future three-runway operations is now available for community feedback.

Independent consultants Trias and GHD have held 15 drop-in sessions across Melbourne, with three more sessions scheduled before this round of consultation closes on Friday, 2 October, ahead of a third round of consultation in 2027.

Review the draft Noise Sharing Plan and supporting fact sheets, find upcoming community sessions, and share your feedback via the online survey on our Major Projects Hub.

Complete the online survey

Have your say on Master Plan 2027



In August, we released our preliminary draft Master Plan 2027, detailing how the airport will change over the next 20 years.

We've held 19 community drop-in sessions to date across Melbourne and hosted six online webinars, providing opportunities for the community to learn more and share feedback. There are seven more community sessions to come.

Have your say on our preliminary draft Master Plan 2027 by making a submission before 11.59pm on Wednesday, 11 November 2026, when the Public Exhibition period concludes.

Make a submission

Third Runway update



Early works are continuing on our third runway project. The new intersection on Sunbury Road is almost complete and will allow for the safe movement of vehicles in and out of the third runway site.

Work is also progressing on the new Arundel Creek water treatment facility. The facility will manage stormwater from the third runway site and help protect water quality flowing into the creek. Changed traffic conditions on Annandale Road continue, and we thank communities around the airport for their patience during the temporary traffic disruptions.

Find the latest disruptions and updates

Preparation for Community Health Study progresses

We've started the process to appoint an independent team of community health experts to carry out the Community Health Study required as part of the third runway approval.

Over time, the study will examine potential health impacts on surrounding communities associated with aircraft noise from the new runway.

The approved, independently developed Terms of Reference set the framework for the study, including baseline data collection before the third runway opens and ongoing monitoring for 20 years after operations begin.

Follow the progress on our Major Projects Hub

Draft Noise Amelioration Plan submitted to Federal Government



The draft Noise Amelioration Plan was submitted to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for approval in September.

The draft plan outlines proposed measures to help reduce aircraft noise impacts for eligible homes and sensitive facilities closest to the airport.

Eligibility will be based on the updated Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) contours set out in the Master Plan 2027. Following Ministerial approval, those eligible will be contacted directly with further information about their eligibility and the next steps in the program.

Find the latest updates on our Major Projects Hub

Second Women Inspiring the Next Generation event



Our Women Inspiring the Next Generation (WING) event brought together 100 young women from secondary schools across Brimbank, Hume, Melton and Whittlesea.

Organised in partnership with CFM Contractors, the young women took part in workshops and tours and heard from a panel of four women who have built successful careers in traditionally male-dominated industries such as aviation and construction.

Explore careers at Melbourne Airport

Melbourne Airport planning history book launched



Associate Professor Arun Chandru and Dr Matt Harvey launched their Melbourne Airport planning history book in August.

The book recounts how an airport at Tullamarine came to be, and details Melbourne Airport's unique facilities at launch in 1970 which included a golf course, art gallery, cinema and a fine dining restaurant.

Discover the story of Melbourne Airport

2026 Community Grants Awarded



We have awarded grants to 10 neighbourhood houses and community centres through our Community Grants Program, supporting initiatives that strengthen education and employment pathways.

The grants will help local organisations deliver meaningful opportunities and outcomes for their communities. Available to more than 60 neighbourhood houses and community centres within 20 kilometres of the airport, the program recognises the important role these organisations play as local community hubs.

Find out more about Melbourne Airport's Community Grants

Passenger numbers and new international routes

We welcomed more than 37 million passengers in the 2026 financial year, marking our busiest year for international travel since the airport opened in 1970.

We celebrated a new direct, all-day service between Melbourne and Colombo in August, and we'll also welcome a new airline in October. Finnair's inaugural service between Melbourne and Helsinki via Bangkok will launch on Monday, 26 October, giving travellers another way to access Thailand and Europe.

Passenger Numbers

June '26	July '26	August '26
Total (excl. transits)	Total (excl. transits)	Total (excl. transits)
2,772,263	**3,115,063**	**2,942,527**
↓ 0.9% vs Jun 2025	↓ 2.5% vs July 2025	↓ 1.6% vs Aug 2025
Domestic	Domestic	Domestic
1,861,074	**2,100,537**	**1,993,717**
↓ 0.1% vs Jun 2025	↓ 2.5% vs July 2025	↓ 1.8% vs Aug 2025
International	International	International
911,189	**1,014,526**	**948,810**
↓ 2.9% vs Jun 2025	↓ 2.7% vs July 2025	↓ 1.3% vs Aug 2025

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