

Engaging on Melbourne Airport's Noise Sharing Plan

Melbourne Airport's Third Runway is a nationally significant infrastructure project designed to enhance capacity, reduce delays, and support long-term growth in passenger and freight demand.

Designing new flight paths is a complex and technical task. The process considers safety, environmental impacts, operational constraints, and community feedback. It is guided by Airservices' flight path design principles, which prioritises safety and operational compliance, and strives to balance other competing priorities including the impact on the community, fuel burn and carbon emissions, and efficiency for airlines and air traffic control.

Noise Sharing refers to the design and planning of flight paths and runway operations so communities have periods of respite. The goal is to prevent any area from continuous noise exposure, rather than give all areas an equal share of aircraft noise.

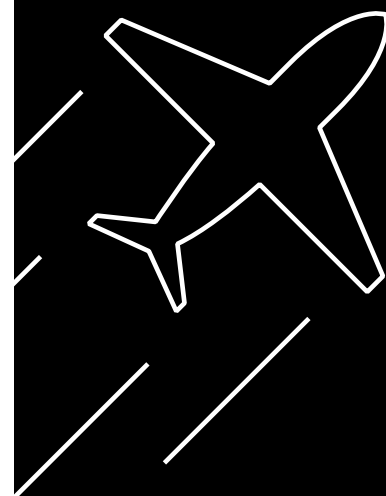
Noise sharing strategies aim to offer meaningful breaks from aircraft noise, even if only during off-peak times, nights, or specific weather conditions. Rather than spreading flights equally, these approaches focus on managing when and how often noise occurs, improving predictability and reducing long-term disruption for communities.

While it is not possible to eliminate all overflight impacts, the design seeks to avoid dense residential areas where feasible and prioritise noise sharing outside peak periods.

A Noise Sharing Plan is an approval requirement for the Melbourne Airport's Third Runway Major Development Plan. GHD and Trax have been engaged by Melbourne Airport to deliver the Noise Sharing Plan in line with Ministerial requirements.

What is a Noise Sharing Plan?

A Noise Sharing Plan is a strategy where aircraft noise is distributed across more areas by alternating flight paths and/or runway operations, to reduce the concentration of flights over affected communities. This approach aims to reduce the number of people significantly affected by noise though more people may be affected overall.



Community and industry input is vital for helping us shape the Noise Sharing Plan

Community engagement is a critical part of the noise sharing plan process. A Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed to inform the community and industry of the project and seek feedback on the Noise Sharing Plan throughout its development.

Input will be sought from the public and industry across two phases to:

1. Gather feedback on runway flows, flight paths and noise sharing to inform the development of a draft Noise Sharing Plan
2. Consult on the Draft Noise Sharing Plan

In addition to public input the Noise Sharing Plan will be informed by historical and future flight data and trends, and the current review of the flight paths and airspace outlined in option 2 in the publicly available Major Development Plan (MDP) for Melbourne Airport's Third Runway Project.

How feedback will inform the Noise Sharing Plan

Early engagement is focused on building awareness, identifying key concerns, and establishing communication channels, with a priority on the areas most impacted by increased noise from aircraft. Feedback gathered at this stage will inform the Draft Noise Sharing Plan.

We will consult on the Draft Noise Sharing Plan in 2026. The Draft Plan will be made public and updated based on the feedback received at this stage.

The flight paths in Melbourne Airport's Third Runway Major Development Plan may be updated where appropriate, including as a result of community and stakeholder feedback gathered through the Noise Sharing Plan engagement process.

After each phase of engagement, an engagement summary report will be made public to demonstrate how feedback received was considered in decision making. All personal information gathered throughout the engagement process will be kept confidential in line with Victoria's Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.

Engagement objectives for the Noise Sharing Plan

The objective of the Noise Sharing Plan engagement approach is to align with the Ministerial Conditions of Approval for engagement including:

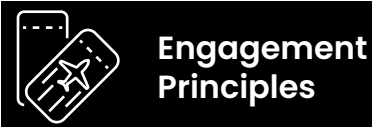
- Developing a community consultation process that aligns with Airservices' Community Engagement Standard.
- Outline the consultation that Melbourne Airport has taken in preparing the Noise Sharing Plan with each of the following:
 - airlines that operate flights to/from, and airport operator groups based at, Melbourne Airport and Essendon Fields Airport
 - other Melbourne Basin aerodromes (including Avalon Airport, Moorabbin Airport and RAAF Base Point Cook)
 - the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning
 - local governments in the area surrounding Melbourne Airport
 - local communities in the area surrounding Melbourne Airport
- outline how Melbourne Airport has taken into account any feedback received during consultation and, if and where feedback has not been adopted in preparing the Noise Sharing Plan, the reasons for doing so
- address any feedback provided by CASA during the process of developing the Noise Sharing Plan.

ENGAGEMENT PLAN



Engagement Purpose

Consult on the development of the Melbourne Airport Noise Sharing Plan with key stakeholders and impacted communities



Engagement Principles

Airservices Australia principles: transparent, meaningful, scalable, outcomes-focused, options-based, inclusive, accessible and responsive, balanced, clear and concise, tailored and considered

Melbourne Airport principles: Purposeful, respectful, transparent, inclusive and accessible, responsive, improvement

Oct – Dec 25



Mid – Late 26



Late 26 – early 27



Gather feedback

Objective: Create awareness and seek feedback to inform the noise sharing plan.



Consultation

Objective: seek feedback on the draft Noise Sharing Plan and provide a summary of what we heard in the previous engagement



Reporting

Objective: Closing the loop, feeding back what has been heard throughout consultation and how it was considered in the Noise Sharing Plan



Information available on Melbourne Airport's Major Projects Hub

- Fact sheets (translations available)
- Videos explaining the Noise Sharing Plan
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Noise and Flight Path tool
- Project updates
- Local media
- Project updates in Melbourne Airport's Community Newsletter
- Recorded community webinar
- Advertised engagement opportunities

- Engagement summary outlining how feedback from phase 1 was considered in the Draft Noise Sharing Plan
- Draft Noise Sharing Plan
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Email updates
- Local media
- Project update in Melbourne Airport's Community Newsletter
- Recorded community webinar

- Project engagement summary outlining how feedback was considered in the final Noise Sharing Plan
- Submit the Noise Sharing Plan to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government for approval
- Publish engagement report and final Noise Sharing Plan

Opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback

- Key stakeholder briefings
- Community pop-ups and drop in sessions
- Mobile trailer activations
- Online webinar (recorded)
- Online survey

- Key stakeholder briefings
- Social media
- Community pop-ups and drop in sessions
- Online webinar (recorded)
- Online survey
- Feedback and submissions will be welcome via project hub

We will also actively seek feedback from:

- Melbourne Airport's Community Aviation Consultation Group
- Key aviation industry groups and organisations
- Key government agencies and stakeholders

Feedback will not influence...

- Safety and regulatory requirements
- Legal requirements for curfew management
- Runway configuration as part of the MDP process
- Fleet and aircraft performance limitations
- Runway direction, as aircrafts must take off and land into the wind
- Equal distribution of noise across Melbourne
- Changes to current flight paths prior to Melbourne Third Runway going live

Feedback will influence...

- Communication and engagement approach
- Runway and airport operations when constraints allow
- Principles to guide the Noise Sharing Plan
- Industry specific
 - Operating assumptions
 - Aviation stakeholder requirements for access and operations



Engagement activities



Negotiables

Visit the Major Projects Hub to stay up to date on the Noise Sharing Plan and opportunities to provide feedback



Engagement aligning with industry standards

The engagement plan has been developed by independent consultants Trax and GHD to align with the Airservices Community Engagement Standard and Melbourne Airport's engagement principles. It aims to build on the work Melbourne Airport does in its communities and with stakeholders to raise awareness and seek feedback on its future operations.

MELBOURNE AIRPORT

Roles and responsibilities in the development of a Noise Sharing Plan

GHD and Trax: responsible for the leading the community and stakeholder engagement to support diverse views being heard and captured in the development of noise sharing options. Trax will also develop and evaluate the technical airspace design and operating strategies, leading the engagement with industry stakeholders.

Melbourne Airport: While Melbourne Airport leads the overall Third Runway project, its role in the Noise Sharing Plan is to be facilitative due to the independence required as part of the project's Conditions of Approval. Melbourne Airport is responsible for ensuring the Noise Sharing Plan is delivered in accordance with the Ministerial approval conditions attached to the Melbourne Airport Major Development Plan.

Airservices Australia: Airservices Australia is responsible for managing Australian airspace and will ultimately implement the airspace and flight path changes proposed in the Noise Sharing Plan. Airservices is providing advice and information to inform the Noise Sharing Plan. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed to align with Airservices Australia Community Engagement Standard.

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA): The Department administers the Airports Act 1996 and oversees compliance with the MDP approval conditions. For the Noise Sharing Plan, the Department ensures that the plan meets ministerial expectations and statutory obligations, and that it reflects the public interest. The Minister for Infrastructure the Hon. Catherine King remains the final decision-maker for any amendments or approvals related to the NSP.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA): CASA is the regulator responsible for the administration of airspace under the Airspace Act 2007 (Commonwealth). CASA will provide advice to support approval of airspace changes, as well as validate the proposed flight procedures and ensure they meet the safety standards set out under the Civil Aviation Act 1988. CASA's role is regulatory and independent, with final authority over whether the proposed changes can be implemented.

Stakeholders and community: provide feedback and advice to be inform a Noise Sharing Plan that is most appropriate for the Melbourne context.



Stay up to date

on the Noise Sharing Plan and find out how you can get involved by visiting the Major Projects Hub