

# What Happens After Public Exhibition? Fact Sheet



As a federally-leased airport, Melbourne Airport is required to develop a Major Development Plan (MDP) for major airport projects.

Preliminary Draft Major Development Plans undergo public consultation before being submitted to the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development for consideration.

The Airports Act 1996 outlines the process that airports must undertake during and post public exhibition.

During the public exhibition period, people are invited to make a submission on the plan. Once a submission is received the planning team reviews the submission, pulls out the issues or suggestions raised and forms a response to those issues or suggestions.

The supplementary report will also detail how the airport consulted on the Major Development Plan, how it informed people of the plan and how it supported people to view the plan and make a submission.

Once the Major Development Plan and the supplementary report is sent to the Minister, the Minister has 50 business days to assess and approve an MDP (the Minister can request an additional 10 days taking it to 60 business days).

The approval clock then restarts on the day the Minister receives the advice from the DAWE Minister instead of the day the draft MDP was received.

Following the end of public exhibition the airport must develop a supplementary report. The supplementary report, which will be sent to the Minister along with the Draft Major Development Plan – will outline all the submissions received, the key themes, issues, concerns and suggestions raised in those submissions and Melbourne Airport's response to the themes, issues, concerns and suggestions.

There is no statutory timeframe in which the airport has to submit the Draft Major Development Plan and the supplementary report to the Minister. However, airports move quickly to do this so that a decision can be received in a timely manner. It typically takes between 3-6 months after the end of the public exhibition period for a Major Development Plan to be submitted to the Minister.

That scenario is if the Minister does NOT refer the MDP to another Commonwealth Department such as the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE). If the Minister DOES refer to DAWE then an additional 30 days is added to the approval clock as the assessment clock stops and is restarted at the 50 business days + 30 days.

