

Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport

Frequently Asked Questions – Airspace and flight path design



The Airport

Why does Western Sydney International (WSI) not have a curfew?

WSI has always been planned to operate on a 24/7 curfew-free basis. Operating without a curfew will boost the airport's ability to create more jobs in Western Sydney.

The preliminary flight paths for WSI have been designed in accordance with airspace design principles that were developed based on feedback from the public. These include:

- minimising noise and flights over residential areas to the maximum extent possible
- developing procedures to minimise the impact of night-time aircraft operations while not constraining airport operations.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on preliminary flight paths provides a comprehensive description and analysis of noise impacts and includes proposed noise mitigation measures. The draft EIS is available online or in person at locations across Sydney (see wsiflightpaths.gov.au or call 1800 038 160 for the list of locations).

How will the new airport benefit Western Sydney?

The Australian Government's investment in WSI is seeing significant economic growth and employment opportunities across Western Sydney.

More than 5,000 direct jobs have already been created by the construction of WSI, with more than 11,000 direct and indirect jobs expected to be created throughout the construction period (2018 – 2026). This project is providing more job opportunities for Western Sydney locals, with half of the airport development's workforce from Western Sydney.

The project is also unlocking opportunities for apprenticeships and other learning workers to advance their skillset and experience. Around one-third of the airport's workforce is learning new skills on-the-job and developing important skills for their future careers.

Over \$400 million in contracts has been awarded to Western Sydney businesses, including small and medium enterprises, family and First Nations businesses.

More than 250 Western Sydney-based businesses have been engaged across construction, catering, security and other sectors.



Aircraft Overflight Noise Tool

What does the Noise Tool do?

The Noise Tool lets people search an address or location, see the nearby WSI preliminary flight paths and check the aircraft noise impacts. Proposed flight path changes for Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport and Bankstown Airport that are required to safely integrate WSI flight paths into the Sydney airspace can also be viewed in the Noise Tool.

The Noise Tool can be accessed at wsiflightpaths.gov.au.

I need help to use the Noise Tool. Who can I talk to?

You can attend a community information and feedback session, where you can talk to staff from the department. Details on the sessions are available at wsiflightpaths.gov.au/visit-us

You can also get in touch with the flight paths team via email at wsiflightpaths@infrastructure.gov.au, or by phone on 1800 038 160.

WSI Flight Paths

How were flight path locations determined?

The preliminary flight paths reflect a balance of the needs of community, environment and industry, and maintain safety as a priority. The preliminary flight paths also aim to minimise changes to the existing airspace and other airports, airfields and air bases in the Sydney area.

The preliminary flight paths were overseen by an Expert Steering Group led by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, and include the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Airservices Australia, Department of Defence and airport operator WSA Co Limited.

The flight path design follows international best practice and also meets a set of 12 Airspace Design Principles set out in the Western Sydney Airport Plan.

These principles include minimising:

- aircraft overflight and noise impacts on residential areas, to the maximum extent possible
- the impact of night-time operations on communities, and
- the impacts of aircraft operations on natural and visually sensitive areas, including the Blue Mountains.

Information on the flight path design process is available at wsiflightpaths.gov.au.

The draft Environmental Impact Statement provides detail on the design process for the WSI preliminary flight paths.

Will there be impacts to the flight paths and operations of other airports in Sydney?

The introduction of new flight paths for WSI means that some flight paths for other airports in the Sydney region need to be altered. These changes are required to integrate WSI into the already busy and complex airspace arrangements in the Sydney area, in order to maintain the safety of all aircraft operations. These changes have been minimised to the extent possible, and can be viewed in the Noise Tool via wsiflightpaths.gov.au

These flight path changes are called 'facilitated changes' in the draft EIS, as they are required to facilitate the introduction of WSI into Sydney's airspace. The changes will alter some existing flight paths and see the introduction of some new traffic management procedures at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport, Bankstown Airport, Camden Airport and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base in Richmond. Changes will also be made to the lower-level airspace that smaller general aviation aircraft operate in.

Will night-time operations be different to daytime operations?

Yes, night-time operations (between 11pm and 5.30am) will use different runway modes that will minimise noise impacts to as many residences as possible.

At night, if it is safe to do so and subject to capacity, aircraft would be able to take off on the runway towards the south-west and arrive to land from the south-west to minimise noise impacts to as many residences as possible.

You can select different operating scenarios and modes in the Noise Tool to see the proposed flight paths and noise impacts for different situations.

How do I make a submission on the preliminary flight paths and draft Environmental Impact Statement?

The department encourages you to make a formal submission during the public exhibition of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

You can provide feedback in a number of ways, including via:

- the Online Community Portal wsiflightpaths.gov.au
- email to eis.submissions@infrastructure.gov.au
- mail to Attn: WSI Flight Paths Team, GPO Box 594, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Why are you not consulting on flight paths for a second runway?

The flight paths have been designed for single runway operations at WSI. The Western Sydney Airport Plan anticipates that a second runway will be required around 2050.

What is the maximum number of flights per day?

The maximum number of flights per day over a given location can vary based on a number of factors such as weather conditions and time of day. This information can be found online using the Noise Tool at wsiflightpaths.gov.au. Further detailed information on expected aircraft frequencies can be found in the draft EIS (Technical Paper 1), which can be viewed online at wsiflightpaths.gov.au or in-person at locations across Sydney (see wsiflightpaths.gov.au or call 1800 038 160 for the list of locations).

Noise

How has noise been considered in flight path design?

The WSI preliminary flight paths have been designed to minimise, as far as reasonably possible, the noise effects of aircraft operations on residential areas and noise-sensitive areas.

Where can I find the Government's noise insulation and property acquisition policy?

A draft noise insulation and property acquisition policy is included in the draft EIS on preliminary flight paths, in chapter 11. You can view the draft policy and make a submission (see page 2 of this FAQs for how you can make a submission).

How much noise will I hear from my house?

This information can be found online using the Aircraft Overflight Noise Tool at wsiflightpaths.gov.au, by entering your address.

What will happen to house prices as a result of the flight paths?

An assessment of the impacts of preliminary flight paths on house prices is included in Chapter 19 of the draft EIS and technical paper 11, which can be viewed on the Online Community Portal or in person at locations across Sydney (see wsiflightpaths.gov.au or call 1800 038 160 for the list of locations).

What planning controls will be applied to land around the airport?

Land use and planning controls are set through the NSW Government's State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). The SEPPs are enacted by local governments.

ANEC (Australian Noise Exposure Concept) charts have been used to guide land planning around the Badgerys Creek site for decades and have been incorporated into the State and local government planning guidelines.

The ANEC contours released as part of the preliminary flight paths do not replace the existing ANEC contour that is used in the NSW and local government planning frameworks. The new indicative ANEC contours are preliminary and for single runway operations only, and have been designed to inform the draft EIS.

The Western Sydney Airport Plan requires the preparation of a long-term parallel runway Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) during the detailed airspace design phase, which will commence following completion of the EIS process.

Environmental Impact Statement

What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document that examines the environmental, social, heritage and economic impacts of a project and proposes measures to reduce the impacts.

The draft EIS for the preliminary flight paths has been prepared according to requirements under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

How can I make a submission?

The draft EIS will be on public exhibition until 31 January 2024.

During this time, you can make a submission:

- via the Online Community Portal wsiflightpaths.gov.au
- by email to eis.submissions@infrastructure.gov.au
- by mail to Attn: WSI Flight Paths Team, GPO Box 594, CANBERRA ACT 2601

How can you guarantee that you'll consider the community's submissions?

The flight paths that have been released are preliminary and not final.

The department is required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to consider and respond to submissions made on the draft EIS during the public exhibition period.

The final EIS is then considered by the Minister for the Environment and Water, who will advise whether the preliminary flight paths should be authorised by the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

What will be the consultation period for the draft Environmental Impact Statement?

The statutory timeframe for consultation under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* is 20 business days.

However, given the complexity of the flight paths project, the department has committed to an extended consultation period in excess of 60 business days.

The public exhibition period for the draft EIS for preliminary flight paths will end on 31 January 2024.

Consultation and engagement

Who do I speak to about the preliminary flight paths?

The department is holding community information and feedback sessions across Sydney and online. You can attend a session to find out more information and speak with the flight paths team.

Details about the community information and feedback sessions are available at wsiflightpaths.gov.au, or by calling 1800 038 160.

Have you consulted with First Nations peoples on the Environmental Impact Statement process?

The department has consulted with First Nations peoples and will continue to do so under the planning process for the preliminary flight paths.

The draft EIS includes details of these consultations and cultural heritage surveys that have been undertaken in collaboration with First Nations peoples and their representative bodies.

How are you engaging with people from non-English speaking backgrounds?

The department has consulted with relevant stakeholders to understand how best to engage with specific Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities that are impacted by the WSI preliminary flight paths.

The department has also considered feedback received from in-language focus groups and held community information stalls at cultural events.

Brochures have been translated into the top five languages other than English used in Greater Western Sydney. The brochures are available at wsiflightpaths.gov.au/resources

How will my feedback be considered?

One of the main objectives of the EIS process is to listen to the concerns of people and communities that will be impacted by the new flight paths for WSI.

Your feedback on the draft EIS will be used to refine the development of:

- the preliminary flight paths for WSI, including modes of runway operations for WSI
- the social and economic impact assessment of the preliminary flight paths.

After the public exhibition period ends, feedback will be considered by the flight paths design team to finalise the EIS and flight paths for WSI.

How can I stay up-to-date with the project?

You can sign up to receive email notifications about the project on our Online Community Portal wsiflightpaths.gov.au

Environment

What impacts will the flight paths have on Warragamba Dam, Prospect Reservoir and Blue Mountains heritage status?

The 2016 EIS on the airport's Stage 1 Development found there would be a low risk from flight paths to surface water at either Warragamba Dam or Prospect Reservoir and low risk to the World Heritage values of the Greater Blue Mountains Area. This remains the case for the WSI preliminary flight paths.

The design of the WSI preliminary flight paths has considered the impacts of air operations on natural and visually sensitive areas, such as the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Further detail on the environmental impact of the preliminary flight paths is provided in the draft EIS, which can be viewed via the Online Community Portal or in person at locations across Sydney (see wsiflightpaths.gov.au or call 1800 038 160 for the list of locations).

Will aircraft dump fuel over Western Sydney?

Fuel jettisoning (also known as fuel dumping) is only required in extremely rare circumstances in the event of an emergency and is only possible in certain types of aircraft.

In the event that fuel jettisoning is required, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Airservices Australia enforce strict procedures on when and where it can occur.

Jettisoned fuel vaporises rapidly and disperses widely. This means it is highly unlikely to reach the ground and will have a negligible effect on air or water quality or the environment.

How will operations at WSI affect emergency services operations?

All aircraft responding to an emergency will be given absolute priority.

What impacts will the flight paths have on rainwater tank storage?

The draft EIS has found that there is a low risk to rainwater tank storage from preliminary flight paths at WSI.

An assessment of air and water quality impacts is included in Chapter 12 of the draft EIS and technical paper 2.

What causes contrails?

Condensation trails, or 'contrails', are white, cloud-like streams that are sometimes visible behind jet aircraft, normally when cruising at high altitude.

Jet aircraft emit a range of gases in flight, including water vapour and sulphur particles.

At the high altitudes at which jet aircraft cruise (normally above 26,000 feet or 8,000 metres), the air is very cold. Cold air is less able to hold water vapour and therefore, if there is a large amount of water vapour in the air (high humidity), it rapidly condenses onto sulphur particles from the jet aircraft engine, turning into droplets of water. Water vapour from the aircraft engine also turns into droplets of water.

At high altitudes, the temperature is far below freezing and the water droplets quickly form ice particles, making up a white contrail. Contrails are harmless to health as they are made of ice. When conditions become drier (lower humidity levels), the ice particles evaporate.

Further information about condensation trails is available on Airservices Australia's website at airservicesaustralia.com/about-us/about-our-operations/condensation-trails/.

Find out more



Visit the **Aircraft Overflight Noise Tool** to view the preliminary flight paths in more detail at wsiflightpaths.gov.au



View the draft EIS and project information on our **Online Community Portal**: wsiflightpaths.gov.au



Email us your questions at wsiflightpaths@infrastructure.gov.au



Call us on 1800 038 160



Attend our **Community Information and Feedback Sessions** to find out more and speak to a member of our team

You can register to attend via wsiflightpaths.gov.au/visit-us

Information in your language



Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)

If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450** and ask them to call the WSI Flight Paths team on **1800 038 160**.

Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên, vui lòng gọi cho Dịch vụ Thông Phiên dịch (Translating and Interpreting Service) qua số **131 450** và yêu cầu họ gọi cho đội ngũ phụ trách Đường bay Sân bay Quốc tế Western Sydney (Western Sydney International Airport Flight Paths) qua số **1800 038 160**.

如果您需要口译服务, 请致电 **131 450** 联系笔译与口译服务署 (Translating and Interpreting Service), 并请他们拨打 **1800 038 160** 联系西悉尼国际机场飞行路径团队 (Western Sydney International Airport Flight Paths)

यदि आपको दुभाषिए की सेवाओं की ज़रूरत है, तो कृपया **131 450** पर अनुवाद और दुभाषिया सेवा (Translating and Interpreting Service) से संपर्क करें और उनसे **1800 038 160** पर पश्चिमी सिडनी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा उड़ान पथ (Western Sydney International Airport Flight Paths) टीम को कॉल करने का अनुरोध करें।

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Kung kailangan mo ng mga serbisyo ng isang tagasaling pasalita (interpreter), mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa Serbisyo ng Pagsasaling Pasulat at Pasalita (Translating and Interpreting Service) sa **131 450** at hilingin sa kanila na tawagan ang pangkat ng Mga Landas ng Paglipad sa Paliparang Internasyonal ng Western Sydney (Western Sydney International Airport Flight Paths) sa **1800 038 160**.

View this brochure in languages other than English

Please scan this QR code to view information in languages other than English.

Vui lòng quét mã QR này để xem thông tin bằng các ngôn ngữ khác ngoài tiếng Anh.

请扫描二维码查看中文信息。

अंग्रेज़ी के अलावा अन्य भाषाओं में जानकारी देखने के लिए कृपया यह QR कोड स्कैन करें।

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