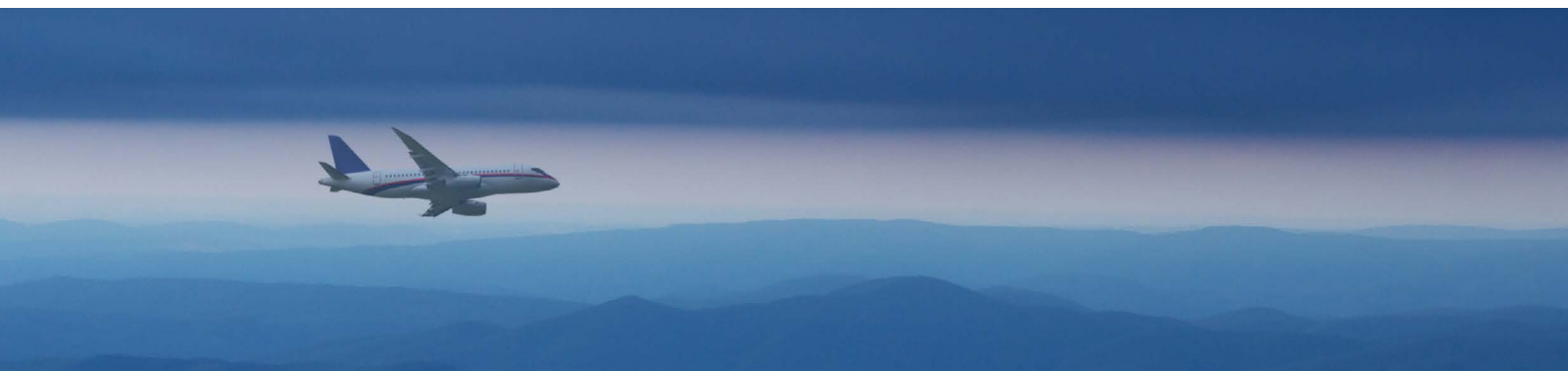




Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport

Additional measures to support the opening of the airport



On 4 June 2025, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP, authorised the preliminary airspace and flight paths for Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI). This authorisation contained several measures to mitigate, monitor and respond to the potential impacts of aircraft noise on the residents and environment of Western Sydney and the Greater Blue Mountains Area.

These measures include:

- a ministerial directive to Airservices Australia to prioritise 'Reciprocal Runway Operations' (RRO) as the default operating mode at night, including the use of a specific noise abatement procedure, when it is safe to do so
- an environmental monitoring program (EMP) to monitor the impacts of aircraft noise within and adjacent to the Greater Blue Mountains Area
- the establishment of a community engagement forum to monitor and resolve aircraft noise and flight path issues during the early years of operation.

The full text of the conditions can be found at: www.wsiflightpaths.gov.au/conditions

Prioritisation of 'Reciprocal Runway Operations' (RRO)

Also known as 'head-to-head' operations, where aircraft arrive from and take off to the southwest, RRO has been shown to achieve the overall lowest possible impact on surrounding communities, directing aircraft away from the most heavily populated areas of Western Sydney at night.

When RRO is available, an additional noise abatement procedure can be used to reduce noise impacts for communities surrounding WSI and the Blue Mountains at night (RRO-NAP). Data in the Environmental Impact Statement indicates that RRO-NAP could be used up to 80% of the time that RRO is available, with the main constraint being the location of incoming aircraft.

Flight paths for RRO and the noise abatement procedure can be viewed at: www.wsiflightpaths.gov.au

Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP)

The Minister has asked WSA Co, as the airport operator, to establish an EMP to monitor the impacts of aircraft noise on the environmental values of the Greater Blue Mountains Area.

The EMP will be established in addition to the community noise monitoring program that Airservices Australia will undertake.

The EMP will be designed by an independent expert and created in consultation with Indigenous and other stakeholders.

The EMP is planned to be implemented for 2 periods. The first period is from 2026-2031, to monitor impacts at the beginning of WSI's operations as a baseline.

The second period is from 2045-2055, when WSI is expected to reach maximum capacity of flights with the current single runway.

Once an EMP has been approved by the Minister and has been implemented by WSA Co, the EMP and its monitoring data will be available on WSA Co's website wsiairport.com.au

Environmental values

The Environmental Protection Biodiversity Protection Act 1999 defines the 'environment' as the ecological and physical elements of an area, as well as its heritage value and social, cultural and economic interests. For the purpose of the EMP, this will include the Outstanding Universal Values of the Greater Blue Mountains Area, its ecosystems and Indigenous cultural values.

Community engagement forum

The Australian Government will create a community engagement forum to monitor and respond to aircraft noise and flight path issues during the early years of the airport's operation.

The forum will be an independent advisory body that will:

- connect the community, Airservices Australia and WSA Co together to monitor and resolve aircraft noise issues
- be an engagement forum specifically for airspace and aircraft noise issues relating to WSI
- monitor and review WSI flight paths and noise abatement procedures
- develop and consider options to refine airspace operations and noise abatement procedures
- operate transparently to maintain accountability to the community.

This forum will be established in addition to the WSI Community Aviation Consultation Group, which WSA Co will set up to consult the community on other matters about WSI on an ongoing basis. The community engagement forum will include representatives of Airservices Australia, WSA Co and the community.

Further details about the forum will be announced prior to WSI opening in 2026.

Stay informed



Stay updated about the project at wsiflightpaths.gov.au



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



For questions, please contact the team at wsiflightpaths@infrastructure.gov.au