



# WESTERN SYDNEY Fact Sheet



## Flight paths for Western Sydney International

Designing and finalising flight paths and airspace arrangements for Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport is a large and complex task that takes several years to complete. Before Western Sydney International opens in 2026, a comprehensive airspace planning and design process will be undertaken, with ongoing community engagement.

The process for designing flight paths and airspace management for the airport will follow international best-practice approaches to optimise a balance of safety, technical efficiency, capacity and noise and environmental conditions.

### Who will design the flight paths?

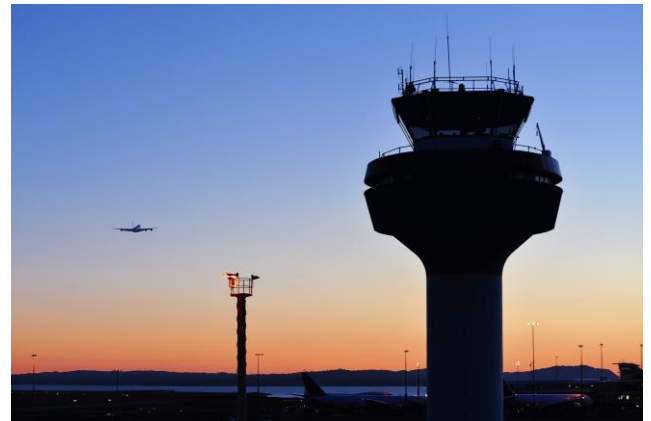
The Australian Government is responsible for designing the flight paths and completing the associated environment assessment.

The flight paths design process will cover four main phases:

- Planning
- Preliminary design and environmental assessment
- Detailed design
- Implementation

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional

Development (the Department) is working closely with the national air navigation service provider, Airservices Australia, to develop the flight paths and airspace arrangements for the new airport.



An Expert Steering Group oversees the detailed planning and technical design process for the airport's airspace arrangements and flight path design, and ensures compliance with the conditions and provisions of the *Western Sydney Airport Plan 2016*. This group is led by the Department and includes representatives from industry and regulatory bodies, Airservices Australia, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the Chair of Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA).

### Engaging the community in the flight path design process

Community engagement will be ongoing throughout construction of the new airport.

The proposed design of the flight paths for the airport will be open for public consultation as part of the environmental assessment. Consultation is expected to take place in 2021. The Department will continue to inform the community on the progress of the flight path and airspace design process.

The FOWSA, a community and stakeholder reference group, has been established to consult and inform the community. FOWSA's role is to ensure that the community remains informed about key milestones in the airport's development and that the community's views are heard during the construction period.

## Key principles

The design of flight paths for Western Sydney International will be guided by airspace design principles, including:

- Safety is non-negotiable.
- Flights over residential areas and noise-sensitive facilities will be avoided as much as possible.
- Where flight paths are unable to avoid residential areas:
  - Where possible, these areas should not be overflown by both arriving and departing aircraft.
  - Noise abatement procedures should be optimised to ensure that residents are impacted as little as possible.
- Procedures will be developed to minimise the impact of night-time aircraft operations on the community while not constraining airport operations.
- Aircraft arrivals will not converge through a single merge point over any single residential area.
- Airspace design will consider the impacts of air operations on natural and visually sensitive areas.
- The community, aerodrome operators and airspace users will be consulted in determining the final flight paths.

