

## AIRPORT CURFEWS

A number of airports around Australia have legislated curfews that restrict operations to provide noise relief to residents surrounding the airport.

An airport curfew is a legislated restriction on aircraft operations during a specified time period. Curfews are currently in place at four Australian airports between 11pm and 6am. The restrictions limit what aircraft can land and take off, and, in some cases, the runways that can be used.

The four airports with curfews are:

- Sydney
- Adelaide
- Gold Coast (Coolangatta)
- Essendon.

This factsheet provides an overview of how curfews are managed in Australia. The specific curfew restrictions for individual airports can be found at the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development website: [www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/curfews](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/curfews)

### Airservices role

Airservices monitors which aircraft operate during curfew periods and provides reports to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The department is the only organisation that can make a determination of a curfew violation and prosecute an airline or aircraft operator for breaching a curfew.

We can also provide advice to the community on aircraft movements during curfews through the Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS). Further information on making a complaint or enquiry is available at [www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/about-making-a-complaint](http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/about-making-a-complaint)

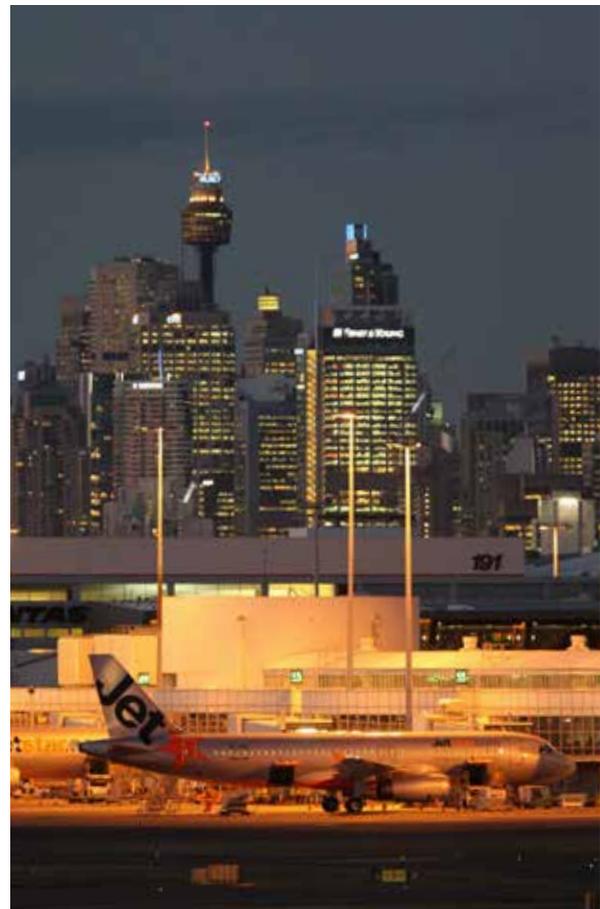
You can also identify individual flights during curfews using our WebTrak service: [www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/webtrak](http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/webtrak)

### Permitted operations

An airport curfew does not stop all aircraft from operating during the legislated time period.

As a general rule, most commercial aircraft carrying passengers are restricted from operating during the curfew.

The main exception is a small number of 'shoulder' movements in between 5:00am and 6:00am, and 11:00pm and midnight. These are permitted on a quota basis to take account of time differences during the northern hemisphere summer which



affect the schedules of airlines flying from these destinations to Australian airports. The shoulder periods are also required to address compliance with curfews at some international airports.

Quotas for shoulder movements are decided by the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development and administered by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

Other exceptions to curfew restrictions are:

- a limited number of low noise freighter aircraft
- aircraft approved by the department. These are usually small propeller aircraft that meet international noise standards

- emergency aircraft, police, air-ambulance, Royal Flying Doctor Service, search and rescue, or an aircraft declaring an emergency
- departing aircraft that have received taxi clearance for take-off prior to the start of the curfew period
- an aircraft granted a one-off dispensation by the department to operate in exceptional circumstances
- a limited number of low noise corporate jet aircraft that meet international noise standards.

Aircraft may also operate in the same airspace as an airport with a curfew and not be subject to any curfew requirements provided they do not land or take-off from the airport. Examples of flight operations not subject to curfew restrictions include aircraft en route to another airport or helicopters operating at helipads away from the airport.

### Government policy

The government is committed to maintaining existing curfew arrangements while also recognising the value of a network of curfew-free airports. There is no intention to introduce additional airport curfews at present.

### Granting of curfew dispensations

Under curfew legislations and regulations, the Minister for Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development has the power to grant a dispensation that allows an aircraft to operate during a curfew.

In practise, a dispensation is granted by the department where it is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances to justify the flight. Dispensations must be granted before a flight operates into, or out of, an airport with a curfew. They cannot be granted retrospectively.

### Further information

Specific information regarding the Commonwealth Curfew Acts and Regulations can be found at: [www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/curfews](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/curfews)



#### For more information

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