

TRIAL OF FLIGHT PATH CHANGE GOLD COAST SOUTHERN DEPARTURE

Airservices is the government-owned corporation responsible for providing air traffic management and aviation rescue fire fighting services in Australia. Each year we manage more than four million flights across the country, involving some 90 million passengers, including those operating to and from Gold Coast Airport.

Aviation is critical to the broader economy and effectively links our people with each other and the rest of the world. Gold Coast Airport is a vital part of the national transport system; however, managing the impacts of aircraft noise remains a key challenge for an industry that is experiencing high levels of growth.

Airservices proactively works with Gold Coast Airport and the community to minimise noise impacts where possible. To reduce the impact of aircraft noise on local residents, and at the request of the community, Airservices is trialling a change to a flight path for southern departures from Gold Coast Airport.

WHAT IS BEING CHANGED AND WHY?

Some aircraft departing from Runway 14 (to the south) fly over residential areas near the airport, including Banora Point and Chinderah.

The proposed change was submitted to Airservices in 2012–13 by residents groups to the south of Gold Coast Airport. It aims to reduce the noise impacts for residents by directing jet departures from Runway 14 to the south-west to maximise tracking over the Banora Point Golf Course.

HOW MANY AIRCRAFT USE THIS FLIGHT PATH?

Approximately three quarters of southern departures from Runway 14 use this flight path. In 2013, around 10,000 flights used this path, averaging 28 flights a day, ranging from zero to about 60 flights on a single day.

Aircraft using this flight path are most commonly headed for southern and western airports (from

Sydney across to Perth), and under current airline schedules generally fly this path between 6.30 am and 9.00 pm at night. Modifying this flight path will not impact the number of flights using it, nor will it change the operation of any of the other flight paths for the airport.

WILL I NOTICE ANY INCREASE OR CHANGE IN NOISE?

It is expected there will be a noticeable reduction in aircraft noise at Chinderah with most likely no noticeable difference in aircraft noise for residents of Banora Point. There may be a visible difference for Banora Point residents in where aircraft are flying as the flight path is moving; for some residents some aircraft may look closer or further away than they were previously.

There may also be a noticeable increase in the noise level of some aircraft flying over the rural area of Stotts Creek.

WILL THERE BE NOISE MONITORING?

Noise monitors will be in place for short periods during the trial at various locations. This data will be made publicly available and used to inform our decision on whether to permanently implement this flight path change.

WHEN WILL THE TRIAL START AND HOW LONG WILL IT GO FOR?

Aircraft will commence flying the trial flight path in 2015 subject to regulatory approval. The trial will be in place for 12 months, in order to cover normal

seasonal patterns. This timeframe also allows for the community to give us their feedback about the trial.

A review of the changed flight path will be conducted by Airservices after 12 months and a report will be published for community comment. Airservices will review the results with a view to introducing the change permanently if it is operationally feasible and valued by the community. The change will stay in place while the review process is being done.

HAS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BEEN DONE?

Yes. The changed flight path aims to balance environmental and operational impacts. Our analysis concluded the environmental impact from this change is expected to be minor. A copy of the environmental assessment is available on the Airservices website at www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/flight-path-changes/gold-coast

WHAT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION WILL OCCUR?

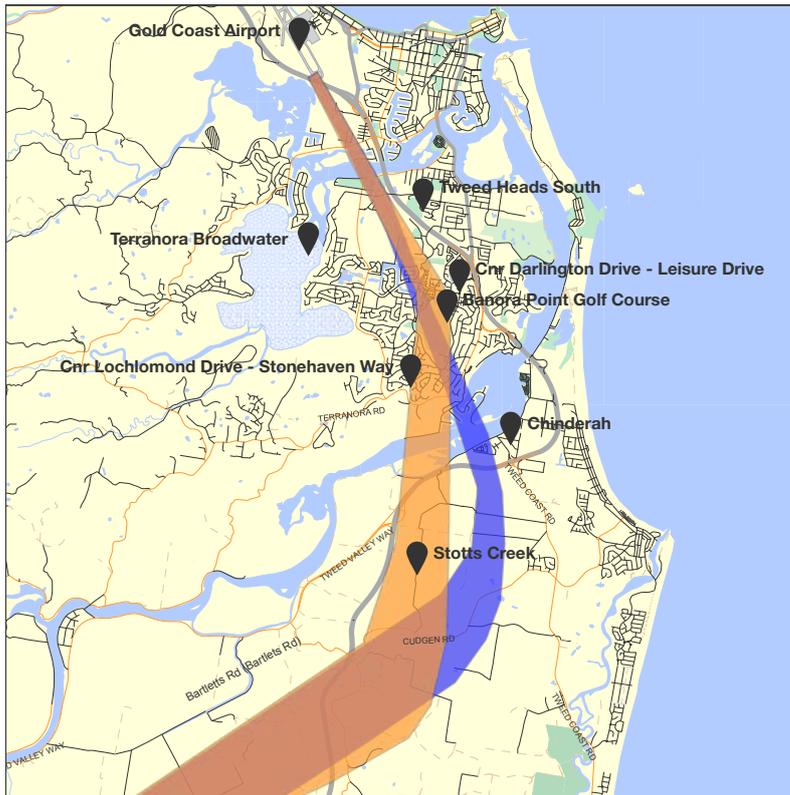
We aim to inform residents about this change through the Gold Coast Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group and Aircraft Noise Abatement Consultative Committee membership, local advertising and via our website at www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/flight-path-changes/gold-coast

HOW CAN I HAVE MY SAY?

We have put in place a range of feedback mechanisms and will include all community views and comments in the review process.

Your feedback is welcomed by contacting the Noise Complaints and Information Service on 1800 802 584 (free call), email NCIS@airservicesaustralia.com or by mail to Noise Complaints and Information Service, PO Box 211, Mascot NSW 1460.

An interpreter service is also available on 131 450.



Purple—current flight path.
Orange—trial flight path commencing 2015.