

Implementation processes & timetable for the Long Term Operating Plan

Implementation is dependent on the government's acceptance of the proposed long term operating plan and the completion of any environmental assessment processes that are determined to be necessary. It is proposed that initial planning, analysis and design proceed in parallel with any further environmental consideration deemed necessary by government, without prejudice to any government decision.

Operational Implementation

The implementation of the Operating Plan will be a critical phase in the eventual success of the Plan, requiring careful planning in terms of safety assessment, timing and delivery of the essential project elements. These elements include initial planning and assessment, further computer modelling, Air Traffic Services simulation, document preparation and printing, and controller training. A change to air routes and procedures will require formal promulgation and advice to pilots in accordance with international standards.

To ensure that the benefits of the Operating Plan, in terms of both noise sharing and noise relief for the Sydney community, are delivered as early as practicable, Airservices Australia is proposing a project strategy for the operational implementation of its recommendations.

This strategy is based on a staged implementation program, as opposed to a total package program, to ensure that the benefits to be gained from the Operating Plan begin to be delivered at the earliest opportunity.

Stage 1 of the program consists of the introduction of Mode 5 - Runways 16L and 16R for Departures, and Runway 25 for Arrivals - and, Mode 14A - Runways 16L and 16R for Departures, and Runway 07 for Arrivals. A management process will be implemented to ensure the selection of runways for noise sharing is optimised.

Stage 2 of the program covers the development and introduction of the other elements of the Plan. This incorporates the major Terminal Area flight path restructure for all of the designated Runway Modes of operation.

Project Timetable

The schedule for implementation of the Operating Plan is based on a two Stage approach to ensure that the benefits of the Plan can be delivered in the shortest practical time.

Stage 1 will deliver considerable benefits by noise sharing through runway mode selection within 18 weeks of commencement. This stage will result in alternatives to the 16 parallel operations. The introduction of Modes 5 and 14A will increase respite periods for the north, further enhancing fairer sharing of noise across Sydney. It also includes some initial adjustments to airspace to provide reductions in overflight of populous areas and expanded over water operations.

Preliminary planning for Stage 2 has been undertaken and a timetable for this stage is currently being finalised.

Minimisation of the leadtime of the stages can be achieved through early preparation pending acceptance of the plan. Work can proceed in parallel with consideration of the plan by Government without prejudice to any further environmental and consultative processes that the Government may deem necessary.