

# Aircraft flight paths

Work is underway to finalise the new flight paths required for Melbourne Airport's third runway. This work will be done in consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including the community.

## What is a flight path?

A flight path is a mapped three-dimensional corridor where aircraft fly most of the time. Flight paths can be several kilometres wide, larger than implied by the single lines depicted on flight charts or maps.

Aircraft do not always perfectly follow flight paths as they have been designed or fly through the centre of them. The spread of aircraft on flight paths is driven by operational requirements and the weather, resulting in a spread of flight tracks. This occurs because:

- Aircraft performance, speed, flight distance and winds all affect the rate an aircraft climbs and descends and, as a result, where and how navigation turns can occur.
- Air Traffic Control (the responsibility of Airservices Australia) may give aircraft specific instructions for traffic separation and/or sequencing, or prioritise air traffic for efficiency.

## Current flight paths

Airservices Australia records real-time flight tracks (paths) by using radar information to display aircraft movements:

- within 50 kilometres of the airport
- up to 30,000 feet above mean sea level.

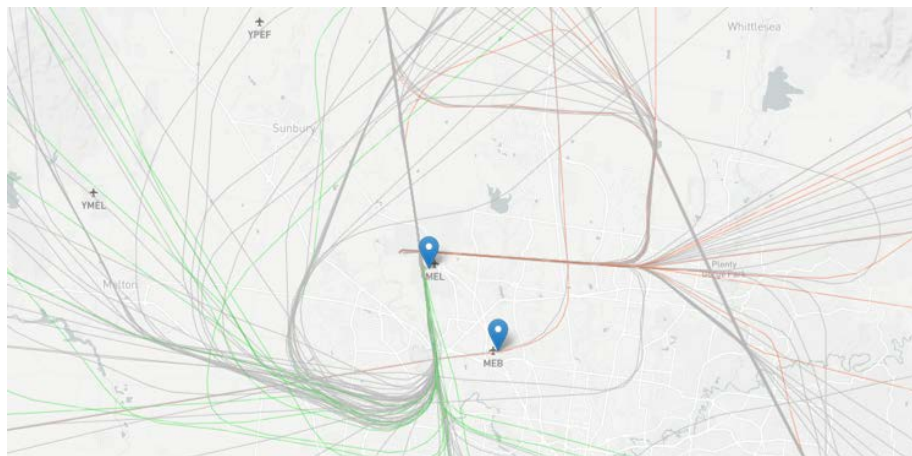
Airservices Australia displays this information on its WebTrak portal. You can see typical flight paths and information about normal operations and patterns of airspace use on WebTrak. You can also explore information about historical flight path trends and patterns, and aircraft noise data that noise monitors collect at strategic locations in communities close to the airport.

You can view the WebTrak at <https://webtrak.emsbk.com/mel3>

## Aircraft in Your Neighbourhood

Airservices Australia also provides information through its Aircraft in Your Neighbourhood tool, where you can learn about flight paths, aircraft movements in your area and noise. You can access information and resources that explain how air traffic is managed.

To use this tool, you will first need to select an address so that information can be customised for your location. Aircraft in Your Neighbourhood can be found at <https://aircraftnoise.airservicesaustralia.com/>.



## Flight paths with three runways

The Major Development Plan (MDP) for the third runway, which was approved by the Federal Government in September 2024, included flight path designs for when the airport begins operations with three runways. These can be seen in our Flight Path and Noise Tool, available online at Melbourne Airport's website: <https://www.melbourneairport.com.au/community/aircraft-noise>.

The noise tool provides information about the options being considered to operate three runways and what noise communities can expect.

You can search any address or location to see what flight paths and noise you may experience. Results will be displayed to show:

- whether the location is under a flight path
- the estimated number of flights and expected noise over this location
- the typical altitude (arrival and departure) of flights.

WHAT IS YOUR ADDRESS?

Search for your address

MAP VIEW

Flight Paths Noise Contour

SCENARIO

Three Runways M3R

OPTIONS (THREE RUNWAYS)

Option 1 Option 2 Mixed

YEAR

2026 2046

reference opening year 20 years after reference opening year

TIME OF DAY

Daytime 6am-6pm Evening 6pm-11pm Night 11pm-6am

