

Solar panel generators approvals factsheet



Context

Australia Pacific Airports Melbourne (**APAM**) manages approximately 2,700 hectares of Melbourne Airport land supporting a range of activities from aviation, parking, retail and commercial property development. See **Figure 1**.

APAM supports the development of sustainable and renewable energy sources, such as solar panel generators, while ensuring a safe aviation environment is maintained. This factsheet has been designed to provide a quick reference on the approvals process required to facilitate your solar panel generator development plans on-airport and off-airport land.

General Enquiries

APAM (Melbourne Airport) - Planning Team

planningpermits@melair.com.au

APAM (Melbourne Airport) - Property Team

Property@melair.com.au

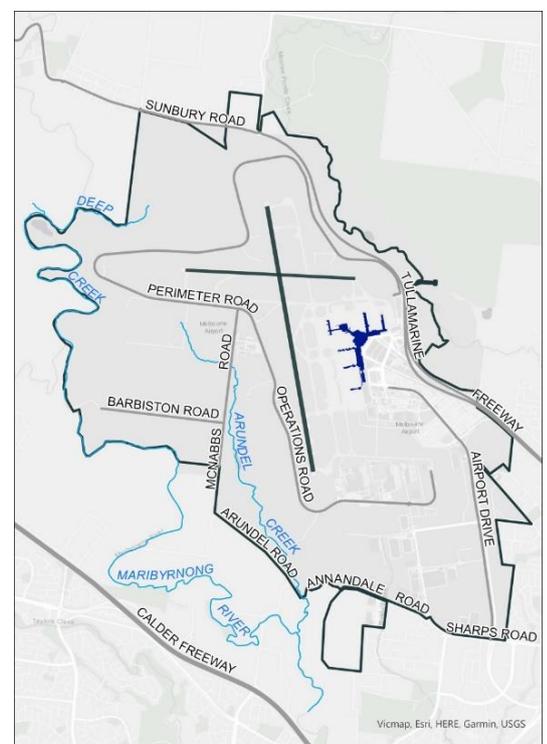


Figure 1: Melbourne Airport land boundaries

Approvals Process

Proponent provides the location of proposed solar panel generators to APAM (operator of Melbourne Airport).

For developments on-airport land

1. Proponent to speak with a respective APAM Property Manager. Please email Property@melair.com.au if advice is required on the relevant Property Manager to contact.
2. APAM Property Team will review and revert to the proponent. The APAM Property Team will then forward the proposal to the APAM Planning Team if there are no issues to proceed with the application.
3. APAM Planning Team will advise the proponent that a planning application is required. The proponent will be given the following templates (where available) to be submitted to planningpermits@melair.com.au as part of the planning application as a minimum:
 - A *Planning Permit Application Form*;
 - A *Glint and Glare Report*;
 - A dimensioned elevation and site plan;
 - A *Connection & Distribution Agreement* (Note: Proponent must also submit a signed copy of this Agreement to hv@melair.com.au)
4. APAM will notify CASA and Airservices of the complete planning application. (Note: The solar panel generators development cannot be approved by APAM until CASA has determined in writing that it will not cause a hazard to aircraft operations. This is a requirement under Part 139 *Manual of Standards 2019*.)

The remaining steps relate to approvals **on-airport land only**.

5. APAM will assess whether a Planning Permit can be issued. For solar panel generators, this is partly contingent on:
 - CASA's determination that the development of the solar panel generators will not cause a potential glare to an Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility
 - Airservices' determination of the impact on navigational aids or the control tower.
6. If a Planning Permit is issued, the proponent is to submit further supporting documentation to APAM and Airport Building Controller (ABC) for approval prior to commencing any works. Refer to Supplementary information below on the general matters considered by ABC.
7. Proponent is only allowed to connect the solar array generator to the network after APAM has countersigned and provided a fully executed copy of the *Connection & Distribution Agreement* to the Proponent.

For development off-airport land (within Hume and Brimbank Councils only)

1. Proponents of non-residential developments to speak with APAM's Planning Team planningpermits@melair.com.au (note: This excludes residential proponents who are not required to consult with APAM)
 2. If APAM has a concern, it will recommend the proponent undertake a Glint and Glare Report to confirm the development will not have an adverse impact on airport and aircraft operations.
 3. APAM will submit its comments to the proponent and relevant Council, either providing a no objection response or raising an objection where the solar power generator will create a hazard to aircraft operations.
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Supplementary information

Matters considered by the Airport Building Controller (ABC) regarding the installation of solar panels and other roof-mounted objects:

- The structural adequacy of the roof onto which the solar array/equipment is to be installed.
- The weatherproofing of the roof onto which the solar array/equipment is to be installed.
- Electrical plans and schematics of the solar installation.
- The appointment of a suitably registered, qualified, and experienced builder to undertake the work.
- Design certification of structural and electrical matters by suitably registered, qualified, and experienced persons.
- Safety in design as it relates to access by fixed platforms, walkways, stairways, or ladders onto the roof for maintenance of the solar array/equipment.
- The submission of solar reflectivity assessments to the satisfaction of CASA, prior to commencing any construction of the proposed solar array.
- Compliance of any other matter, to the satisfaction of the Airport Building Controller (ABC).

Explanatory:

- Different onsite conditions including roof coverings, roof pitch, type of framing, bracing, and wind loads will need to be considered.
- Fixings for the installation may adversely affect an existing roof structure.
- Fixing of the installation may compromise the weatherproofing / flashing of the existing roof.
- An assessment of the support structure by a registered civil engineer should be obtained so that all loading conditions, installation, and fixing methods are considered.
- The installation of rooftop solar panels and other roof-mounted plant or equipment onto a building is classified as 'building work', because it involves the alteration of an existing building.

Compliance with the above must be demonstrated to the ABC before a building permit may be issued.

For example:

The proposed installation of rooftop solar panels may require additional framing to the roof structure to support the additional load of the rooftop solar array/equipment.