

# Frequently Asked Questions

Aircraft noise and protected airspace information



Department  
of Transport  
and Planning

## Why is this information important?

This information aims to help developers, planning practitioners and the public understand aircraft noise and the protected airspace around airports, and the impact they may have on decisions and proposals for a property or development.

It is important to know about this information as intrusions into an airport's protected airspace are a risk to the safety of flying aircraft. When planning for areas or properties, either near airports or in some cases further away, a range of different airport safeguarding measures will need to be considered as part of the planning process. These include aircraft noise and airspace intrusions. [Refer to clause 18.02-7S \(Airports and Airfields\) of your local planning scheme.](#)

## Protected or Prescribed Airspace

### Are intrusions into the protected or prescribed airspace allowed?

Protected or prescribed airspace is regulated by the federal Government. Intrusion into this airspace is not allowed, unless given approval by the relevant authority. Any activity resulting in an intrusion into the protected or prescribed airspace is called a "controlled activity", and that activity cannot be carried out without approval (see below information about the application process for obtaining approval). If you are unsure whether you need to apply for approval or have further questions, speak to your local airport operator in the first instance or [contact the Federal Department for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#). Further information on the protection of airspace can be found on the [Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts webpage](#).

Carrying out a controlled activity without approval is an offence under Section 183 of the *Airports Act 1996* (Commonwealth) and is punishable by a fine.

Responsible authorities, including local councils, with boundaries that fall within an airport's protected or prescribed airspace are required under the Airports Act and the Airports (Protection of Airspace) Regulations 1996 to review all building and development applications they receive for any infringements of prescribed airspace and refer these to the relevant airport in the first instance.

## Defence Aviation Area

For the Department of Defence owned and operated airports, a Declared Defence Aviation Area (DAA) applies to all land within a 15km radius of the airport, including the airport. This is similar to the protected or prescribed airspace for other airports.

Part 11A of the Defence Regulation 2016 provides a legal framework for controlled activities which may be a risk to the safety of aircraft. The regulation applies to all activities, structures, and objects within the DAA. Further information on the DAA can be found here: [Defence Aviation Areas](#).



## What is a controlled activity?

Any activity resulting in an intrusion into the protected or prescribed airspace is called a “controlled activity”. A controlled activity can include the following:

- Permanent structures, such as buildings, signs, light posts.
- Temporary structures, such as cranes. Further information for crane operators can be found here: [information for crane operators](#).
- Glare from artificial light or reflected sunlight, smoke, dust, steam or other gases or particulate matter.

## What if I think my development may intrude into the protected airspace?

If you are unsure if you are going to carry out a controlled activity and whether you will need approval, you should speak to your local council and get in contact with your local airport operator or [contact the Federal Department for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#).

## How do I apply for approval for a controlled activity?

To apply for approval to carry out a controlled activity, you need to write to your local airport operator. In some cases, you may be near multiple airports, therefore you will need to write to each airport operator. The information required in the application can be found on the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts website here: [Protection of Airspace](#).

Information on how to apply for approval in areas near Department of Defence owned and operated airports can be found here: [Defence Aviation Areas](#).

For protected airspace requirements relating to other airports in Victoria, such as council owned and operated airports or privately owned airports, refer to [NASF Guideline F](#).

## Aircraft noise

### What do I do with aircraft noise information?

Airport master plans provide aircraft noise information (ANEF and N contours) to convey the potential aircraft noise people in areas around airports and under flight paths may experience. Planning schemes limit the intensification of noise-sensitive land uses (such as homes, schools and hospitals) in areas within the 20 ANEF and 25 ANEF through the Airport Environs Overlay (AEO) and Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay (MAEO).

Australian Standard AS 2021-2015, *Acoustics - Aircraft Noise Intrusion - Building Siting and Construction*, provides measures that can be taken to reduce the impact of aircraft noise. Victoria’s Planning System applies these measures as a requirement for the construction of a building in the AEO and MAEO.

State Planning Policy at [Clause 18.02-7S \(Airports and Airfields\)](#) also encourages measures to reduce the impact of aircraft noise in areas that have been identified within N contours.

If you are concerned about what a proposal for your property needs to include, speak to your local council and local airport operator.

## Who do I contact if I have a noise complaint?

If you would like more information about aircraft noise over your property, contact your local airport operator.

If you would like to make a complaint about aircraft noise over your property, contact Airservices Australia: [Making a complaint \(Airservices Australia\)](#).

Alternatively, you may wish to contact the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman to raise any further issues: [Aircraft Noise Ombudsman \(ANO\)](#).

## General questions

### Does any of this information affect what I can do on my property?

The spatial data provided on the webpage is for information purposes only, it is not a planning control. The Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay (MAEO) and the Airport Environs Overlay (AEO) in planning schemes are based on the 20 and 25 ANEF data. In some cases, a Design and Development Overlay (DDO) applies to protect the prescribed or protected airspace.

Other planning controls, apart from the MAEO and AEO may apply to your property too, so it's best to speak to your local council about the planning requirements on your property.

### Do I need a planning permit from my local council?

If you have a proposal for your property, speak to your local council to discuss whether you need a planning permit. If a planning permit is required, you must consider the airport safeguarding matters set out at Clause 18.02-7S of your local planning scheme and show that you have assessed any risk of intrusion into protected airspace and the impacts of aircraft noise.

### Who manages and owns this information?

The airport operator and the Commonwealth, through its regulators the [Civil Aviation Safety Authority \(CASA\)](#) and [Airservices Australia](#) are responsible for managing the protected or prescribed airspace and assessing any potential airspace infringement. Airport operators and regulators assess and provide advice on the maximum allowable development height and need to be consulted early in the development proposal consideration process.

The information, links and airport data provided on this page are owned and managed by the airport operators. The Department of Transport and Planning will work with airport operators to provide further airport spatial data on this page when available.

### Why don't all airports in Victoria have the same data available?

Airports across Victoria have varying levels of resources available to provide spatial information to the public. Contact your local airport operator as they will be able to assist with your enquiry.

### Who do I contact if I have further questions about this webpage?

Contact the Planning Systems Reform team at the Department of Transport and Planning at [planning.systems@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:planning.systems@delwp.vic.gov.au). For any questions relating to prescribed or protected airspace, or aircraft noise, please contact your local airport operator.