Adelaide Airport
FAQ - Aircraft Noise

Adelaide Airport and the aviation industry it supports are vital for a myriad of business, tourism, social and freight activities that the
South Australian economy relies upon. Adelaide Airport works with its partners in the aviation industry to minimise the impact of aircraft noise although it must be remembered that aircraft noise is an unavoidable consequence of aviation activity.

Adelaide Airport publishes (through its Master Plan) Australian Noise Exposure Forecasts (ANEFs), which are endorsed by Airservices Australia. These ANEFs delineate aircraft noise exposure at and around the Airport. The ANEF system - the aircraft noise exposure index mandated in Australia since 1982 - was developed in the United States in the late 1960s and is recognised internationally. The ANEF system for Adelaide Airport has been prepared for 20 years from 2009 to 2029 and it is a requirement under the Airports Act 1996 that its mapping is contained within Adelaide Airport's Master Plan, a copy of which can be down loaded from Adelaide Airport's website.

How is the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast system used?

Over the past three decades the ANEF system has been used as the primary measure of aircraft noise exposure in the vicinity of airports across Australia. The ANEF has been and is used in three key ways:

- To delineate where and what type of development can take place around airports;
- For technical assessments of airport operating options in Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes; and
- As a tool for providing information to the public on noise exposure patterns around airports.

What are the limitations of ANEF?

Experience has demonstrated that there are significant limitations with relying solely on the ANEF to guide land use planning decisions and as a way to describe aircraft noise exposure to laypeople. While populations with the highest aircraft noise exposure often live within the 20 ANEF contour, the majority of current noise complaints come from residents living outside the 20 ANEF contour.

The National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) – which is made up of Commonwealth, State and Territory transport and planning officials - has overseen a process to quantify a range of frequency-based aircraft noise events that might act as triggers in future land use planning processes. This process recognises that the ANEF has certain limitations and that existing studies have highlighted the increased sensitivity to aircraft noise experienced by residents newly exposed to aircraft noise. NASAG, through its National Safeguarding Framework (NASF) recommends utilising frequency based measures as a supplement to the ANEF in these circumstances. Further information about aircraft noise metrics is on the Federal Government Department of Infrastructure and Transport's website: http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/airport_safeguarding/nasf/

How do new aviation technologies reduce aircraft noise?

In October 2012, Airservices Australia began producing quarterly Noise Information Reports for major urban areas, including information and analysis on aircraft movements and noise monitoring for the Adelaide basin area. These reports can be found on the Airservices Australia website at: Noise information reports | Airservices

New flight path technology has been trialed at Adelaide since 2009 and, subject to the outcome of further consultation, it is planned to make this permanent in 2013. This new technology known as Required Navigation Performance (RNP) procedures is also

referred to as “Smart Tracking”. Under this system eight tracks are proposed for aircraft arriving at Adelaide Airport. Each track is within an existing flight path corridor. The combination of tracks represents the optimal routes for arriving aircraft to ensure safety and to balance airport efficiency and environmental impacts.

The implementation of Smart Tracking should allow aircraft arriving at Adelaide Airport to place their engines at idle and glide to the runway under minimal power. This makes a lot less noise than a conventional stepped approach where aircraft alternately power up and descend. Aircraft flaps and landing gear may also be deployed much closer to the runway to reduce noise levels even further. While this practice is currently used whenever possible, Smart Tracking will allow its use for every landing.

Further information about Smart Tracking at Adelaide Airport can be found on the Airservices Australia website at:
http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/smart-tracking/adelaide

How can I learn more about aircraft noise in Adelaide?

Airservices Australia has released an online system called WebTrak where anyone can access information about where and how aircraft fly within 55km of Adelaide Airport. WebTrak provides users with information about arriving and departing aircraft (from three months to just 40 minutes prior to your enquiry). Having selected an aircraft, users of the WebTrak service are able to make an enquiry or complaint about that flight directly to Airservices Australia.

Noise enquiries regarding aircraft operations can also be made directly with Adelaide Airport directly via email (airport@aal.com.au); by phoning the Airport Administration Offices during office hours on (08) 8308 9211 or by fax on (08) 8308 9311.

How can I lodge a complaint about aircraft noise?

Airservices Australia is responsible for managing complaints and enquiries about aircraft noise and operations through its Dedicated Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS). A complaint or enquiry to Air Services can be made:

- Directly via Web Trak (http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/webtrak/)
- Using our online form (http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/ncmexternal/)
- By telephoning 1800 802 584 (freecall) or 1300 302 240 (local call-Sydney)
- By fax (02) 9556 6641
- By mail, Noise Complaints and Information Service, PO Box 211, Mascot NSW 1460

Is there an independent review process for aircraft noise?

The Aircraft Noise Ombudsman conducts independent administrative reviews of Airservices Australia's management of aircraft noise related activities including:

- The handling of complaints or enquiries made to Airservices Australia about aircraft noise;
- Community consultation processes related to aircraft noise; and
- The presentation and distribution of aircraft noise related information.

For more information visit www.ano.gov.au