Main Runway & Taxiways Overlay Project

Version 01, September 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

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Why are the works necessary?

Just like highways and other asphalt roads, runways require critical maintenance to ensure the safety and serviceability for our aircraft operations. The service life of an asphalt pavement in an airport setting is heavily influenced by factors such as the frequency and weight of aircraft traffic, temperature, moisture and UV exposure. The resurfacing of runways and taxiways is typically required around every 10 to 12 years.

How long will this work occur?

To ensure minimal disruption to Adelaide Airport's operations, the works will be completed in stages, with the earliest commencing in October 2023. We are expecting all works to be completed by August 2024, depending on factors such as wet weather which can delay works from occurring.

There will be no works undertaken over the Christmas and New Year period between Wednesday 20 December 2023 and Sunday 7 January 2024.



What happens when the main runway is closed for works?

Adelaide Airport has two runways – the main runway and the cross runway (which is oriented south-east to north-west). The main runway is used for the majority of flights, while the cross runway is typically used in strong crosswind conditions or when the main runway is not available for use. Aircraft will need to arrive and depart from the cross runway whenever the main runway is closed for the resurfacing works.

The periods of the main runway closure will be released on Adelaide Airport's social media.

Why are there aircraft movements during the night curfew hours?

Adelaide Airport operates under a legislated curfew that was introduced to limit noise exposure from aircraft at night. The night curfew does not prevent all aircraft movements during the curfew period. It limits aircraft movements between 11pm and 6am by restricting the types of aircraft that can operate, the number of flights permitted, and the types of operation allowed.

On average, there are approximately 10 aircraft movements per night, and up to 15 aircraft movements on a busy night during curfew hours, the majority of which are emergency services and freight operators.



Why can't the runway works be done during the daytime?

The main runway can accommodate larger long-haul international aircraft, while the cross runway is shorter in length and is limited to the smaller regional aircraft and some domestic operations. Because larger aircraft cannot use the cross runway, closure of the main runway outside of the night curfew hours would result in flight cancellations and significant disruption to airline schedules and passenger travel arrangements.



What will you notice?

The closure of the main runway for the resurfacing works will result in a temporary change in flight path use during the night curfew period (11pm to 6am). This may be noticeable to residents living under the cross runway flight paths to the south-east and north-west of the airport within City of Charles Sturt, City of West Torrens, City of Unley, City of Mitcham, City of Marion, City of Holdfast Bay, City of Onkaparinga and Adelaide Hills Council.

Suburbs affected due to their alignment with the cross runway may include Belair, Clapham, Clarence Gardens, Clarence Park, Colonel Light Gardens, Daw Park, Edwardstown, Glandore, Henley Beach, Mitcham, Netley, North Plympton, Pasadena, Torrens Park and West Beach – please note this is not an exhaustive list.

Businesses and residents in close proximity to Adelaide Airport may also notice construction noise as well as more frequent vehicle traffic movements along Richmond Road during the construction periods.