

Community Update



Essential runway resurfacing project

Dear Sir/Madam

In the air and at our airports, Australia's safety record is the envy of the world.

Maintaining Sydney Airport's runways and taxiways to a high standard is one important way we ensure the airport operates safely. Just like motorways, highways and other roads, runways require essential maintenance to prevent damage and potholes from forming.

Sydney Airport will soon begin resurfacing approximately seven kilometres (or 354,000 square metres) around the intersection of the main north-south and east-west runways and associated taxiways. Resurfacing work in this particular location occurs very infrequently and typically only every 12 years or so.

Stage 1 of the project is expected to commence from Wednesday 19 February 2020 and continue for around eight weeks (subject to weather). Stage 2 is planned for early 2021.

The work must be undertaken between 11pm and 6am and may occur seven days a week. Commonwealth legislation allows emergency Air Ambulance and a limited number of small overnight freight and general aviation flights to operate on the main north-south runway between 11pm and 6am.

On average, around 6 Air Ambulance flights operate each night between 11pm and 6am seven days a week. We also average up to 14 small freight flights per night (almost always during the week, not on weekends) and 1 general aviation flight between these hours.

The resurfacing work means that, subject to Commonwealth approval, these flights can only safely use the parallel north-south runway.

Using this runway means people living in Kurnell, La Perouse, Phillip Bay and parts of Botany may hear aircraft noise between 11pm and 6am. People living outside these areas may also hear noise.

This change is temporary, not permanent.

Sydney Airport apologises for this temporary noise impact and is committed to completing this essential runway safety project as quickly as possible to minimise the impact on the community.

Further information about the project can be found at: www.sydneyairport.com.au/runwaysafety. I've also included over the page answers to some questions already asked by residents about the project.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on:

Phone: (02) 9667 6182

Email: runwaysafety@syd.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ted Plummer'.

Ted Plummer

Special Adviser Government and Community Relations

28 January 2020

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q: What flights currently operate between 11pm and 6am?

A: Commonwealth legislation has always allowed emergency Air Ambulance and a limited number of small freight and general aviation flights to operate on the main north-south runway between 11pm and 6am.

On average, between 11pm and 6am:

- around 6 emergency Air Ambulance flights operate each night at Sydney Airport seven days a week
- an average of up to 14 small freight flights operate per night, almost always during the week, not on weekends
- 1 privately owned aircraft (also known as a “general aviation” flight) operates per night.

Q: What is the purpose of these overnight flights?

A: Air Ambulance flights are emergency flights, just as Ambulances used on the road network transport patients to and from hospitals.

The other smaller freight aircraft tend to carry time critical goods, including: medical samples; vital pharmacological supplies; transplants and prosthesis for surgical operations; general medical equipment and spares; express mail; other Australia Post mail; overnight express freight; and urgent mining and agricultural spares.

Q: What will happen to these flights while the resurfacing project is underway?

A: When the main north-south and parts of the east-west runways are being resurfaced, these flights will have to use the parallel north-south runway.

Q: How will aircraft noise change in areas around the airport while work is underway?

A: Temporarily using the parallel north-south runway means people living in Kurnell, La Perouse, Phillip Bay and parts of Botany may hear aircraft noise between 11pm and 6am. Currently, these areas are only minimally affected by noise as flights arrive and depart using flight paths further to the west, which are further away from residential areas.

The new approach and departure flight paths, which are the same as those used during the day, are the only ones that can be used safely.

Q: Is this a temporary or a permanent change?

A: This change is temporary only.

Stage 1 of the project is expected to begin from Wednesday 19 February 2020 and continue for around eight weeks (subject to weather). Stage 2 is planned for early 2021.

Sydney Airport apologises for the temporary noise impact associated with this essential runway safety project and is committed to completing the project as quickly as possible to minimise the impact on the community.