

Essential runway resurfacing project



Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q: What is Sydney Airport's runway resurfacing project?

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

The project involves resurfacing runways and taxiways around the intersection of the main north-south and east-west runways.

The work will see around seven kilometres of runways and taxiways resurfaced. This is equivalent to an area of 354,000 square metres, or around 70 football fields.

The work will include:

- removal of airfield ground lighting;
- removal of the top layers of asphalt on the existing runway;
- laying new asphalt; and
- reinstatement of airfield ground lighting and line marking.

Q: Why do runways need to be resurfaced?

A: 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 from occurring and potholes from forming.

Q: Where on the runways and taxiways will the resurfacing work be undertaken?

A: The blue shaded area on page 4 shows where the resurfacing work will be undertaken.

Q: When will the project begin and how long will it last?

A: The project will occur in two stages.

- **Stage 1** of the project is expected to commence in early February 2020 and will continue for around eight weeks (subject to weather).
- **Stage 2** is planned for early 2021.

Q: Why does the resurfacing work need to be undertaken between 11pm and 6am?

A: Sydney Airport is Australia's busiest airport. Every day between 6am and 11pm, there are close to 1,000 passenger flights to and from the airport.

If the runway resurfacing work was undertaken during the day, the main north-south and east-west runways couldn't be safely used. This means a majority of those 1,000 passenger flights could not safely operate, resulting in flight cancellations.

This would disrupt the travel plans of hundreds of thousands of regional, domestic and international passengers in Sydney. Given Sydney Airport's role in the national aviation network, this disruption would quickly spread across NSW and Australia.

Work must also occur overnight during the warmer summer months, so the newly laid asphalt dries by the time passenger flights resume at 6am.

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.

While Air Ambulance flights fly to or from any destination in NSW (in response to an emergency), small freight flights are typically between Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

Q: What is the purpose of these overnight flights?

A: Air Ambulance flights are emergency flights, just as Ambulances 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: While the work is underway, what will happen to the flights that ordinarily use the main north-south runway?

A: With the main north-south and east-west runways unable to be safely used while the runway resurfacing work is underway, the only available runway these flights can temporarily use will be the parallel north-south runway. This runway is one kilometre to the east of the main 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 for around eight weeks 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 as the flights arrive and depart using flight paths further to the west, which are further away from residential areas. People living in other areas may also hear aircraft noise.

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.

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.

Q: What usually happens when Sydney Airport resurfaces other sections of its runway? Why is this work different?

A: Previous runway resurfacing work has affected sections of the main north-south runway at either end, leaving sufficient runway length available to allow aircraft to continue operating safely.

This work is different because the resurfacing work will occur in the middle of the runway around its intersection with the east-west runway. Due to the location of the work site on the main runway (and in particular the fact there will be construction workers and others working on site), there will be insufficient runway length available to allow it to be safely used by aircraft.

Q: Will passenger flights be operating between 11pm and 6am?

A: No passenger flights will be operating at Sydney Airport between 11pm and 6am when the resurfacing work is underway.

Q: How can I get further information about the project?

A: Contact Mr Ted Plummer, Sydney Airport's Special Adviser Government and Community Relations, on:

Phone: (02) 9667 6182

Email: runwaysafety@syd.com.au

Q: **How do I make a complaint about aircraft noise or operations?**

A: For complaints and enquiries about aircraft noise and operations contact Airservices Australia through their Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS):

- Phone: 1800 802 584 (freecall) - Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays, from 9 am-5 pm Sydney time
- Online form: <https://complaints-au.emsbk.com/asa5>
- WebTrak Tool: <http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/webtrak/>
- Mail to: Noise Complaints and Information Service, PO Box 211 Mascot NSW 1460

Runway resurfacing project – Location of worksite

