

Environment Strategy



Melbourne Airport has an Environmental Management Framework that is designed to ensure that processes for continuous improvement and ongoing monitoring of compliance are embedded in the way we work.

The Environment Strategy forms one part of the Environmental Management Framework and is a key mechanism for ensuring that the commitments made in Melbourne Airport's Environment Policy are met.

More generally, Melbourne Airport operates within a framework of corporate governance, goals and values. These are reflected in the environmental management principles outlined in the Environment Policy. The Environmental Management Framework enables Melbourne Airport to effectively manage and adapt to environmental risks and continually improve environmental management practices and performance.

Under the framework, environmental compliance is internally monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Compliance is also externally formally reviewed by the Airport Environment Officer (AEO), on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, via the annual Airport Environment Report.

The goal of the Melbourne Airport Environment Strategy is for the airport 'to be an environmental leader for transport and logistics sites in Australia'. This strategy details how this goal will be achieved. Given the complex heritage and environmental setting within which Melbourne Airport operates, achieving this goal requires continuous improvement and following a clear environment strategy.

The Environment Strategy addresses the risks that the airport can pose to the environment in which it operates. It also addresses the risks that affect the effective operation and development of the airport. Similarly, opportunities to improve the airport's environmental performance are identified.





Melbourne Airport supports a broad range of ecological communities, rare and threatened species and ecosystems. Threats to these significant assets include the continued growth of the airport, introduced plants and animals, land contamination and climate change. Development works provide opportunity to implement measures that further safeguard and improve ecological health.



There are many locations on or near the airport where artefacts of cultural significance have been found. The unique cultural heritage assets of the airport are also subject to the impacts of growth, infrastructure development and erosion. Development works will afford the opportunity to better understand the significance of our cultural heritage sites and ensure their recording, ongoing management and protection.



Melbourne Airport has historic land and groundwater contamination that must be managed. Ongoing risks to the environment include surface and groundwater contamination, impacts on plants and animals and the cost of management and remediation. As the airport expands, works will interact with areas of contamination and the risk of new impacts will need to be minimised. This will also present opportunities for mitigating legacy contamination issues and improving ongoing management.



The airport's social licence to operate relates not only to our regulatory compliance but to our reputation and the social responsibility we exercise in engaging with our stakeholders. These are all impacted by our environmental performance – a key part of our Environment, Social and Governance frameworks. Compliance with evolving regulation and community expectations is managed through our Environmental Management System (EMS), which includes a continuous improvement to ensure we retain control and oversight over day-to-day operations as the airport grows.



Climate change will amplify several risks and opportunities already faced by Melbourne Airport and could introduce new ones. Physical risks can affect airport operations, staff health and safety and the surrounding environment. Such risks relate to high temperatures, extreme rainfall, drought and fire weather which are likely to increase in both likelihood and severity. Transition risks relate to the regulatory and market transformation likely to result from governments and communities acting to curtail greenhouse gas emissions and/or adapt to climate change. The magnitude of these risks will depend on the rate of global decarbonisation and the related regulatory and market changes. Melbourne Airport will work to build its resilience and capitalise on opportunities across a range of future opportunities.

For further information refer to section 14 of the 2022 Master Plan.