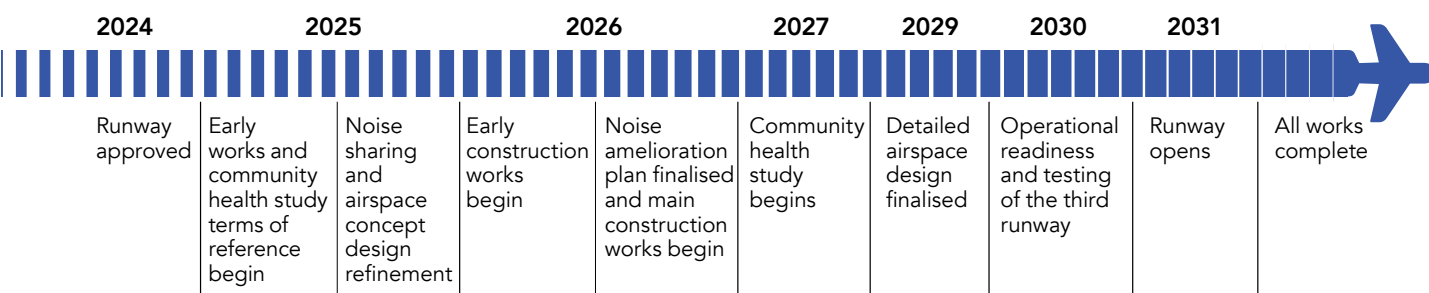


Melbourne Airport's third runway timeline

Melbourne Airport's third runway will deliver much-needed aviation infrastructure capacity for Victoria, increase choice for consumers and support thousands of new jobs.

This fact sheet outlines the key phases of the third runway project.



Major Development Plan for Melbourne Airport's third runway project and public consultation 2022-2024

Melbourne Airport prepared a Major Development Plan for the third runway project in accordance with the Airports Act (1996).

The preliminary draft Major Development Plan was available for public consultation for 104 days between February and May 2022, which included face-to-face and online community engagement and an interactive online noise tool.

More than 2,000 written submissions were received in response to the preliminary draft Major Development Plan.

The draft Major Development Plan was submitted to the Commonwealth Government in February 2023, along with a Supplementary Report outlining how Melbourne Airport considered and processed all submissions received.

The Commonwealth Government approved the Third Runway Major Development Plan with conditions in September 2024.

Procurement and detailed project design 2024-2025

Melbourne Airport is commencing the procurement process for the design and construction of the third runway.

Key packages of work will be delivered ahead of the major construction phase, which is important for managing impacts on the community and the environment.

These works include:

- installing and upgrading access roads, particularly from Sunbury Road in the north
- continuing environmental monitoring programs and conducting additional investigations to inform project designs
- mobilising and setting up contractor compounds
- relocating the security perimeter fencing and installing construction fencing
- clearing sites, establishing stockpile locations and setting up temporary worker facilities.

Noise sharing and airspace concept design 2024-2029

Melbourne Airport will work with Airservices Australia on detailing the future structure and use of airspace around Melbourne. This is a complex process due to the:

- introduction of parallel runway operations at Melbourne Airport requiring new flight paths and changes to existing flight paths
- close proximity of Essendon Airport and critical airspace interactions with Melbourne Airport
- interaction with flight path access to Moorabbin Airport, RAAF Base Point Cook and Avalon Airport.

A range of aviation industry partners and stakeholders will work together to design, analyse and agree on principals and objectives for Melbourne's future airspace. This includes prioritising noise sharing and lessening noise outside of peak periods, revising noise modelling and consulting the community to balance Melbourne Airport's growth with community impacts.

Community consultation will be ongoing throughout the process of developing, designing and refining flight paths, with clear opportunities to provide feedback.

Details on consultation will be provided as they develop at: <https://www.melbournearport.com.au/runway>



Development of Noise Amelioration Plan 2024-2026

Melbourne Airport will facilitate a noise amelioration plan for residential dwellings and public buildings (childcare, healthcare, education and aged care) most impacted by noise from the third runway. This plan will be developed in consultation with local councils, communities, the Melbourne Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group and Government.

Community Health Study 2024 and ongoing for 20-plus years

Melbourne Airport will appoint an independent community health expert to develop a draft terms of reference for an independent, long-term study into the impacts of aircraft noise associated with the operation of the third runway.

The draft terms of reference will be developed in consultation with the Melbourne Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group and submitted to the Commonwealth Government for approval, within 12 months of receiving the runway approval.

An independent and suitably qualified community health expert/s will be appointed to carry out the study in line with the terms of reference over 20-plus years.

Commercial negotiations with airlines from 2024

Major airports take a long-term view to capital investment programs and work constructively with airlines to fund infrastructure projects.

Melbourne Airport will work with all major domestic and international airlines to negotiate commercial terms for the delivery of the third runway.

Construction 2026-2031

Melbourne Airport will commence major earthworks to level the site for the runway and taxiways.

Melbourne Airport is committed to maximising sustainable re-use of soil and rock from the airport site to minimise trucks on public roads, and reduce the consumption of resources and production of waste. Additional fill will be imported only when necessary.

Temporary changes will be required to some airfield operations during construction phases to allow for installing connecting taxiways and runway crossing points, as well as changes to the east-west runway.

Any changes to existing runway use that alter the way flight paths are used, will be communicated to the community and other stakeholders before they occur, as some communities will experience an increase or decrease in aircraft noise over the course of the project.

Eastern Extension Project

Construction of the third runway requires that the existing east-west runway is shortened at its western end by 346 metres.

This shortening will be offset by an equivalent extension at the runway's eastern end, through the Eastern Extension Project.

This project will be governed by its own Major Development Plan process and approval. Updates will be provided as the project progresses.

Operational readiness of the third runway 2031

Thorough preparation and technical testing of infrastructure, technology, systems and operational frameworks is required before the new runway can open.

This includes working with industry partners to produce and execute plans for commissioning the runway and associated changes to operations and airspace.

The size and complexity of the third runway project requires extensive testing and certification to ensure it is ready to use.

Opening of the third runway 2031

The third runway is expected to open in 2031. It will see significant changes to flight paths and the airport's operations, and is expected to support passenger and freight growth at Melbourne Airport for the next 20-plus years.

Aircraft movements will increase progressively over time as demand grows. The full use of flight paths and runway capacity will not be required for some time, allowing for flexibility, particularly at night, to use the airport in ways that minimise and share noise impacts for communities.

Post-opening reviews and completion 2031+

Following the opening of the third runway, some works will continue to complete the project.

Post-implementation reviews will evaluate the success of the project and opportunities for improvement.