

Terms of Reference for a Preliminary Airspace Review of Broome and Karratha Airspace, Western Australia

Background

The Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) undertakes regular reviews of Australian-administered airspace in accordance with the Airspace Act 2007. As a result of the airspace review process, airspace changes may be instigated.

In exercising a diligent approach, the OAR periodically conducts Preliminary Airspace Reviews to determine that the volumes of airspace in the study area remain fit for purpose and safe for all airspace users.

Objectives

The objective of the review is to evaluate the fitness for purpose of the airspace within 75 nautical miles (NM) of both Broome and Karratha Airports from the surface, up to Flight Level 180 (FL180). Whilst recognising that safety is the Civil Aviation Safety Authority's primary consideration, the review will consider the impacts of airspace against the following:

- Efficient use of the airspace;
- Equitable access to the airspace for all airspace users;
- National security issues;
- Environment issues;
- Appropriateness of the airspace classification; and
- Appropriateness of the services and facilities provided by the air navigation service provider (ANSP).

Scope

The scope of the review shall include:

- Airspace architecture which allows the ANSP to provide air traffic management safely and effectively;
- Airspace architecture which is fit for purpose appropriate to the range of Aeronautical activities conducted;
- An evaluation of air routes as applicable to the objectives;
- An analysis of risks supported by safety incident reporting from the ANSP and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau;
- The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) airspace classifications;
- Restricted and Danger Areas and their impact on traffic flow; and
- Other issues determined by the review team to be applicable to the objectives.

The following are considered to be outside the scope of the review:

- Any airport infrastructure issues.
- Issues deemed not relevant to the study.

Duration

It is anticipated that the review process will take approximately four months from review approval until a document can be released to industry for final consultation. The target completion date for this review is 30 September 2019.

Consultation Process

The OAR will undertake both internal and external consultation. External consultation will include key stakeholders such as:

- Department of Infrastructure and Transport;
- Department of Defence;
- Airservices Australia;
- Australian Transport Safety Bureau;
- Federal Government Departments as appropriate;
- Local Councils;
- Aerodrome owners and airport operators;
- Domestic passenger transport and freight operators;
- Known charter operators;
- Emergency services operators;
- Resident aircraft maintenance organisations;
- Resident flying training organisations;
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia (AOPA);
- Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA);
- Recreational Aviation Association of Australia (RA-Aus);
- Australian Parachute Federation (APF);
- Australian Balloon Federation (ABF);
- Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA);
- Australian and International Pilots Association (AIPA);
- Australian Airports Association (AAA); and
- Interested community groups.