

Airspace change proposal – Lowering Class E airspace for continental Australia

Overview

The Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) within CASA is currently assessing an airspace change proposal (ACP) made by Airservices Australia to lower Class E airspace from Flight Level (FL) 180 to FL 125 nationally (where the current base is FL180). Airservices Australia is proposing the change as part of its [airspace modernisation program](#) to standardise its approach to airspace management.

This consultation makes reference to the ‘J Curve,’ which is the name given to describe the high traffic density area extending Cairns down to Melbourne, and around to Adelaide.

The OAR manages the regulation of airspace in Australia and given the nature and magnitude of the proposed change is seeking industry feedback to inform its assessment and response to the proposal.

Further information about [airspace regulation](#) and the [airspace change process](#) is available on the CASA website.

Why we are consulting

We are seeking industry feedback to understand the impact of the proposal on current and future airspace users and the impact it could have on safety and operational efficiency.

Please note Airservices Australia is also seeking feedback on similar initiatives under Tranche 3 of the airspace modernisation project. This proposal is a separate initiative.

Documents for review

A copy of the fact sheet *Standardisation of Class E Airspace* developed by Airservices is provided below.

We have also provided a downloadable Word copy and PDF of this consultation for ease of distribution and feedback within your organisation. However, please use the online consultation form to submit your final response. The word document and PDF should not be used as an emailed submission.

What happens next

Once the consultation has closed, we will register and review each submission received through the online response form. We will make all submissions publicly available on the Consultation Hub, unless you request that your submission remain confidential. We will also publish a Summary of Consultation which summarises the feedback received.

The OAR will use feedback received via this consultation to inform its decision on whether to approve the airspace change proposal.

Information about how we consult and how to make a confidential submission is available on the [CASA website](#).

To be notified of any future consultations, you can [subscribe to our consultation and rulemaking](#)

[mailing list.](#)

Related

Page: About this consultation

This consultation is seeking to identify whether this proposed change would be safe and beneficial for users of the airspace between FL 125 and FL 180, in low-density airspace, if implemented.

General comments

The last page of this consultation is a *General comments* page, where you can make additional comments on the proposed changes.

We will ask you for:

- **personal information**, such as your name, any organisation you represent, and your email address
- **your consent** to publish your submission
- **your responses** to the proposed changes in the regulations
- **any comments** you may want to provide
- **demographic information** to help us understand your interest in the regulations

Should you wish, an option is available to upload a file containing your additional feedback on the General comments page within this survey.

Our **website**<<https://www.casa.gov.au/rules-and-regulations/landing-page/consultation-process>> contains more information on making a submission and what we do with your feedback.

Page 1: Personal information

First name

(Required)

Last name

(Required)

Email address

If you enter your email address, you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Email

(Required)

Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes, I am authorised to submit feedback on behalf of an organisation
- No, these are my personal views

If yes, please specify the name of your organisation.

Demographic question where applicable

Which of the following best describes your role in the aviation industry?

Please select only one item

- Air traffic controller (ATC)
- Aerodrome owner/operator
- Domestic passenger air transport operator
- Freight operator
- Airspace user
- RAPAC member
- CASA staff and other Government agencies
- Flying training organisations
- Other

Please specify if you have selected "Other".

Page 2: Consent to publish submission

In order to promote debate and transparency, we intend to publish all responses to this consultation. This may include both detailed responses/submissions in full and aggregated data drawn from the responses received.

Where you consent to publication, we will include:

- **your last name**, if the submission is made by you as an individual
- **the name of the organisation** on whose behalf the submission has been made
- **your responses and comments**

We **will not** include any other personal or demographic information in a published response.

Information about how we consult and how to make a confidential submission is available on the [CASA website](#).

Do you give permission for your response to be published?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes - I give permission for my response/submission to be published.
- No - I would like my response/submission to remain confidential but understand that de-identified aggregate data may be published.
- I am a CASA officer.

Page 3: Question on airspace operations

Question: When was the last time you operated in Australian airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve?

Radio buttons

- Within the last month
- Within the last 2-3 months
- Within the last 6 months
- 12 months or longer

Question: Do you plan to operate in Australian airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve within the next 12 months?

Radio buttons

- Yes (please provide more detail below)
- No
- Not sure

If yes, please outline the type of operation below:

Question: What type of aircraft do you typically operate in the airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve?

Radio buttons

- Aeroplane (VH registered – please state aircraft type in the Comments field, below)
- Glider
- Other

Please specify:

Question: Do you mainly operate under the VFR or IFR in the airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve?

Radio buttons

- VFR
- IFR
- Not applicable

Page 4: Question on aircraft equipage

Question: Please indicate the avionics equipment fitted to your aircraft operating in the airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve. Please select all that apply.

Check boxes (Select all applicable)

- Mode A/C Transponder
- Mode S Transponder
- ADS-B OUT
- ADS-B IN
- ACAS / TCAS
- None of the above

Page 5: Question on airspace issues

Question: What issues, if any, do you experience in the current airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve?

Check boxes

- Inability to communicate with ATC via VHF comms
- Inability to communicate with ATC via HF comms
- Lack of radar or ADS-B surveillance
- Delays or inability to obtain airway clearance when using 'IFR pick up'
- Other (please provide below)

Comment

Question: What impact will the airspace change proposal have on safety for users of Class E airspace between FL 125 and FL 180 outside of the J curve?

Radio buttons

- It will increase risk
- It won't change the risk level
- It will decrease risk

Please provide more detail:

Question: What impact will the airspace change proposal have on your operational efficiency (e.g. time, cost, scheduling)?

Radio buttons

- It will improve my operational efficiency
- It won't change my operational efficiency
- It will decrease my operational efficiency

Please tell us why, according to the answer you chose:

Page 6: General comments

Question: Overall, do you support the airspace change proposal to lower Class E airspace from FL 180 to FL 125 nationally outside of the J curve?

Radio buttons

- Supported
- Not supported
- Supported with changes

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed airspace change?

Comments:

File upload option

You may wish to upload a file as part of your submission. Select 'Browse' below and navigate to the file you would like to include. Please note pdf is preferred.