**Overview**

CASA is undertaking a review of the airspace within 40 nautical miles of Horn Island. This first consultation stage aims to collect data for the airspace review and will help shape its outcomes.

We are seeking industry feedback on airspace classification, airways services, aeronautical products and facilities in the Horn Island area.

The review will aim to:

* evaluate the effectiveness of the recommendations made in the 2017 Horn Island airspace review
* test reports of ineffective communication and deviation from aircraft operational standards and recommended practices
* analyse existing communication and surveillance facilities
* observe and record air traffic management practices to understand existing controls and air traffic service limitations
* identify existing traffic conflicts and discover potential risk mitigators
* develop a holistic strategy to reduce any risk to airspace users.

The questions are seeking feedback on airspace, communication, surveillance and the Torres Strait Broadcast Area.

**Background**

An airspace review of Horn Island was last conducted in 2017, with several changes implemented in the 18 months following the review. We are also seeking feedback to determine whether these changes continue to be beneficial to airspace users.

**Documents for review**

Please read the [Horn Island Airspace Review 2017](https://consultation.casa.gov.au/++preview++/stakeholder-engagement-group/airspace-review-horn-island-2025/supporting_documents/D17%20271372%20%20Airspace%20Review%20of%20Horn%20Island%20%202017%20%20Final.pdf) to help with your submission, as applicable.

**Why your views matter**

**Why we are consulting**  
We are seeking feedback from current users of Horn Island airspace to understand issues faced by operators in this area.

This consultation provides a platform for airspace users to suggest improvements to increase safety and efficiency.

**What happens next**

If you would like to provide further feedback, please email [OAR@casa.gov.au](mailto:OAR@casa.gov.au). Feedback submitted by email will be considered but cannot be published publicly.

Once the consultation has closed, we will:

* review all comments received
* make responses publicly available on the consultation hub (unless you request your submission remain confidential)
* publish a summary of the feedback received and outline next steps.

Information about how we consult and how to make a confidential submission is available on the [CASA website](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/how-casa-changes-rules).

To be notified of any future consultations, you can subscribe to our [consultation and rulemaking mailing list](https://updates.communication.casa.gov.au/link/id/zzzz5e8be6d10ee5b225/page.html?prompt=1).

**Personal information**

1. First name *(Required)*

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1. Last name *(Required)*

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1. What is your email address? *(Required)*

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1. Can the Office of Airspace Regulation contact you via email if we require further clarification on your answers? *(Required)*

Yes

No

1. Do your views officially represent those of an organisation? *(Required)*

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:

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1. Which of the following best describes the group you represent? *(Required)*

*Please select all that apply*

Aircraft engineer

Air traffic controller

Aerodrome operator

Aviation group representative – pilots, engineers, airlines, aviation service providers

Domestic passenger transport, charter flights and freight operators

Pilot - fixed wing and rotary

Pilot - remotely piloted aircraft system

Other

If other, please specify:

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**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 may include:

* **your last name**, if the submission is made by you as an individual
* **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**](https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/changing-rules/consultation-industry-and-public).

1. Do you give permission for your response to be published (both within the Airspace Review and on the Consultation Hub)? *(Required)*

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.

**Airspace**

This part of the consultation relates to *airspace* in the Horn Island review area.

1. Can you identify any airspace safety risks within the review area? *(Required)*

Yes (please provide details below)

No

Undecided/ not my area of expertise/ unable to provide a definitive answer

If you answered Yes, please provide details:

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1. What are your observations or experiences regarding equitable access to the airspace in the review area?

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1. What are your observations or experiences regarding the efficient use of the airspace for users?

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1. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Horn Island airspace? Please do not include points already raised.

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**Communication and surveillance**

This part of the consultation relates to *communication and surveillance* in the Horn Island review area.

1. CASA has examined incident data within the review area and identified ineffective communication as a common contributing factor. This includes operations on area frequency and operations on the Torres Strait Broadcast Area frequency. Do you agree that ineffective communications is a common issue? *(Required)*

Yes

No

1. What communication issues, if any, have you experienced in the review area?

Please include details - for example how often this has occurred, the cause/s from the air or at an airfield, ATC transmissions, radio discipline, missed radio calls, incomplete transmissions, coverage limitations, and the number of aircraft on frequency (specify Area or Broadcast Area frequency).

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1. What solutions could you suggest for improving communication issues within the review area?

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1. An ADS-B unit is located on Thursday Island that enables alerted see-and-avoid practices for suitably equipped aircraft. What surveillance issues do you have within the review area, if any?

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1. What solutions could you suggest for improving surveillance issues within the review area?

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**Torres Strait Broadcast Area**

This part of the consultation relates to the Torres Strait Broadcast Area.

1. The Torres Strait Broadcast Area (TSBA) is a 40 nautical mile radius area, centred on Horn Island. This area captures several airfields including northern operations on Cape York Peninsula. Does the TSBA remain appropriate for airspace users? Please also provide an explanation to your answer. *(Required)*

Yes

No

Undecided/ not my area of expertise/ unable to provide a definitive answer

Please provide an explanation to your answer

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1. In relation to aircraft operations and traffic conflicts, does the TSBA contribute to these conflicts or are they location/aerodrome specific? *(Required)*

The Torres Strait Broadcast Area contributes to the conflicts.

The conflicts are location/aerodrome specific.

If location/aerodrome specific, please provide the name

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1. Are there any local procedures used in the TSBA that negatively impact on the safety of aviation operations? *(Required)*

Yes

No

Undecided/ not my area of expertise/ unable to provide a definitive answer

If you answered Yes, please provide details

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1. What solutions could you suggest for improving operations within the TSBA?

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**Conclusion**

1. Do you have any additional comments about the airspace? Please do not include points already raised.

This could include comments about the classification, airspace operations, air routes, airways communications, surveillance and navigation facilities or more.

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