

Terms of Reference for the Preliminary Airspace Review within 36 nautical miles of Adelaide aerodrome, South Australia.

Background

Section 13 of the Airspace Act 2007 requires the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to conduct regular reviews of Australian-administered airspace. The Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) is responsible for conducting these reviews on behalf of CASA.

The OAR determines the need and priority for an airspace review based on information provided in a quarterly risk indicator report. In 2014 a review of the efficient use and equitable access of the airspace surrounding Adelaide indicated that the Defence controlled airspace required a review of its dimensions and periods of activity regarding its restricted areas (RA). In 2017 the Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) undertook a review of Defence managed airspace in the vicinity of Adelaide. The recommendations from this review were for Defence to reassess the dimensions of airspace volumes and for the realignment of the boundary associated with RA R233A-B.

This Preliminary Airspace Review in 2020 will assess the suitability of the current airspace structure from ground level, to 8,500 feet above mean sea level within 36 nautical miles (NM) of Adelaide aerodrome, and review risks related to aircraft occurrences.

Objectives

The objective of the Preliminary Airspace Review is to determine if the current airspace structure around Adelaide aerodrome is appropriate and safe for aviation activity. The review will also consider:

- efficient use of the airspace
- equitable access to the airspace for all airspace users
- national security issues
- environmental issues
- appropriateness of the airspace classification
- appropriateness of the services and facilities provided by the air navigation service provider (ANSP).

Where required, the review will:

- conduct a brief comparison of risk of other Australian and/or foreign aerodromes with similar movement and passenger numbers
- assess the ability of a service provider to deliver services to support changes in airspace classification or structure
- Assess the possible implications of future aerodrome and local infrastructure developments that may change the nature of aviation activity at Adelaide.

Scope

The scope of the review includes:

- a risk assessment of the airspace within 36 NM of Adelaide aerodrome.
- consultation with stakeholders to gather and validate data that will inform the airspace review. These may include (but not be limited to):
 - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
 - Department of Defence
 - Airservices Australia
 - Australian Transport Safety Bureau
 - Local council

- Aerodrome operators (including Parafield and Edinburgh)
 - Domestic passenger transport and freight operators
 - Charter operators
 - Resident aircraft maintenance organisations (including at Parafield aerodrome)
 - Resident flying training organisations (including at Parafield aerodrome)
 - 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)
 - Civil aviation
 - Aviation State Engagement Forum (AvSeF).
- Review and update recommendations from the previous Airspace Reviews
 - Consider available surveillance and comment on any differences with respect to Australian airspace notified under Article 38 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago 1944)
 - Identify possible options to adjust or amend current airspace arrangements.

Outside Scope

- On and off-airport infrastructure developments that will not impact current or future airspace arrangement.
- Aircraft noise.

Duration

The draft Preliminary Airspace Review report is to be available to industry and the public for final consultation within two months of the review being approved. Target date for the Adelaide Preliminary Airspace Review is the end of November 2020. The draft report is to be provided to the OAR Manager at least two weeks prior to the target date.