

# APPENDIX A: MINISTERIAL EXPECTATIONS

The portfolio Minister regularly issues a Statement of Expectations (SOE) as a notice of strategic direction to the Airservices Board according to section 17 of the *Air Services Act 1995*. In addition to the SOE, the Minister can issue directions which inform the performance of our functions. These, together with the Board's Statement of Intent, are provided within this section.

## MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

Four ministerial directions remain current:

Year	Date of issue	Subject
1996	29 May	Handling of aircraft noise complaints at Sydney and other federal airports
1997	30 July	Progressive implementation of Sydney Long Term Operating Plan
1999	3 May	Responsibilities in relation to the environmental effects of aircraft
2004	31 August	Provision of approach radar services at specific airports

## OUR STATEMENT OF INTENT 2019-2021

### Statement of Expectations

#### Overview

This instrument is the Statement of Expectations for Airservices Australia for the period 15 July 2019 to 30 June 2021. This instrument commences on 15 July 2019 and expires at the end of 30 June 2021 as if it had been repealed by another instrument. This instrument puts in place a new Statement of Expectations (SOE) which serves as a notice to Airservices Australia (Airservices) under section 17 of the *Air Services Act 1995* (the Act). The new SOE formalises the Government's expectations concerning the operations and performance of Airservices.

Airservices should perform its functions in accordance with the Act, which requires that Airservices must regard the safety of air navigation as the most important consideration. Airservices should also perform its functions in accordance with the Public Governance, *Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) as well as other relevant legislation.

### Statement of Intent

The Airservices Board's Statement of Intent responds to each element of the Statement of Expectations and states Airservices' commitment to meeting the Minister's expectations.

Airservices provides safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible services that are valued by the aviation industry and community on behalf of our owner, the Australian Government. When performing our functions, we adhere to all relevant legislation including, the *Air Services Act* and the PGPA Act. The Board and the Chief Executive Officer make decisions consistent with their legislated responsibilities and the responsibilities resulting from our industry funding arrangements, relating to the objectives, strategies and policies to be followed by Airservices to ensure that we perform our functions in a proper, efficient and effective manner. In accordance with the Act, the safety of air navigation is Airservices most important consideration.

### Governance

I expect that the Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will continue to work to enable Airservices to operate as a world-best practice Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) service provider. I expect the Board to ensure Airservices has the necessary resources and capabilities in place to effectively manage Airservices' strategic direction, risks and corporate planning. I expect the CEO to be responsible for managing the operations of Airservices, its organisational capacity and the exercise of its functions. I expect the Board to keep the Secretary of my Department and me fully informed of Airservices' actions in relation to the requirements stated in this SOE, and promptly advise of any events or issues that may impact on the operations of Airservices, including through quarterly progress reports from the Board against the Corporate Plan and this SOE.

Airservices will ensure its annual Corporate Plan positions the organisation to continue to provide safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible services that are valued by the aviation industry and community. Airservices will monitor, focus and report on the effective delivery of Corporate Plan initiatives to ensure we deliver the benefits to our customers. Airservices will innovate to maintain its position as a leading air navigation service provider, with initiatives including the Network Management Program (including Airport Collaborative Decision Making and Long Range Air Traffic Flow Management), and the Digital Aerodrome Services Program. Our People Strategy will ensure we continue to invest in our workforce capability to provide an appropriately skilled workforce to deliver on our service objectives. The Board and the Chief Executive Officer will ensure the Department and Minister are fully informed of all actions relating to these expectations through regular reporting including quarterly progress reports and annual reporting.

## Statement of Expectations

## Statement of Intent

## Key Aviation Initiatives

I expect Airservices, in conducting its responsibilities as the air navigation and aviation rescue and fire fighting services provider, will focus on the following key aviation initiatives:

- (a) progress the timely, on-budget and effective implementation of the civil-military air traffic management programme, known as OneSKY, including harmonisation initiatives with the Department of Defence (Defence) and advise me on the progress and achievement of programme milestones
- (b) work closely with my Department and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to ensure the safe integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into Australian airspace, including the development and implementation of a UAS traffic management system that complements the Government's broader approach to this sector
- (c) work with my Department and CASA on modernising airspace management, including:
- progressing Australia's airspace protection policy.
  - enhancing the safety and efficiency of Australian controlled airspace including at major regional airports.
  - continuing to apply adequate resources to manage airspace planning and design including for Western Sydney Airport
  - continuing the implementation of Performance Based Navigation in Australia following consultation with other Government agencies, community and industry stakeholders.
- (d) assist in implementing the Government's environmental initiatives, including:
- minimising the impact of aircraft operations on communities where practicable
  - supporting the ongoing role of the independent Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO) and implementation of agreed recommendations made by the ANO
  - appropriate resourcing of the Noise Complaints and Information Service to continue to improve the flow and quality of information to noise affected communities
  - ongoing commitment to the Sydney Airport Long Term Operating Plan as required by the Ministerial direction dated 30 July 1997 (F2009B00158)
  - providing and reporting against an annual environment work programme which outlines Airservices ongoing and new initiatives in managing, monitoring and alleviating, where safe and practicable, environmental effects of aircraft operations
  - working with the Department and industry on issues related to environmental contamination, including taking action on perand poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in line with Government expectations on this issue.
- (e) continue to work with the Department and CASA on implementing the Government's ARFF policy.

The OneSKY Program remains the cornerstone of our commitment to deliver world-class air traffic management services into the future. Airservices will continue to work closely with the Department of Defence to deliver a harmonised civil-military air traffic management system for Australia. Airservices will update the Minister quarterly on the progress of OneSKY and achievement of programme milestones. We have also established the Air Navigation Services Readiness Program, which will prepare our air traffic operations for the future transition to OneSKY.

Airservices will continue to work with the Department and CASA to ensure the safe integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into Australian airspace. As part of our Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Integration and Management Services Program, we will deliver a pilot programme to assess Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) systems and identify options for integration of UAS with conventional airspace users, while maintaining a safe and secure environment for all. We will engage with government agencies through established forums and working groups to ensure the implementation of UAS traffic management aligns with the Government's policies and approach to this sector.

We will support Australia's airspace protection policy by working cooperatively with the Department and CASA, and providing timely information to assist with policy and regulatory initiatives. Airservices Airspace Modernisation Program will enhance the safety and efficiency of Australian airspace and increase access to airspace for the aviation industry, through national standardisation and leveraging increased surveillance to enhance service provision. Airservices Airport Development Support Program will deliver essential supporting infrastructure and services in support of aviation industry expansion, including airspace planning and design at Western Sydney Airport. Airservices will continue the transition to Performance-Based Navigation (PBN) as the primary means of navigation in line with the global aviation industry in consultation with government agencies, the community and other stakeholders.

In designing airspace and flight paths, Airservices seeks to minimise the impact of aircraft noise on communities as far as practicable. We engage with communities when we make changes that will impact them. Airservices will continue to support the role of the Australian Noise Ombudsman (ANO) and implement all agreed recommendations. Airservices Noise Complaints and Information Service will continue to be resourced to provide quality information and manage noise complaints to a high standard. The 1997 Ministerial Direction relating to the Sydney Long Term Operating Plan will continue to guide the operation of Sydney Airport. Airservices initiatives to manage and monitor the environmental effects of aircraft operations are outlined in an annual environmental work plan, with quarterly progress reports provided to the Minister. Airservices will continue to implement a risk-based national PFAS management programme, including site investigations, containment and monitoring as appropriate. Airservices will work closely with Government agencies and industry on issues related to PFAS in line with Government expectations, including participating in the Commonwealth inter-departmental committee.

Airservices will continue to work with the Department and CASA to implement the Government's Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) policy. We support the planned shift from the current prescriptive regulatory framework to a more outcomes-based approach. Airservices ARFF Modernisation Program will ensure ARFF is 'fit for the future' and positioned to leverage new technology to enhance service delivery, with a programme of work focused around our people, facilities, vehicles, equipment and training.



### Statement of Expectations

- (f) maintain international and regional aviation safety engagement through effective engagement in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and safety and capability building initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

### Statement of Intent

Airservices will continue to support the Australian Government's safety initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. Our international capability development programme enhances the safety of air transport in our region by helping our neighbouring air navigation service providers in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea to build their capability and improve their operations. Airservices is an active participant in ICAO forums and works closely with the Department and CASA to ensure that Australia's ICAO responsibilities are met.

### Stakeholder Engagement

I expect Airservices will continue to:

- (a) undertake effective and productive engagement with the community and industry, based on mutual understanding and respect.
- (b) communicate clearly and regularly with my Department and CASA, the industry and the community on the development and implementation of significant changes to air navigation and ARFF.
- (c) proactively provide information, assistance and advice to Government agencies for policy formulation, implementation activities and regulation purposes.
- (d) contribute in the coordinated approach to airport planning, including appropriate participation in planning coordination forums, community aviation consultation groups, and the National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group.
- (e) work closely with my Department and other Government agencies, including the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, CASA and Defence to deliver integrated and comprehensive advice to the Government, the aviation industry and the community.

Airservices engages with industry on its service delivery, strategic planning, pricing and other key initiatives via direct engagement with customers and stakeholders, engagement with industry bodies and participation in established industry forums such as the Australian Strategic Air Traffic Management Group (ASTRA). Airservices engages with the community when we make changes that will impact them. Airservices has established mechanisms to share information with CASA about the performance of its regulatory functions. Airservices keeps the Department, and Minister informed through regular reporting, including quarterly progress reports and annual reporting and responds to requests for assistance and advice from government agencies. Airservices is committed to ongoing participation in the National Aviation Safeguarding Advisory Group and engaging via airport-led planning coordination and consultation forums and technical noise working groups. We will work closely with the Department and other agencies to deliver integrated and comprehensive advice to the Government and other stakeholders on emerging issues affecting aviation regulation and policy including airspace management and protection, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM), Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) and aviation infrastructure planning and implementation.