



Next
Steps



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Almost a century after the birth of the Australian aviation industry, the Government is bringing together all aspects of aviation policy into a single statement.

The Aviation Green Paper is an important step in the development of a comprehensive national aviation policy, the Aviation White Paper.

The process began with the release of an Issues Paper in April 2008 and will be completed with the release of the White Paper in the latter half of 2009.

The Green Paper describes the initiatives and policy settings the Government is considering to enable a vibrant and prosperous aviation industry; one that delivers the highest standards of safety and security, competitive aviation markets and services, investment in infrastructure and environmental responsibility.

More than ever, the aviation industry underpins domestic economic growth and provides an essential gateway to the global economy.

At present, the aviation industry directly supports nearly 50,000 jobs and contributes \$6.4 billion to Australia's GDP. Since the mid-1980s, there has been an almost three-fold increase in air travel, with predictions that it will double within the next 20 years.

But with growth comes new challenges – and if we are to continue to benefit from the economic and social advantages of air travel we need to plan ahead.

The previous short term, ad-hoc, problem by problem approach is no longer tenable if Australia is to remain internationally competitive.

The aim of the White Paper will be to provide greater planning and investment certainty for the aviation industry, maintain and improve Australia's excellent air safety record, and address the wider community and environmental impacts associated with air transport and airport development.

Everyone can play a role in shaping Australia's aviation future. The response to the Issues Paper from the Australian aviation industry and the public was very positive, with over 290 submissions received.

The Government now invites comments on the Aviation Green Paper to be considered in the development of a White Paper in 2009.

In particular, comment is invited on the proposed policy initiatives summarised separately in the Green Paper and provided in further detail in the individual chapters.

Submissions or comments on the Green Paper should be provided no later than **Friday 27 February 2009** to:

Aviation Green Paper

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Submissions and comments provided to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, in response to this invitation, may be published on the Department's website, unless the submission is marked confidential at the time it is delivered to the Department.