

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Air Services (Use of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations at Brisbane Airport) Direction 2024

A. Background

Section 16(1) of the *Air Services Act 1995* (the Act) provides that the Minister may give written directions to Airservices Australia (Airservices) relating to the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers.

The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, has given a written direction to Airservices under section 16(1) of the Act through the *Air Services (Use of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations at Brisbane Airport) Direction 2024* (the Direction). The Direction commenced immediately after the Minister provided it to Airservices.

The Direction has the effect of requiring Airservices to implement the actions specified within recommendation 2.1 of the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane (NAP4B) by 30 November 2024.

Recommendation 2.1 of the NAP4B was intended to be completed by Airservices by the end of 2023. Therefore, the Direction will ultimately require Airservices to prioritise the development of, and deliver, procedures which will require the use of the Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations (SODPROPS) during both day time and night time operations at Brisbane Airport, when meteorological conditions and other operational conditions, including traffic levels, allow.

B. Direction to Airservices

The Direction requires Airservices, in relation to Brisbane Airport, to implement the following actions:

- 1) Develop and implement an Air Traffic Control Operating Plan to extend the use of SODPROPS. In developing the Air Traffic Control Operating Plan, there must be a focus on extending the use of SODPROPS to weekday evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sunday morning, to the extent that operating conditions permit.
- 2) Report to the Minister on the outcomes of Airservices' examination on the costs, benefits and operational impacts of extending the use of SODPROPS. The report to the Minister must consider the circumstance where provision is made for moderate flight delays to maintain SODPROPS when traffic demand approaches the maximum capacity for SODPROPS operations at Brisbane Airport.
- 3) Based on the findings of the report provided to the Minister on the costs, benefits and operational impacts of extending the use of SODPROPS:
 - Review the daytime operational plan for the use of SODPROPS; and
 - Implement any feasible and appropriate design enhancements that are identified by Airservices into the Air Traffic Control Operating Plan which

increases the use of SODPROPS during daytime hours (to the extent that operating conditions permit).

These actions are derived from recommendation 2.1 of the NAP4B, however, the Direction does not import the exact phrasing of the recommendation. The amended phrasing included in the Direction provides clarity and certainty for Airservices on the actions it must undertake under the Direction.

The actions must be implemented by 30 November 2024 (or by a later date allowed by the Minister in writing). In practice, Airservices would be required to write to the Minister to request an extension of time to implement the actions under the Direction. In accordance with section 16(3) of the Act, Airservices must comply with the Direction.

The Direction will cease to apply to Airservices 3 years after all the actions under the Direction are implemented. This will prevent the Direction becoming outdated and no longer fit for purpose.

For the avoidance of doubt, Brisbane Airport means the airport located at Airport Dr, Brisbane Airport, QLD, 4008.

C. Reporting on progress of implementation of directions

Until the date on which all actions have been implemented as outlined in section B, Airservices will be required to report to the Minister about the work undertaken by Airservices in the previous quarter to implement each action under the Direction.

The reports from Airservices to the Minister must include:

- The progress that Airservices has made towards implementing each action.
- Any delays, or anticipated delays, to implementing each action as well as meeting the 30 November 2024 implementation date (or any later date allowed by the Minister).
- Any risks associated with any delays, or anticipated delays, identified by Airservices.

The intent of this reporting is to ensure that the Minister is afforded adequate visibility on Airservices' progress with implementing the actions under the Direction, and that Airservices' are actively working to implement the actions.

D. Publication of data on SODPROPS usage

For 3 years following the implementation of all actions under the Direction, Airservices must publish on its website monthly reporting which details SODPROPS utilisation rates at Brisbane Airport over the previous month.

The monthly reporting must include information about the operating conditions and any other matters (which were not related to operating conditions) that prevented the use of SODPROPS. Operating conditions may include, but are not limited to, weather, safety and traffic levels.

The other matters that prevented use of SODPROPS could include, but are not limited to, unforeseen incidents or technical issues which occur at the airport. The purpose of including

this aspect is to ensure Airservices provides information on all matters that may have affected the use of SODPROPS to the community.