

GOLD COAST AIRPORT

SMART TRACKING UPDATE – RUNWAY 32

Airservices is implementing improvements in satellite assisted aircraft navigation as part of a national initiative to provide additional safety, landing predictability, fuel and emissions benefits to airlines. This program is known as Smart Tracking. Airservices is proposing to update the Smart Tracking approach procedures at Gold Coast Airport for aircraft landing on Runway 32 from the south.

WHAT IS SMART TRACKING?

Smart Tracking is commonly known in aviation as Required Navigation Performance, Authorisation Required (RNP AR) meaning aircraft can operate in accordance with a strict set of navigation parameters and follow precise curved approaches to an airport, while providing lateral and vertical navigation guidance.

Smart Tracking ensures aircraft are guided as accurately and as closely to the runway as possible, using satellite positional information and a glide path to give the pilot the best opportunity to land in all weather conditions.

As part of the implementation of satellite assisted aircraft navigation improvements across Australian Airports, Airservices is proposing to replace the existing Smart Tracking procedures at the Gold Coast for aircraft landing onto Runway 32.

The benefits of Smart Tracking are described on the Airservices website at: <http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/projects/smart-tracking/benefits/>

WILL THERE BE ANY CHANGE IN AIRCRAFT NOISE OR TRACKING?

Straight-in Smart Tracking flight paths from 31 January 2019:

There will be no change to aircraft noise or tracking on the straight-in flight path. There will be no change to the number of aircraft operating on this flight path.

Offset Smart Tracking flight paths from 31 January 2019:

Residents in the Kingscliff area will notice a reduction in aircraft noise as aircraft using the proposed offset Smart Tracking flight path will be further east over water as a result of the changes. There are expected to be an average of up to five (5) aircraft per day using this flight path.

WHAT IS GOING TO CHANGE AND WHY?

Two Smart Tracking flight paths are proposed to replace the existing flight paths for aircraft landing at the airport from the south on to Runway 32 (refer Figure 1):

- A straight-in flight path that replicates the existing straight-in flight path for aircraft arriving from southern ports (e.g Sydney and Melbourne), and
- An offset flight path for suitably equipped and authorised aircraft arriving from northern ports (e.g. Cairns).

Due to the application of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) design criteria for new Smart Tracking procedures in Australia and the need to accommodate additional aircraft types and performance, replicating the existing offset flight path is not possible.

Instead, the offset flight path proposes a move east of Kingscliff over water, to reduce noise impacts on that community.



Figure 1: Indicative straight-in and offset flight path corridors for aircraft landing onto runway 32 (yellow) and existing arrival tracks (red) to show the change to the offset flight path

Merge area for straight-in and offset Smart Tracking Paths from 31 January 2019:

There will be a change to where the proposed offset flight path merges with the straight-in flight path.

As a result, some residents may experience changes to where aircraft are currently visually tracking. These are residents west of Banora Point and residents north of Chinderah Bay.

Chinderah Bay residents may also notice increased aircraft noise levels. While these areas currently experience aircraft overflying on the straight-in flight path, and some departing flights, it is expected that residents may experience an average of up to 5 flights per day using the new offset flight path, however this may include flights currently using the existing offset or straight-in flight paths.

WHEN WILL THIS CHANGE START?

Airservices is proposing to implement the changes on 31 January 2019.

WHERE CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK OR GET MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHANGES?

To provide feedback and/or to register to receive information on flight path changes in your area, please contact Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS) on:

- 1800 802 584 (free call),
- 131 450 (interpreter service),
- online at <https://complaints.bksv.com/asa>

Feedback closes on 29 November 2018.