

National Airports Safeguarding Framework

The National Airports Safeguarding Framework provides guidance on planning requirements for development that affects aviation operations. This includes building activity around airports that might enter operational airspace and/or affect navigational procedures for aircraft.

The framework consists of nine guidelines and can be found on the [Department of Infrastructure website](#)

It is the responsibility of each state and territory to implement the Framework into their respective planning systems. Each state and territory will align their respective planning processes with the Framework principles and guidelines, as they see appropriate.

One of the key guidelines from the national framework that the Department of Planning Industry and Environment has incorporated into the State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021, relates to managing wildlife strike risk.

Purpose of State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021

State Environmental Planning Policy (Western Sydney Aerotropolis) 2020 commenced on 1 October, 2020 and was introduced by the NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment with the purpose of setting the planning framework for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis. This SEPP was on 1 March 2022 combined with other relevant policies as a chapter (Chapter 4) in State Environmental Planning Policy (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021 (the SEPP).

Any proposed development on land to which the SEPP applies is required to give consideration to and meet the requirements of the SEPP. The SEPP includes a number of development controls which are intended to safeguard the future operations of the airport.

Measures Proposed under the SEPP to manage wildlife strike risk

The SEPP includes a Wildlife Buffer Map which applies to land within a 13 km radius around the airport precinct (the map also identifies land

within a 3km radius of the airport precinct where more stringent controls have been applied to manage wildlife strike risk).

The SEPP includes additional considerations and requirements for those types of development which pose a risk of increasing wildlife strikes where proposed on any land within by the wildlife buffer. These types of development include the following:

- agricultural produce industries;
- aquaculture;
- camping grounds;
- eco-tourist facilities; garden centres;
- intensive livestock agriculture;
- intensive plant agriculture;
- livestock processing industries;
- plant nurseries;
- recreation facilities (major);
- recreation facilities (outdoor);
- sewage treatment plants
- waste or resource management facilities that consist of outdoor processing, storage or handling of organic or putrescible waste;
- water storage facilities

Implications for development types to which the wildlife strike risk measures apply

In accordance with the SEPP, the consent authority must not grant consent to an application for any of the development types listed above on land in the 13 km wildlife buffer zone unless the consent authority:

- has consulted the relevant Commonwealth body, and
- has considered a written assessment of the wildlife that is likely to be present on the land and the risk of the wildlife to the operation of the Airport provided by the applicant, which includes:
 - species, size, quantity, flock behaviour and the particular times of day or year when the wildlife is likely to be present, and
 - whether any of the wildlife is a threatened species, and
 - a description of how the assessment was carried out,
- is satisfied that the development will mitigate the risk of wildlife to the operation of the Airport, including, for example, measures relating to:
 - waste management, landscaping, grass, fencing, stormwater or water areas, or

- the dispersal of wildlife from the land by the removal of food or the use of spikes, wire or nets.

The SEPP also provides that development for the following purposes is prohibited on land in the 3 km wildlife buffer zone:

- livestock processing industries,
- turf farming,
- waste or resource management facilities that consist of outdoor processing, storage or handling of organic or putrescible waste.

The prohibition under the SEPP of the types of uses listed above applies regardless of whether the use is permitted on the land under Council's local planning laws.

Useful Resources

- NSW Department of Planning and Environment [Aviation Safeguarding Guidelines](#) – Western Sydney Aerotropolis and surrounding areas, November 2022
- Western Sydney Airport Corporation Fact Sheet – [Development in the Obstacle Limitation Surface](#)

Further Enquiries

For any further questions regarding the operation of the SEPP (Precincts – Western Parkland City) 2021 please contact the NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Email: aerotropolis@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Phone: Between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday on 1300 420 596 and ask for the Western Sydney Aerotropolis team

