

# Media release

From the Minister for Planning

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Monday, 14 May, 2007

## AIRPORT PLANNING CONTROLS UPDATED TO PROTECT RESIDENTS

Planning controls that protect properties in the vicinity of Melbourne Airport from current and future aircraft noise exposure were amended by the Minister for Planning Justin Madden today.

The changes have been made to remove existing planning controls, known as the Airport Environs Overlay, and to introduce the new *Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay* into the Brimbank, Hume, Melton, Moonee Valley and Whittlesea Planning Schemes. This brings the controls into line with forecasts contained in the five-yearly review of the Melbourne Airport Master Plan, approved by the Federal Government.

“The purpose of the planning controls is to safeguard development against potential future aircraft noise,” Mr Madden said.

“We don’t want to end up like Sydney where people living and working near the airport experience high levels of noise.”

Mr Madden said refined mapping techniques had helped the Government to more accurately pinpoint which properties needed to be protected from future airport noise, based on the noise forecasts endorsed by Airservices Australia.

“The existing Airport Environs Overlay did a good job of protecting around 20,000 properties over the last 15 years.

“But I have now introduced specific controls tailored to the actual noise forecast for Melbourne Airport when it is operating at its ultimate capacity.”

Around 9,900 properties previously included in the Airport Environs Overlay will not be included in the new *Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay*.

However, Mr Madden said around 5,900 properties would be included in the new Overlay for the first time. These properties are in the Brimbank, Hume, Melton, Moonee Valley and Whittlesea municipalities.

“We have notified these residents by mail, as requested by the local councils, to ensure property owners are aware of the changes to the planning requirements,” Mr Madden said.

“The simple fact is that most people will not be affected because planning controls and overlays such as this one only affect you when you apply for a permit to make changes to your property.”

“The overlay acts as a safeguard so people don’t build or extend their homes in ways that put them at risk of experiencing excessive aircraft noise in the future.”

New homes and extensions that increase the size of existing homes by more than 50 per cent will need to prepare a report for local councils detailing how they will meet the Australian Standard relating to aircraft noise.

This standard can be met in a variety of ways including: orientation of doors and windows, pitched roofs, building materials and double glazed windows.

The updates to the Overlay are part of the implementation of the Melbourne Airport Environs Strategy Plan, which was approved by State Parliament in 2003, following consultation with the local community.

The updated boundaries for the Airport Environs overlay are in line with new noise 'contours', or measures, released as part of the Federal Government approved Melbourne Airport Master Plan.

The updated Melbourne Airport Environs Overlay will also help to provide certainty for any planned expansion of the Melbourne Airport.

"Melbourne's airport is the State's premier airport, and its 24-hour seven-days a week operation gives it a significant competitive advantage – and one that the Victorian Government is committed to protecting and supporting," Mr Madden said.

Transitional arrangements are in place for existing building permits and for planning applications already going through the planning process. For the next 12 months planning permit applications lodged before the new controls were brought in will be decided under the old controls.

For more information visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au/airportoverlay](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/airportoverlay).

For information about the overlays on your property, go to [www.landvic.gov.au/airportoverlay](http://www.landvic.gov.au/airportoverlay).