

# ORANGE REGIONAL AIRPORT

## CHANGES FOR EMERGENCY HELICOPTERS

Airservices is planning to make changes from October 2019 to enable emergency helicopters to easily depart Orange Regional Airport in cold and poor weather (particularly in winter).

### WHAT IS THE CHANGE AND WHY IS IT NEEDED?

In poor weather conditions emergency helicopters can experience difficulties departing from Orange Regional Airport. The altitude of the airport combined with areas of high terrain near the airport mean that freezing temperatures can occur at the altitudes which helicopters currently operate at for safety. Helicopters cannot operate above freezing point due to risk of icing of the rotor blades.

### WHAT IS GOING TO CHANGE?

To ensure emergency helicopters can urgently respond in these weather conditions, we will create four new waypoints (position markers for aircraft) which will allow emergency crews to safely depart from the airport via areas with lower safe altitudes.

Figure 1 shows planned locations for the new waypoints, which are expected to be used by NSW Ambulance and Toll Rescue Helicopters.

These waypoints will not have a set height for operations as this will be calculated by the helicopter operators as part of their flight planning. Because of this, it is not possible to know the exact noise level of the helicopter operations using these departure waypoints.

However, modelled noise levels of a helicopter used by these emergency services operating at 4,000 feet is approximately 70 decibels (dB(A)), while at 1,000 feet the modelled noise level is 88 dB(A).

### How can I get more information?

For Queries regarding information on this change please contact Community Engagement:

- Via email to: [communityengagement@airservicesaustralia.com](mailto:communityengagement@airservicesaustralia.com)
- Via Mail to: Group and Community Engagement Manager  
Airservices Australia, Locked Bag 747, Eagle Farm QLD 4009



For matters relating to current aircraft operations, contact:

- Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS) on:
  - 1800 802 584 (free call)
  - 131 450 (interpreter service)





**Figure 1: New waypoints for helicopter operations**

-  Waypoint
-  Sample of RSCU helicopter departure tracks (orange) for the month of June 2018

This information is produced using Airservices Australia's Operational Data Analysis Suite from 1 to 30 June 2018.  
As this is a graphical representation only it may be incomplete, contain preliminary conclusions and may change.  
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