

# THANGOOL AIRPORT

## CHANGES TO APPROACH PROCEDURES

Airservices is modernising the approaches used for aircraft arriving to Thangool Airport from 25 March 2021, as part of a national safety program.

### BACKGROUND

Thangool Airport is one of five aerodromes in the Banana Shire and accommodates charter, commercial and medical flights, including the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

The main runway (RWY) at the airport is oriented north-west/south-east and is known as RWY 10/28. Based on prevailing wind conditions, it is estimated that 75% of all arrivals to Thangool Airport use RWY 10 (landing to the south-east) while 25% of arrivals use RWY 28 (landing to the north-west).

Satellite area navigation approaches, known as RNAV, are available to both ends of the runway. The existing RNAV approach to RWY 10 is aligned to the runway, however the RNAV approach to RWY 28 is currently 'off-set' by 4 degrees (not aligned to the runway). Off-set approaches can add unnecessary complexity for pilots.

Airservices is seeking to modernise and improve the safety of RNAV approaches to both ends of the runway at Thangool Airport as part of a national safety program. This includes moving the approach for RWY 28 so it is aligned to the runway and introducing approaches with vertical guidance, known as Baro-VNAV, to both ends of the runway.

Baro-VNAV stands for Barometric Vertical Navigation and is a technology available on most modern aircraft. It makes landing safer by increasing the likelihood of a stabilised approach during descent to the runway, reducing the workload and complexity for pilots.

Airservices is working with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to implement Baro-VNAV at more than 100 locations across Australia, including Thangool Airport.

### WHAT WILL CHANGE AT THANGOOL AIRPORT?

The RNAV approach to RWY 28 will be moved 2 kilometres to the south-west to align with the runway (**Figure 1**).

Baro-VNAV will be added to the new runway-aligned approach to RWY 28, and will be overlaid on the existing approach to RWY 10. Aircraft using Baro-VNAV on approach to both ends of the runway may operate between 70 to 90 feet lower than they currently do during the final approach to the runway. This slight lowering of operations is not expected to be noticeable, either visually or in terms of increased noise.

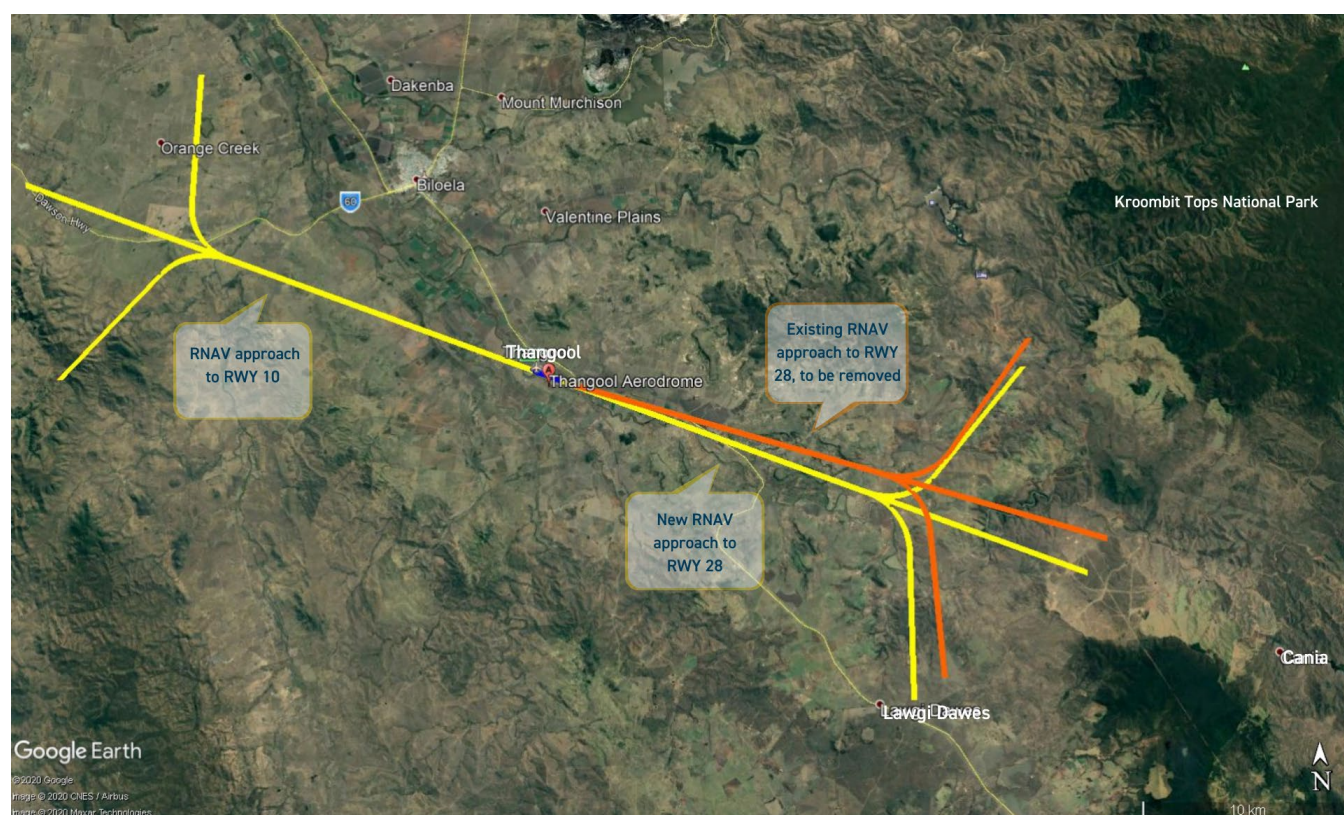
There will be no change to the number or types of aircraft currently operating in and out of Thangool Airport, with the most common type of aircraft being the SW4 (Fairchild Swearingen Metro 23) and the D228 (Fairchild Dornier 228). Residents will continue to see approximately one aircraft arriving to RWY 28 per day and up to four aircraft arriving to RWY 10.

## WHAT WILL I SEE AND HEAR?

Residents located along Blackmans Yard Road in the locality of Lawgi Dawes may notice aircraft tracking closer to them to join the straight-in approach to RWY 28. These residents will experience an increase in aircraft noise of up to 10 decibels (dB(A)) from current noise levels of approximately 50 dB(A) when this approach is used. This is similar to noise levels of a normal conversation.

Residents located along Roys Road near the Burnett Highway may notice aircraft tracking closer to them. These residents will continue to experience aircraft noise levels of 60 dB(A).

Most residents located close to the airport will continue to experience aircraft noise levels of 70 dB(A) and above. Some residents may experience aircraft tracking closer to them as the new procedure moves south of this area to be aligned with the runway.



**Figure 1:** Approaches to RWY 10/28 at Thangool Airport - current RNAV approach procedure to RWY 10 overlaid with Baro-VNAV procedure (yellow tracks); current RNAV approach procedure to RWY 28 to be removed (orange tracks) and new RNAV approach procedure to RWY 28 (yellow tracks)

## WHEN WILL THIS OCCUR?

Effective from 25 March 2021.

## HAVE A QUESTION?

For questions about this change and/or current aircraft operations, contact the Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS) on:

w: <http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/about-making-a-complaint/>

t: 1800 802 584 (free call)

t: 131 450 (interpreter service)



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