

Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Ballarat Airport Strategy and Master Plan?

Ballarat Airport is an important strategic and economic asset for the region, providing an aviation and commercial role for the local community, the City of Ballarat, and industry.

The City of Ballarat is considering the next stages of development for the airport which is dependent upon developing a strategy which will establish defined roles and activities appropriate for Ballarat's status as a large regional city with significant population and industry growth forecast.

The most recent version of the Ballarat Airport Master Plan was produced in 2013 and the document now requires updating to reflect recent works undertaken and currently planned for the airport.

The purpose of the Ballarat Airport Master Plan 2024 is to provide the City of Ballarat with a strategic planning document that will set out the potential role and uses of the Ballarat Airport and explore future opportunities for growth.

What is the scope of the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024?

In keeping with the vision the City of Ballarat has for the airport, the master plan is to:

- consider the role of the airport in the context of a rapidly growing Ballarat population, the city's location as a gateway for Western Victoria and in contemplation of future connections with other economic and transport hubs;
- identify commercial opportunities and key development projects to be completed to enhance the airport's financial return which are also likely to increase the economic and social benefits the Ballarat Airport provides to the region and its population; and
- support the City of Ballarat in ensuring the airport in the future is managed through an effective corporate governance model that maintains operational safety as a core principle while seeking to achieve a financial return on investment.

What timeframe is considered in the Ballarat Airport Strategy and Master Plan?

The Ballarat Airport Strategic & Master Plan will contemplate a 20-year horizon in which time the Ballarat Airport runway should have been fully upgraded to accommodate large turboprop and medium jet aircraft capable of operating interstate passenger and freight services.

Additionally, the impact of the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) development will be considered in the context of opportunities arising for the airport to capitalise on those adjoining businesses whose operations and/or markets involve aviation services.

What is the status of the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024?

The City of Ballarat's Economic Development Team, in partnership with a leading aviation consultancy, are working on the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024 and are inviting public comment on the Ballarat Airport and its future role and capabilities.

What are some of the objectives of the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024?

The key objectives of the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024 are to:

- provide an overview of regional aviation in Australia and its recent developments and trends which may influence decision making around the role of the airport;
- present a pathway to commercialisation that envisages the airport as a key transport infrastructure asset for the region and a training/operational facility for general aviation and emergency services;
- advise on revenue models designed to increase the financial return of the airport;
- consider business and government agencies that may have an interest in contributing to the development of the airport for their own or joint aviation activities (e.g. Emergency Management Victoria);
- understand any adverse effects from the airport on the community and develop mitigation strategies to reduce such impacts where reasonably achievable;
- identify the externalities from which the region will benefit through enhanced airport capability (including the commencement of scheduled passenger services) impacting the:
 - visitor economy;
 - business and manufacturing sectors;
 - health services;
 - emergency services; and
 - educational and training institutions.

Who is involved in the development of the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024?

The airport master plan is being developed through:

- initial planning, reviews and technical studies undertaken by the City of Ballarat;
- consultation with businesses, industry and the community, along with stakeholders who presently use the airport; and
- expert analysis, planning and strategy completed by our aviation consultancy partners.

Will noise to neighbouring areas be considered?

Yes, a comprehensive noise study is being completed during the master plan project and its findings will be included in the final draft document. Additionally – based on feedback from the community – measures to reduce the effect of aircraft noise on residents will be explored, and where reasonably practicable, recommendations may be implemented by Council.

Will the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024 change the planning controls that apply to the airport or surrounding land?

There are currently overlay controls in the Ballarat Planning Scheme relating to the protection of the airport which affect some surrounding land. The master plan review will examine whether any changes to these controls are required. The master plan will also examine whether any changes are required to the planning controls which apply to the airport site.

Will impacts to the environment be considered?

Yes, environmental impact considerations are an important feature of airport master plans along with the completion of risk mitigation analysis.

The master plan will also investigate strategies to reduce carbon emissions through the:

- elimination of unnecessary air and road travel journeys;
- design and maintenance of airport infrastructure;
- management of airspace and aircraft traffic; and
- provision of public transport for travel to and from the airport.

How can I find out more about the Ballarat Airport Strategy & Master Plan 2024?

Updates on the master plan project are available on the City of Ballarat website.

For other enquiries please email the Economic Development Team at the City of Ballarat at:

economicdevelopment@ballarat.vic.gov.au