



Release of RAAF Base Williamtown and Salt Ash Air Weapons Range 2025 ANEF (10 August 2011)



A new Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) has been released for RAAF Base Williamtown and the Salt Ash Air Weapons Range.

These changes have significantly reduced the projected number of Port Stephens residents that will experience aircraft noise. Many residents will even experience less noise with the F-35A than with current F/A-18 Hornets.

Aircraft noise will never be eliminated at Williamtown, but Defence is doing everything it can to reduce noise impacts whilst balancing the operational requirement for its aircraft.

What is an ANEF map?

Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) maps are planning tools used at each airfield in Australia, to help Councils determine appropriate developments, and whether noise attenuation such as insulation and double glazing is required by homeowners for new developments.

Defence is required to produce ANEF's for its military airfields around Australia whenever there are significant changes to aircraft movements, or the existing ANEF expires.

ANEF's are produced by forecasting the noise that will be created when aircraft fly on the most commonly used flight paths. Defence ANEF's include the forecast noise from both civilian and military aircraft in a future year –in this case the year 2025.

How is this ANEF different to the previous one?

Defence first released a 2025 ANEF for Williamtown and Salt Ash Air Weapons Range in October 2009. Since then, Air Force has invested in undertaking world leading simulation flying of the F-35A Lightning II aircraft, in an effort to further reduce the noise of the aircraft in the vicinity of the Port Stephens community.

To do this, Air Force has undertaken to:

- minimise the use of afterburner take-offs when operating the F-35A;
- reduce power settings during departure and arrival at Williamtown;
- reduce the use of Salt Ash Air Weapons Range;
- revise flight profiles such as track changes, noise abatement profiles, limiting late night flying or flying during sensitive periods;

and

- reduce over-flying of heavily populated areas.

Defence is doing everything it can to reduce noise impacts around Williamtown, whilst balancing the operational requirement for its aircraft.

The latest noise modelling shows that the F-35A Lightning II will be less noisy than current F/A-18A and F/A-18B Hornet aircraft in some phases of flight. This means that many residents in Port Stephens will experience less noise with the F-35A than with current F/A-18 Hornets.

For further information about ANEFs and how they have changed over time visit:

www.defence.gov.au/id/anef_williamtown