Australian Government
Defence

RAAF BASE AMBERLEY
AIRCRAFT NOISE MONITORING PROGRAM

Program overview

Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Amberley is Defence's largest operational air base and home to the RAAF's F/A-18F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler fleets. These critical capabilities are central to the security of Australia.

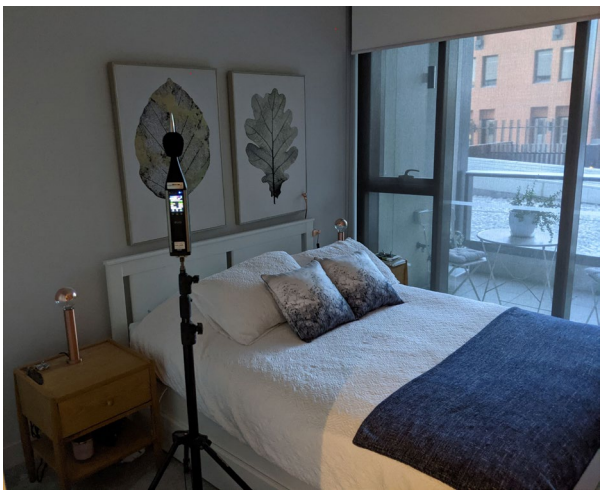
To ensure the Australian Defence Force can continue to operate these aircraft while meeting local community needs, the Government has announced the expansion of its noise monitoring program to address aircraft noise at RAAF Base Amberley.

The program will extend noise monitoring to private households around the base to help identify and quantify the impact of fast jet aircraft activities on the local community, and inform potential noise management measures.

A Royal Australian Air Force EA-18G Growler lands at RAAF Base Amberley

The support of local communities is essential to the success of Defence base operations across the country. Households within the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) 30 contour for RAAF Base Amberley are invited to participate in the noise monitoring program. More information on this is provided below.

Defence will continue to work with relevant stakeholders and agencies, including the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman on options to appropriately manage the impacts of aircraft noise.



Example of an indoor noise monitoring system

Example of an outside noise monitor

Australian Super Hornet and Growler operations

The RAAF introduced the F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft at RAAF Base Amberley in March 2010.

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, operation of the Super Hornet was approved by the then Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, The Hon. Peter Garrett, subject to Defence meeting conditions.

The conditions require Defence to implement noise management plans, ongoing noise monitoring and mitigation strategies for the operation of the Super Hornet at RAAF Base Amberley.

In 2017, the EA-18G Growler was introduced at RAAF Base Amberley, alongside the Super Hornet.

To manage noise impacts as a result of the increased forecast in operations at RAAF Base Amberley, Air Force developed revised departure and arrival procedures for the aircraft.

These procedures, alongside other noise management and mitigation requirements are outlined in the Australian Super Hornet Noise Management Plan version 4.0. Compliance with the plan is required in accordance with the varied Conditions of Approval for the Super Hornet.

Aircraft noise management and mitigation

Defence meets its environmental obligations and is committed to reducing noise while balancing operational and training requirements. Transparent community engagement activities are an important part of meeting environmental requirements.

This approach is detailed in the Air Force Noise Management Strategy, the Fly Neighbourly Policy and through appropriate land use planning using ANEF maps.

Further information on Defence aircraft noise is available at: www.defence.gov.au/aircraftnoise

A No 6 Squadron EA-18G Growler on the taxiway as a RAAF KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport aircraft from No 33 Squadron takes off from RAAF Base Amberley.

What is an ANEF?

ANEF is the primary measure of aircraft noise exposure in the vicinity of airports, nationally. The ANEF system is a well–established and technically complete means of portraying aircraft noise exposure and a useful tool for providing information to the public on noise exposure patterns around airports. Aircraft noise exposure around Defence bases is provided in ANEF contour maps.

The noise exposure levels are presented in ANEF units from values 20 to 40. The ANEF considers the following factors:

- aircraft types that use the airfield
- the number of movements by each aircraft
- how often various flight paths, including those used for circuit training are used by the aircraft
- the intensity, duration, and character of noise of aircraft take offs, approaches
- the distribution of take-offs and approaches during both day and night hours (night defined hours are between 7 pm and 7 am)
- movements during night hours are penalised to account for increased sensitivity in noise.

These maps are used by local government together with Australian Standards when considering planning applications for new developments around airfields.

A copy of the current RAAF Base Amberley ANEF contour map is available at: https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/aircraft-noise/noise-monitoring-reporting