

# Media release

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## Safety the priority for Airservices at the Avalon Airshow

Aviators and visitors attending this year's Australian International Airshow at Avalon Airport, near Geelong Victoria, will have Airservices staff working hard behind-the-scenes to ensure that safety at the airshow is the number one priority.

More than 20 air traffic controllers will be working from three control towers to ensure all visiting scheduled Jetstar flights and those participating in the flying displays are kept safe at all times.

In addition to the main air traffic control tower, Airservices has established two mobile control towers to safely manage an expected large number of general aviation aircraft and helicopters flying in to attend the airshow.

Up in the main control tower, air traffic controllers will be working alongside the 'Ringmaster' for the airshow, who choreographs the running of the air displays in between scheduled passengers flights arriving to and departing from Avalon Airport.

On the ground, more than 20 aviation rescue fire fighters, manning two ultra-large Mk8 Panther fire vehicles, will be on permanent standby at Airservices aviation rescue fire station at Avalon should any emergencies arise at the airshow. Airservices has also positioned a third Mk8 Panther at Avalon East to rapidly respond in the event of an incident there.

In addition, around 10 technicians will ensure all radio communication, navigation and instrument landing equipment is kept fully serviceable for all aircraft at Avalon.

Airservices Executive General Manager Air Traffic Control, Greg Hood said Airservices staff will contribute to the smooth and safe operation of Australia's biggest airshow.

"We have been preparing for the airshow since late last year, endorsing our air traffic controllers on airspace procedures specifically for Avalon," Mr Hood said.

Airservices technicians have set up additional infrastructure and equipment to support an event of this size with additional navigation and communication equipment in place to cope with the large increase in general aviation traffic visiting the airshow.

The Australian International Airshow begins today (Tuesday 24 February) with a range of trade displays showcasing the latest technology and products to industry and government, before the gates are open to the public from 2pm on Friday 27 February.

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