

Help

with Airspaces (and VHF calls)

Stefanie Becker

Senior Safety Officer of Wicked Wings

Secretary of Wicked Wings

President of Queensland Sports Aviators



Official airspace resource: VNC (visual navigation charts)

- VNC available under Wicked Wings site info:
<https://www.wickedwings.com.au/about>

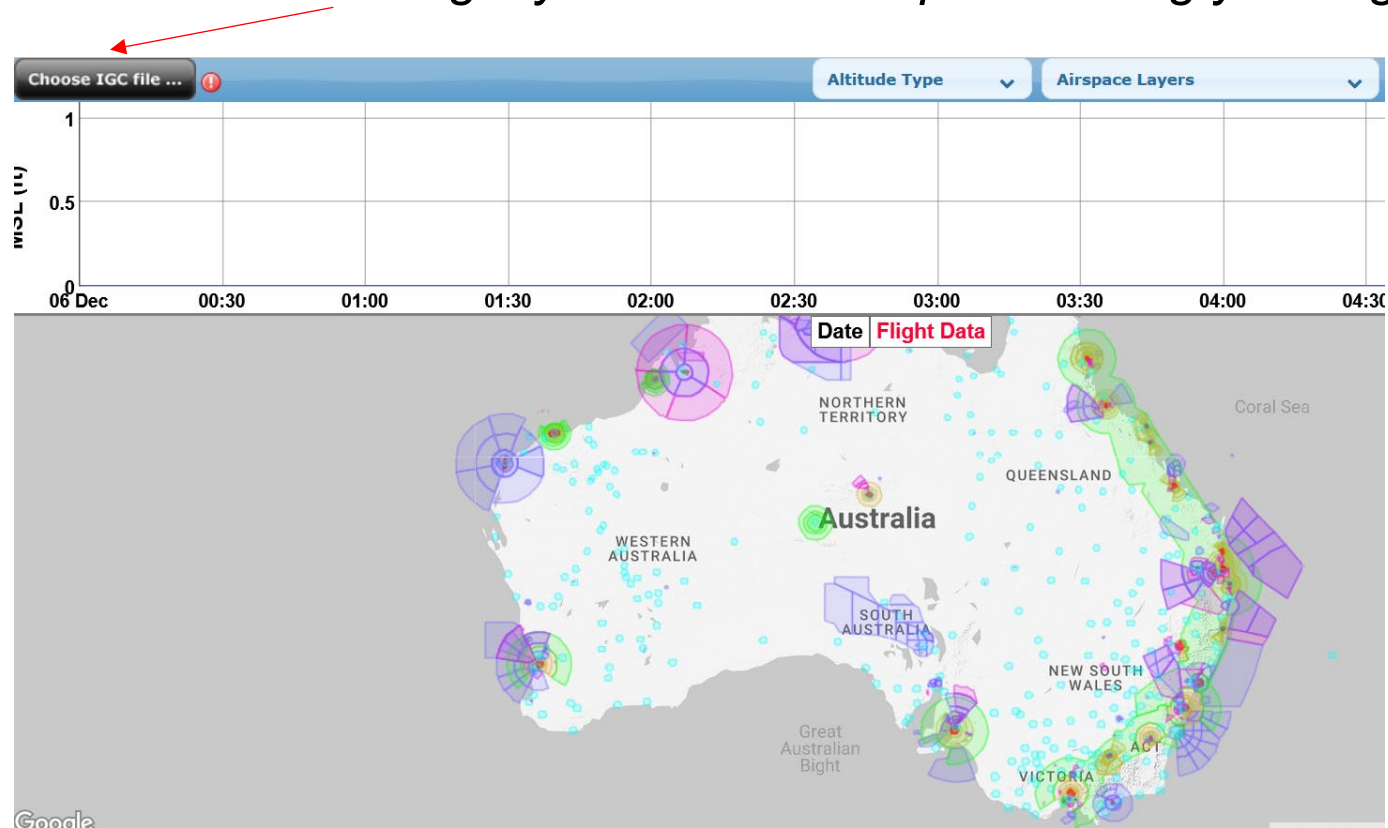


Pro:
Accurate and
up to date

Cons:
Hard to see
anything
Can take a
long time to
upload with
good resolution

Better resource (for Australia):

- Interactive online map: <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php>
- Will use this almost exclusively for this presentation.
- *Also allows checking if you violated airspace during your flight*



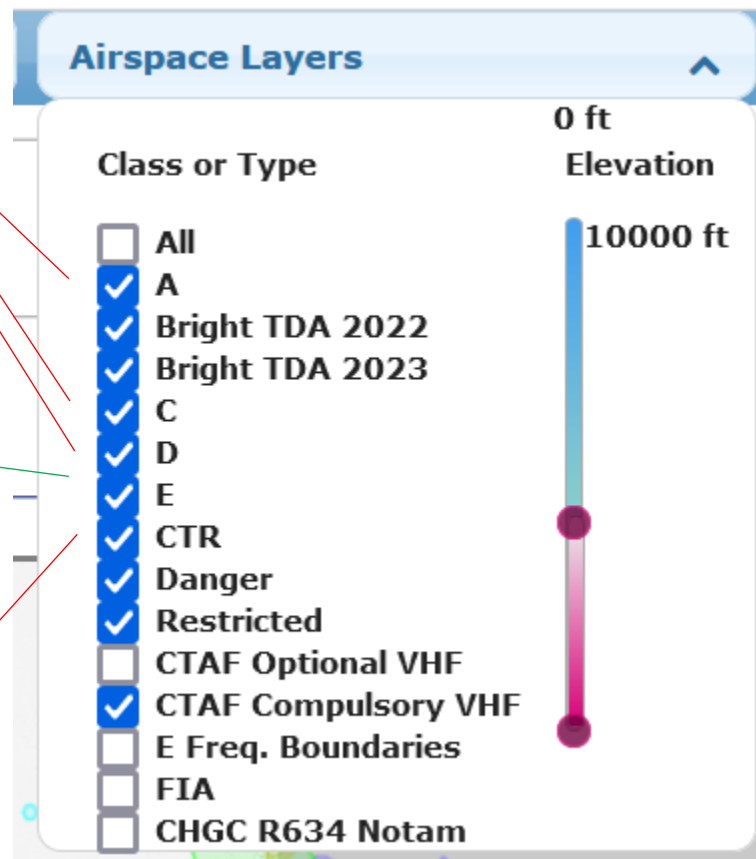
Where can I / can't I fly?

- On this map -- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php> – go to Airspace Layers

A / C / D: controlled airspace. We only have Class C (marked **yellow**).
Do not fly there

BUT: OK to fly in class E (marked **green**): **monitor VHF** on area freq

CTR: Control zone for airports and military (**red**)
Do not fly there!



Set slider to a realistic height for the day, to limit view to relevant airspaces

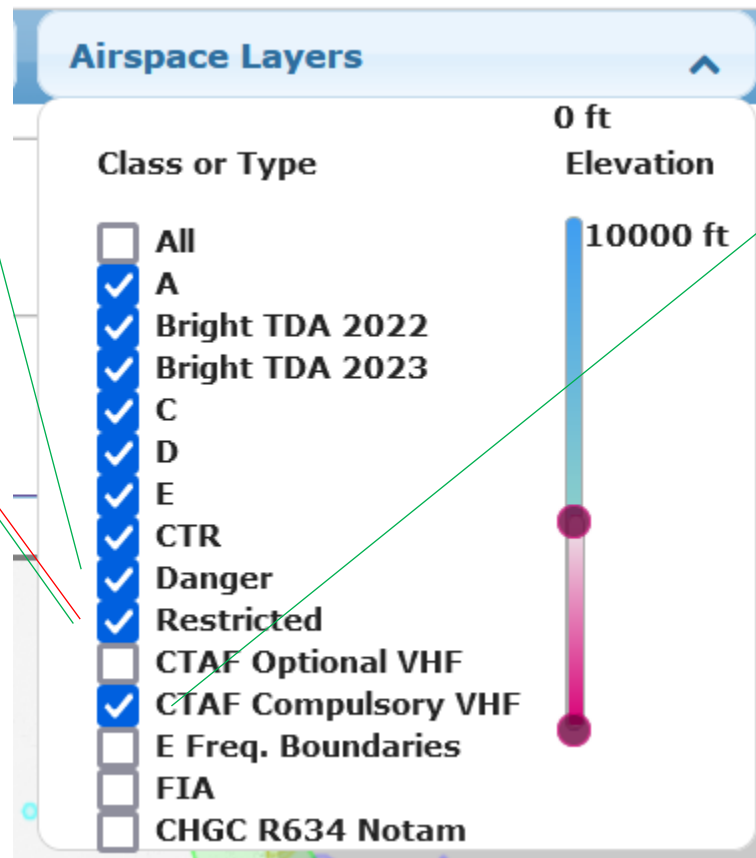
Thermal forecast:
Ausrasp

Where can I / can't I fly?

- On this map -- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php> – go to Airspace Layers

Danger: Starts with D... (e.g., D654 Amberley), military training / low flying. Marked **pink**.
OK to fly there!

Restricted: Starts with R... (e.g., R639 Amberley, marked **violet**). Mostly military; usually active on weekdays, inactive on weekends. Check ATIS or NOTAMs.
Do not fly when active. OK to fly when inactive.



CTAF compulsory VHF:

10 nm around smaller airports (e.g., Toowoomba, Warwick). Marked **turquoise**.
Ok to fly there with a VHF; do not interfere with starts or landings (= do not fly low over airstrip).
Some VHF rules.

Airspace Boundaries

- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php> – If you hover the mouse over an airspace, you will see the airspace boundaries (upper / lower)

R654A OAKLEY [NOTAM]
Class R
Upper: 6500 ft
Lower: SFC

SFC: Surface / Ground

- Airspace goes from ground to 6,500ft
- To stay out, we need to fly above 6,500ft

BRISBANE CTA C09 [H24]
Class C
Upper: FL125
Lower: 8500 ft

FL125 = 12,500 ft (always FL+00 = feet)

- Airspace goes from 8,500ft to 12,500ft
- To stay out, we need to fly below 8,500ft

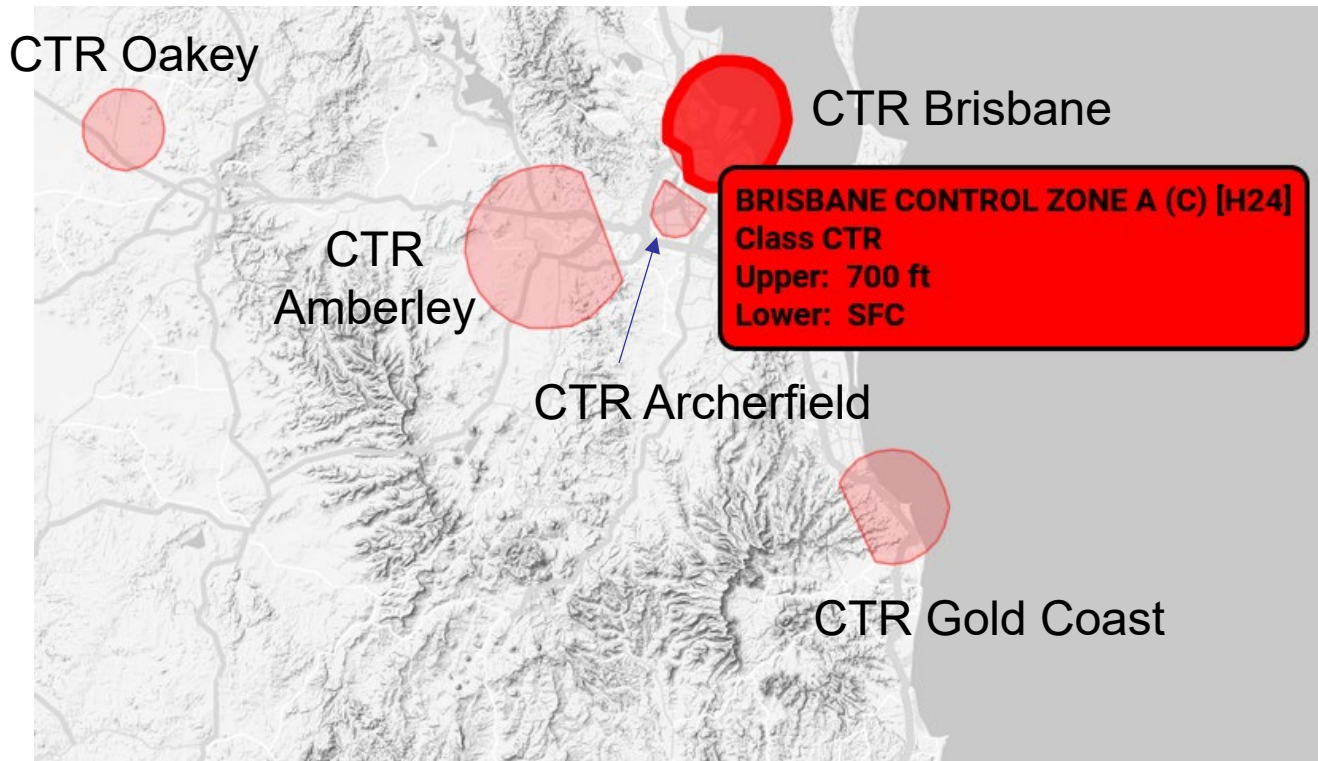
STANTHORPE 126.7 QLD (YSPE) CERT
Class RMZ
Upper: UNL
Lower: SFC

UNL = unlimited (in practice: FL175 or 245)*

- Airspace goes from ground to 17,500ft
- To stay out, we need to fly around this airspace

Rules **CTRs**: Don't fly there!

- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php>
- Only CTRs displayed: There are other controlled airspaces around the CTRs!



SFC: from ground

You see:

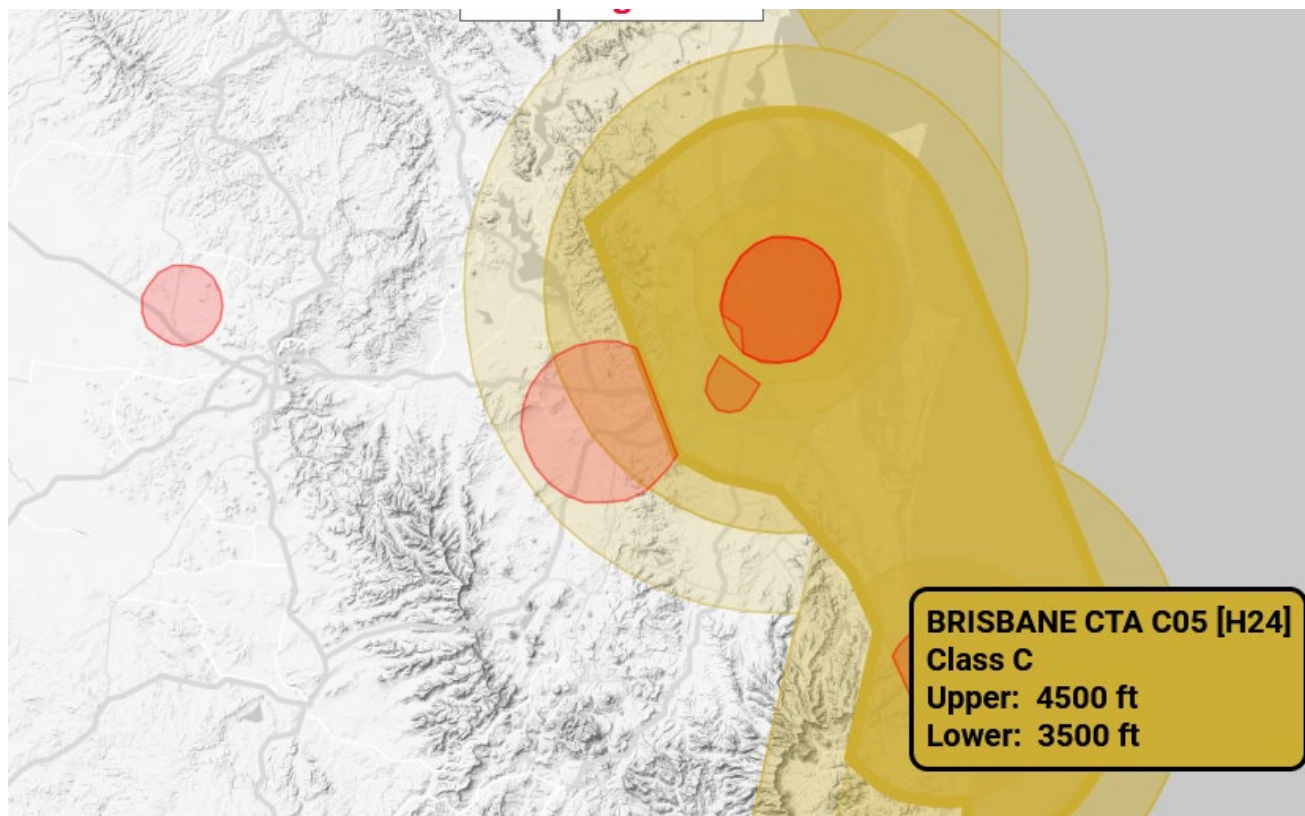
CTRs: Control zone for airports and military (red)
Never fly there!

Even for military, airspace when all restricted zones are de-activated:

Do not fly into CTR Amberley or CTR Oakey (top left)

Rules class A, B, C, D: Don't fly

- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php>
- Visible only CTRs and controlled airspaces A, B, C, D (class C, in this case)



**You see:
Yellow
Brisbane/Gold
Coast Airspace
(class C, various
heights)**

**Never fly into these
airspaces. They are
always active or:
You can assume
this airspace is
active.**

Rules Class E: Fly with VHF

- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php>
- Visible: CTRs (red), Airspace class C (yellow) and Class E (green)
→ need to move slider up to 8,500ft to see Class E Airspace



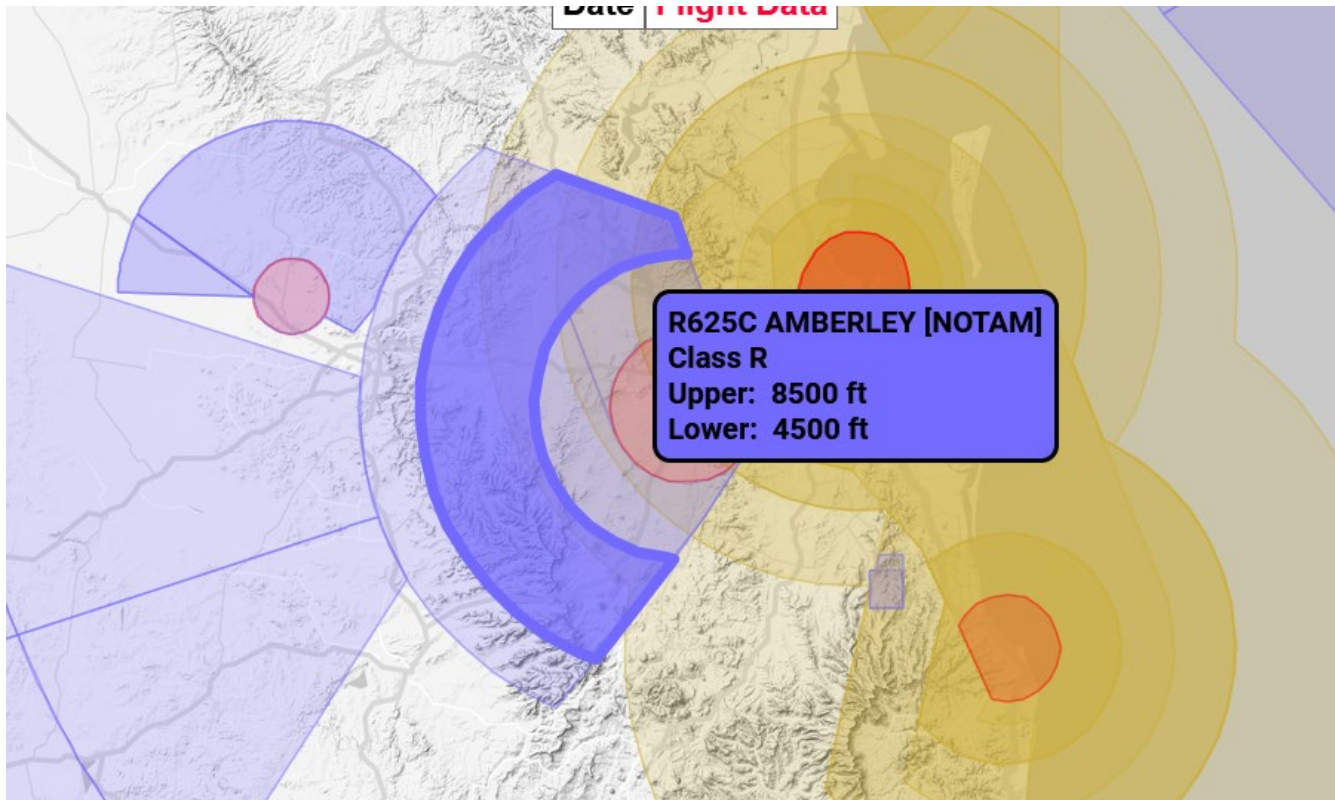
**Overlaid:
Green Airspace
Class E, here:
from 8,500ft**

**We are allowed
to fly in class E
airspace**

**Only required to
monitor VHF on
area frequency
(here: 121.2).**

Rules Restricted Areas (R): Don't fly when they are active

- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php>
- These are mostly military airspaces (Amberley and Oakey), *usually* only active during the week (not on weekends or public holidays).

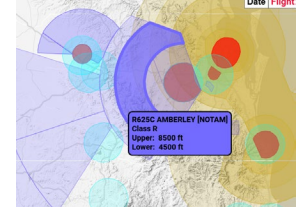


**Marked violet,
various heights.**

**We're not allowed
to fly in there
*when it's active.***

**This airspace
(R625C) is over
Ma Ma Creek,
Stringybark and
Tenthill sites.
Wilson's is in
R625D, height
from 8,500ft.**

How do I know if R... is active?



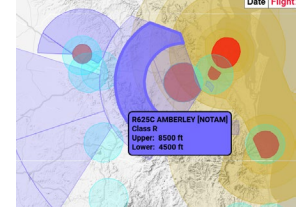
1. Know the pattern:

- Amberley is active every weekday 9am to 5pm. Oakey is active every weekday 9am to 5pm, except Friday (de-activate at 12pm).

2. Call ATIS (Automatic Terminal Information Services): Recording

- ATIS Amberley: (07) 5361 3581 (VHF: 123.3)
- ATIS Oakey: (07) 4577 7235 (VHF: 123.4)
- Active: Status A (Alpha), B (Bravo), C (Charly), etc..
- De-activated: Z (Zulu)

How do I know if R... is active?

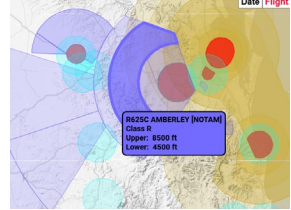


3. Do Restricted Area Briefing with Airservices

- Register with Airservices here, using your SAFA number (pilot license): <https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/naips/>
- In NAIPS, go to Restricted Area Briefing and look up codes for restricted areas and enter the ones of interest into Restricted Area
- Amberley: R625A, R625B, **R625C**, **R625D**, R639A–D start at 10,000ft
- Oakey: R654A, R654B, **R654C**, **R654D**

Not that easy to interpret, but nowadays, AI can help!

Restricted Area Briefing



➤ **On the website: Select Restricted Area briefing and input areas**

▼ Briefing

Location Briefing

Area Briefing

Special MET Briefing

General MET Forecasts

First Light-Last Light

Wind/Temperature Profile

Restricted Area Briefing

▶ SPFIB

▶ Avfax

▶ Flight Notification

▶ GPS RAIM

▶ Charts

Restricted Area Briefing

Briefing Areas

or

Restricted Areas

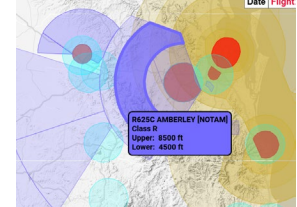
or

Airspace Groups

Briefing Period

 hr

How do I read the briefing?



- Let's enter R625C for Amberley and R654C for Oakey, to find out if they are activated. I asked for the briefing on 19/12/23 at 6.45am.

Restricted Area Briefing

Valid from 20231218 2045 till 20231219 2045



Dates are backwards: Year / Month / Day
Time in UTC: Brisbane – 10 hours
(I asked for 24 hr briefing)

This report only shows the status of restricted areas. The status of MIL CTR/CTA are not included.

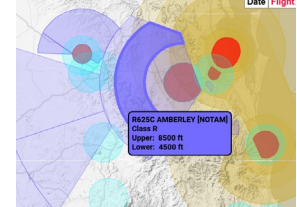
Key:

- Airspace is active
- Airspace is deactivated
- Airspace is active as published (ERSA) or as amended by NOTAM

Name	Activity	Status	Start	End	Lower	Upper	NOTAM	Comments
R654C	MILITARY FLYING		NOTAM		6500 FT AMSL	FL125		RA 1 - Planning Available
R625C	MILITARY FLYING	 	231218 2330	231219 1300	4500 FT AMSL	8500 FT AMSL	AMX C3789/2023	RA 1 - Planning Available

- R654C is deactivated at this time: we would be good to fly in there
- Red/green: R625C is de-activated at this time but scheduled to be active on 18/12/23 at 23:30+10 to 19/12/23, 13:00+10
- This means: Active on the 19/12/23 from 9.30am to 11pm. Outside these times, we would be good to fly in there, but once those times roll around, we need to stay out.

How do I check NOTAMs?



- Register with Airservices (NAIPS), log in and select “Location Briefing” OR:
 - Use this link: <https://www.airservices.gov.au/naips/Briefing/Location>
- Select relevant location and click “NOTAM”

[airservices.gov.au/naips/Briefing/Location](https://www.airservices.gov.au/naips/Briefing/Location)

back to airservices

australia

NAIPS Internet Service

Home (Welcome SBECKER) UTC Date Time: 26 10 15 0832 Logout

Briefing

- Location Briefing
- Area Briefing
- Special MET Briefing
- General MET Forecasts
- First Light-Last Light
- Wind/Temperature Profile
- Restricted Area Briefing

SPFIB

Avfax

Flight Notification

GPS RAIM

Charts

Other Services

Location Briefing

Obtain MET and/or NOTAM information for individual locations or areas

Head Office NOTAM will appear as AUSTRALIAN GEN (YBBB/YMMM) in Location Briefings when Head Office NOTAM is selected.

NOTE: A standalone location briefing will not return associated FIR YBBB or YMMM NOTAM and therefore, will not include Head Office NOTAM. In order to obtain a complete briefing that includes FIR NOTAM, either YBBB and/or YMMM must be entered in the location field boxes in addition to selecting Head Office NOTAM.

Select location directory

Domestic Only: ☒

AMX	

Locations: *

☒ Met ☒ NOTAM ☐ Head Office NOTAM ☐ SIGMET

Include: *

☒ GAF ☐ SIGWX/GPWT (mid-level)

☒ GPWT - Regional (low-level) ☐ GPWT - Australia (low-level)

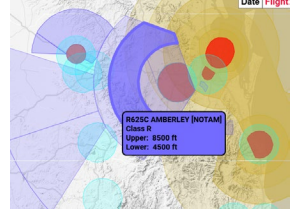
Hi Res Chart Variant

«Briefing Period»

NOTAMs

You can
use any AI
or Google
to find this!

How do I check NOTAMs?



➤ Example Result:

Danger
area
(ignore)

D612B ACT DUE MIL FLYING
SFC TO 2500FT AMSL
FROM 10 152200 TO 10 161300

C4107/26

Restricted
area
(can't fly)

R625C ACT (RA1) DUE MIL FLYING
4500FT AMSL TO 8500FT AMSL
FROM 10 152200 TO 10 161300

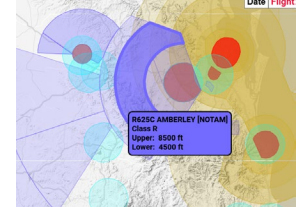
C4106/26

Timestamps translate to:

8:00 am – 11:00 pm
Friday, 16 October 2026

Once you are on this
page, you can feed this
information into any AI /
Google to extract the
activation times.

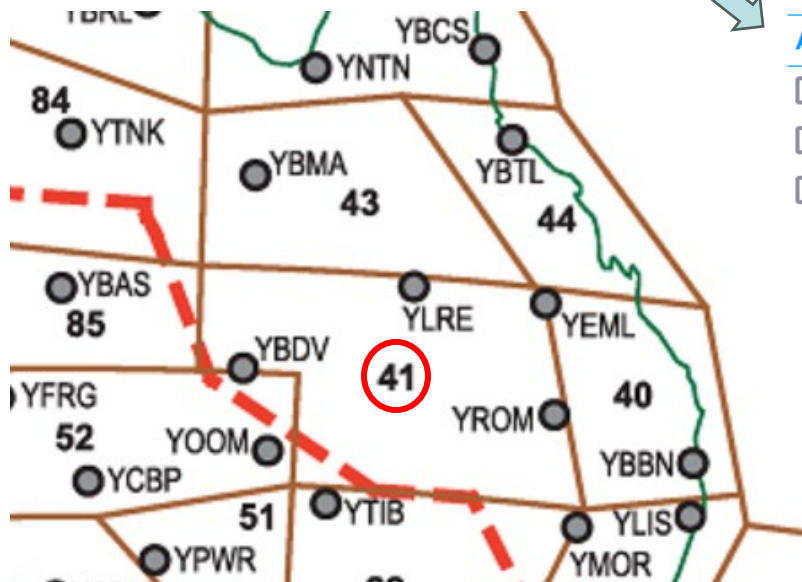
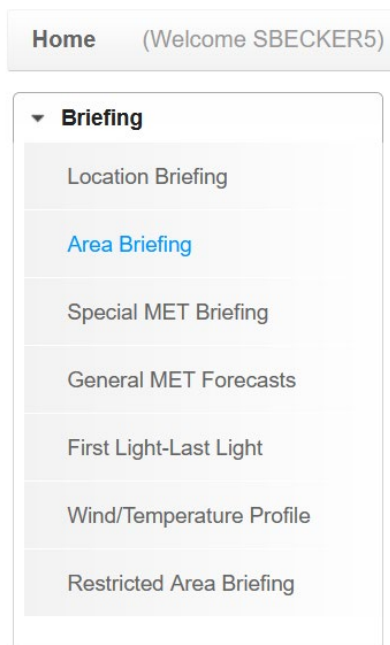
Area Briefing



- You can also use the area briefing from Airservices to learn whether Oakey/Amberley CTR will be active on certain days, and to get more info about weather, planned flight operations, etc.
- Go to Airservices → NAIPS → Area Briefing



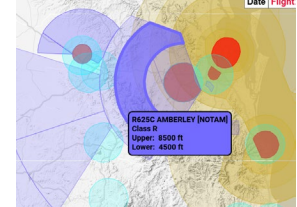
- Look up the codes for the area you're interested in (41)
click on the [Area & Sub Area Directory](#) link



AREA 41	
☐ All	9410
☐ Eastern	9411
☐ Western	9412

Enter these codes (9410 etc.) into the area briefing

Area Briefing Results:



- You will get results for (among other things):
- Amberley, Oakey, Brisbane, Archerfield, Gold Coast and Sunny Coast

AMBERLEY (YAMB)

TAF AMD YAMB 231820Z 2318/2418
VRB03KT 9999 SHOWERS OF LIGHT RAIN FEW006 SCT015
FM232200 34007KT 9999 SHOWERS OF LIGHT RAIN SCT020
FM240000 35012KT 9999 SHOWERS OF LIGHT RAIN SCT030
FM240500 07014KT 9999 SHOWERS OF LIGHT RAIN SCT030
FM241000 VRB03KT 9999 NSW FEW015
TEMPO 2318/2322 9999 BKN006
PROB30 TEMPO 2403/2412 VRB30G50KT 0500 THUNDERSTORMS WITH HEAVY RAIN
AND HAIL BKN005 SCT040CB
RMK
T 20 23 26 30 Q 1008 1009 1008 1005

Weather info

SPECI YAMB 232130Z AUTO 09005KT 9999 // OVC006 23/20 Q1009 RMK
RF00.0/027.0

ATIS YAMB Z 221155

TOWER CLOSED
CTR AND RESTRICTED AREAS DEACTIVATED
CTAF AND PAL FREQ 118.3
OPR INFO:

**Activation Status
BUT only of CTR.
Restricted Airspaces
must still be checked!**

Airspace: CTAF (optional or mandatory VHF)

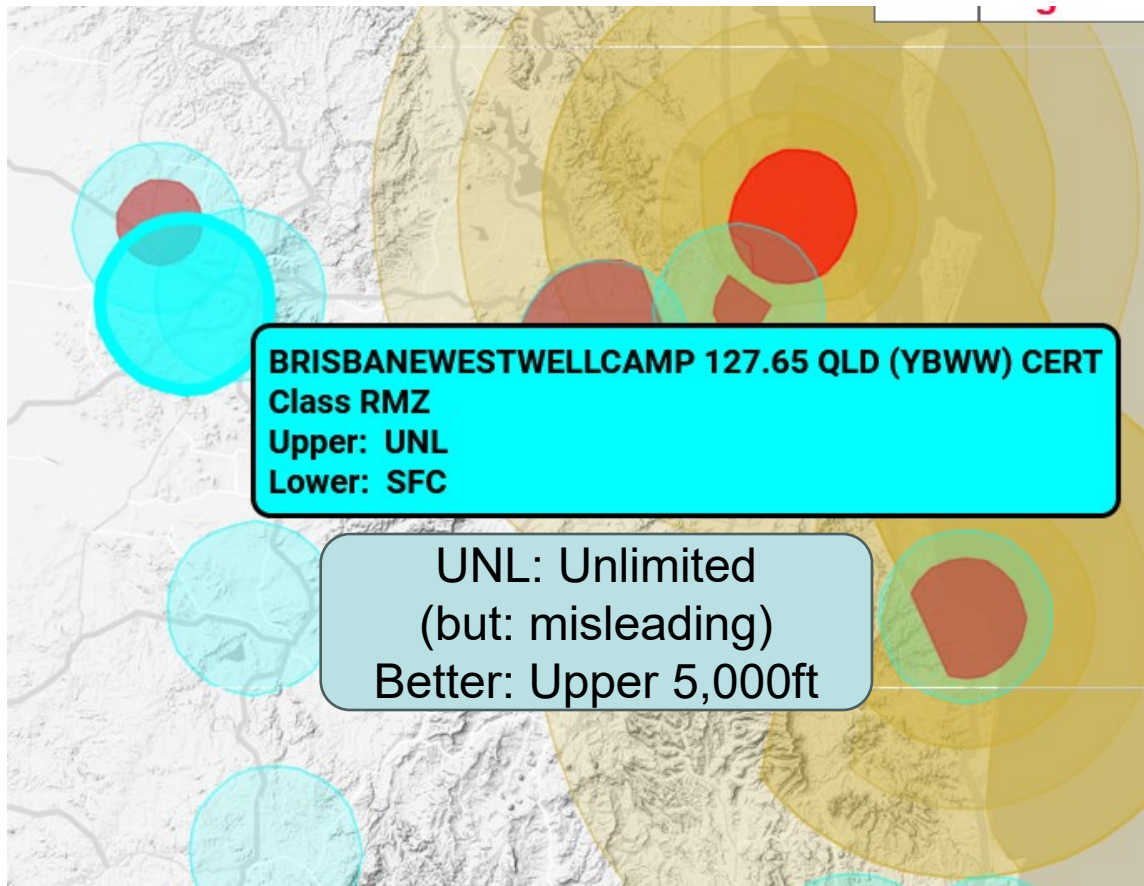
- <https://xcaustralia.org/aircheck/aircheck.php>
- **Mandatory: RMZ. Optional: G (e.g., Dalby)**

Marked turquoise:

We are allowed to fly into both CTAFs.

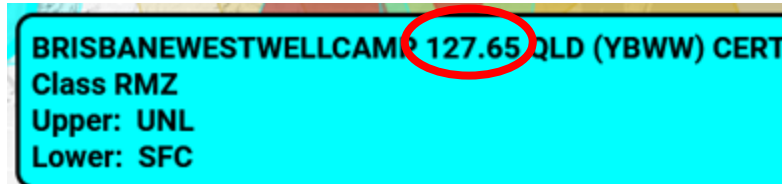
In RMZ, aircraft should officially make a VHF call when inside 10nm and under 5,000ft. But: This is a rule for planes to coordinate starts and landings (~200kt).

Paragliders: Monitor CTAF frequency, and do not fly low near the airstrip. Make a VHF call if necessary to avoid collisions.



VHF frequencies

- **In Airspace E (often above 5,000ft; definitely above 8,500ft at our sites):**
- No need to make VHF calls or get permission, but:
- Monitor VHF area frequency (above 8,500ft in our area: Brisbane **121.2**).
- *Sailplanes have permission to use different frequencies and use those.*
- **In CTAF:** Use frequencies posted on the internet and the airspace map



Good for us:
Same frequency for
Oakey, Toowoomba
airspace (127.65).
Warwick: 127.85
Stanthorpe: 126.7

- When flying Killarney and paragliders are venturing west towards Warwick, I would recommend making a VHF call to Warwick.

VHF calls

- Officially, when asking for clearance (= permission to enter controlled airspace), we would use callsign “Paraglider” + last 4 digits of SAFA number, give our position (including altitude) and ask for permission to enter controlled airspace (A, B, C, D) or restricted areas (R...) at military aerodrome.
- ***However, the normal strategy is to try to keep out of restricted and controlled airspace. We just don’t go there.(!)***
- **So how do we use VHF?**
- When operating a launch close to or within a CTAF or controlled airspace, we make periodic calls.
- Example: “Warwick Traffic, Paraglider Control (callsign; NOT giving position), there are paragliding operations 10 miles east and north of Warwick, with paragliders at various altitudes (can give a range, e.g., 1,000ft to 6,000ft), Warwick (Traffic).”
- → same for area frequency calls, just use “All Traffic”.
- Makes most sense when there is a lot of traffic around

VHF calls

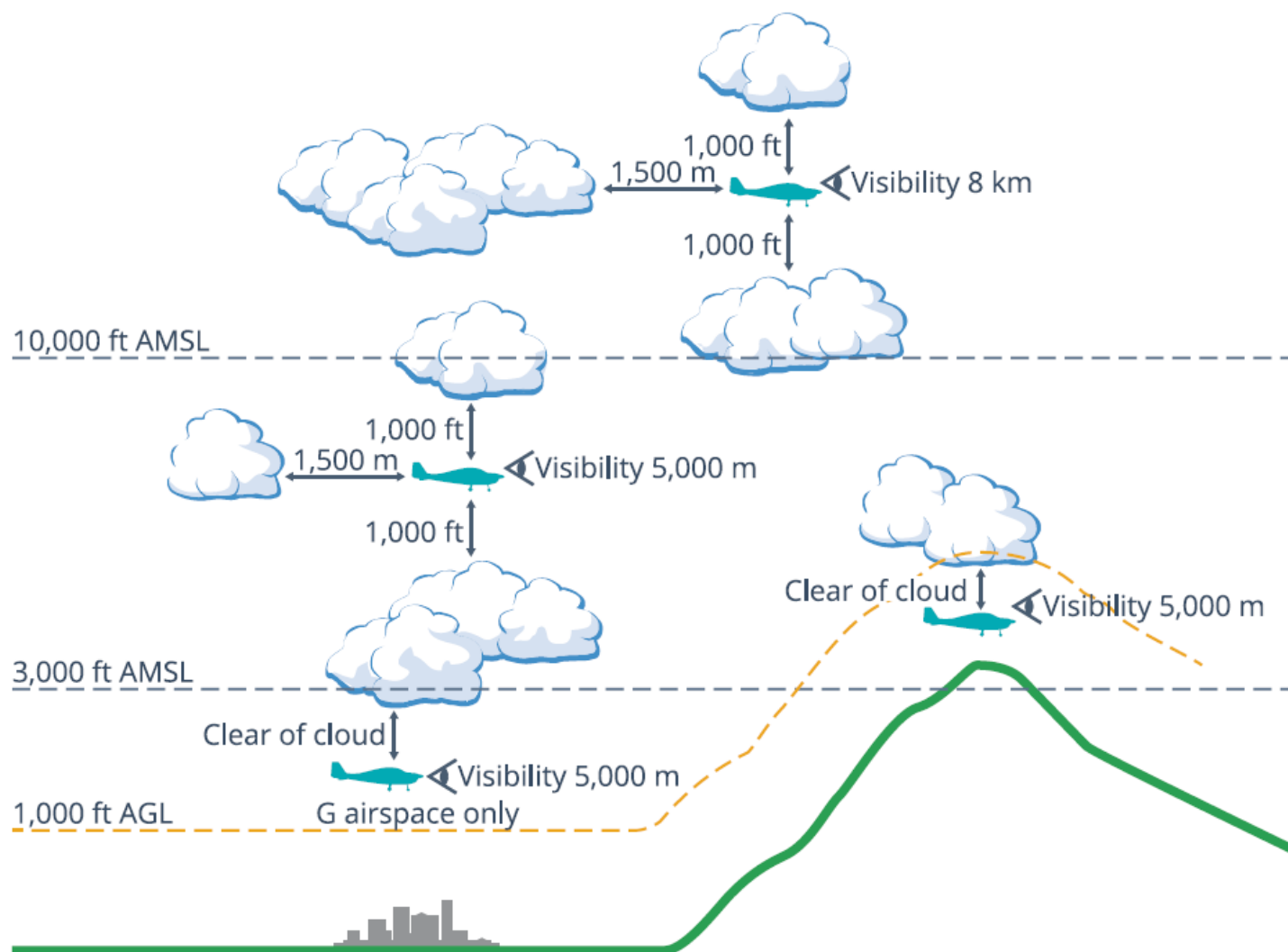
- **So how do we use VHF?**
- When you see another aircraft nearby and want to alert them to your presence:
- Example when you are close to an aerodrome (Warwick):
- “Warwick Traffic, Paraglider [last four digits of your SAFA number] 9 miles south of Warwick at 8,500 ft, tracking north, Warwick (Traffic).”
- Example when you are NOT close to an aerodrome (on area frequency):
- “All Traffic, Paraglider [last four digits of your SAFA number] 15 miles east of Warwick at 8,500 ft, tracking north.”

Normal flying in Airspace G

- **Airspace G** is uncontrolled airspace → everything that is not marked in a map.
- Is usually used for recreational flying, motorplanes, sailplanes, hang gliders, paragliders, etc.
- Allowed to fly there when operating under visual flight rules (VFR):
 - **See part 91 CASR, General operating and flight rules**
- **VFR flight rules:**
 - Below 3,000ft AMSL or 1,000ft AGL: Clear of cloud
 - Below 10,000ft (roughly 3,000m): 5km horizontal visibility, 1,500m distance from cloud horizontally, 1,000ft vertical (~300m)
 - At or above 10,000ft AMSL: 8km horizontal visibility, same distance from clouds

Overview VFR flight rules

Figure 3: VMC criteria all aircraft Class A, B, C, E and G (MOS Table 2.07)



Maximum heights in Airspace G & E

- SAFA: Without oxygen endorsement, we can only fly to max height 10,000ft (~3,000m). [SAFA operations manual, 4.1.9]
- CASA (part 91 CASR): With oxygen endorsement we must use oxygen when flying above 12,500 feet (~3,800m) for longer than 30 minutes.
- In a nutshell:
- We can fly up to 12,500ft / ~3,800m without oxygen – but apparently we'd need the endorsement to fly above 10,000ft / 3,000m.

Overview:

- Which airspaces can I fly in?

Airspace	On xcaustralia.org	OK to fly?
CTR	Red circle	Never
Airspace class A, B, C, D around major airports. We only have E	Yellow regions	Never*
Restricted areas (R...). Military airspace like Oakey / Amberley	Violet regions	Not when active* (most weekdays)
Danger Areas	Pink regions	OK to fly
CTAF	Turquoise circles	OK to fly if you have VHF. Can make calls on CTAF freq; do not fly low over airstrip
Airspace Class E	Green regions	OK to fly: Monitor VHF area freq (121.2)

* Using VHF radio, it is possible to ask for permission to enter all these airspaces. However, this is not recommended, and forbidden in Manilla (to contact Tamworth).

Thank you!!!



Questions, Suggestions, Comments?



Send me an email:

s.becker@psy.uq.edu.au



Or find me on:



WhatsApp
(0449 883870)

Facebook

