

Mr Peter Fitzgerald
Chair Sydney Airport Community Forum
C/- Aviation Environment
Department of Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Via email – sacf@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Mr Fitzgerald,

I refer to a letter that you received from [REDACTED] dated 27 April seeking information about a perceived increase in the level of aircraft noise over Malabar during April 2013. I apologise for the delay in providing this response.

I have had the Airservices Noise Complaint and Information Service (NCIS) review flight track data from this period in order to help determine what (if anything) changed over that period that led to [REDACTED] experiencing an increase in noise levels.

On review, the NCIS have determined it is apparent there were a number of jet departures that went over Malabar in the second half of April 2013. This was not particularly unusual. There were however, also some aircraft forced to divert due to weather during this period which may have increased aircraft over the Chifley and Malabar areas instead of going out through the Botany Bay heads on these occasions.

There were a large number of helicopters using the helicopter route affecting the coastal and northern part of Malabar. There were more helicopter movements in March 2013 than in April 2012 and 2013 (up to date of 27 April).

There were also two days (one in March, the other in April) where an Airservices commissioned aircraft was conducting checks of the navigational aids and these aircraft flew over the Malabar area a number of times below 3000ft.

The analysis has also shown there were more aircraft over Malabar in March 2013 compared to April 2013. There were also more aircraft over Malabar in April 2013 compared to April 2012 (both figures up to date of 27 April).

There are some maps with track plots of aircraft movements provided in the attachment as further detail to the above.

If there are further questions [REDACTED] (or any community member) has in relation to aircraft movements, these can be referred directly to the NCIS. Airservices NCIS is a dedicated service to provide information directly to the community. Airservices also has an online system to display aircraft information called 'WebTrak'. This online system displays information about where and how high aircraft fly over metropolitan areas. It shows a map of suburbs within 55km of a selected airport.

Community members can view information about arriving and departing aircraft, from three months earlier up to 40 minutes ago. After selecting an aircraft, a community member can make a complaint about that flight. Through WebTrak people are also able to:

- locate their street address to have your home location appear on the map
- see noise levels of individual aircraft and view information about the aircraft including aircraft type, height, origin and destination
- display an aircraft's flight path in relation to a location (eg a person's home address)
- zoom in and out down to street level.

Operations at eight major Australian airports, including Sydney, are covered by WebTrak. It can be accessed from the Airservices website:

www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/webtrak

Community members can contact the NCIS to lodge a complaint or make an enquiry on aircraft noise through the following:

- directly via WebTrak (as outlined above)
- using the online form (<http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/about-making-a-complaint/how-to-make-a-complaint>)
- by telephoning 1800 802 584 (freecall) or 1300 302 240 (local call – Sydney)
- by fax (02) 9556 6641
- by mail, Noise Complaints and Information Service, PO Box 211, Mascot NSW 1460. I

trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Elissa Keenan
Manager Community Relations
Environment
Airservices Australia

17 July 2013

Attachment 1

The table below gives the figures for aircraft over the area of Malabar. This information is also provided using track plots in the following pages (showing lines where aircraft flew).

Number of Aircraft tracks		2012	2013
	March 1 – 14	134	140
	March 15 - 31	154	169
	April 1- 13	135	113
	April 14 - 27	106	155
Number of Jets		2012	2013
	March 1 – 14	18 [4 Dep/14 Arr]	10 [1 Dep/9 Arr]
	March 15 - 31	13 [1 Dep/12 Arr]	24 [2 Dep/22 Arr]
	April 1- 13	24 [6 Dep/18 Arr]	19 [5 Dep/14 Arr]
	April 14 - 27	20 [5 Dep/15 Arr]	40 [10 Dep/30 Arr]

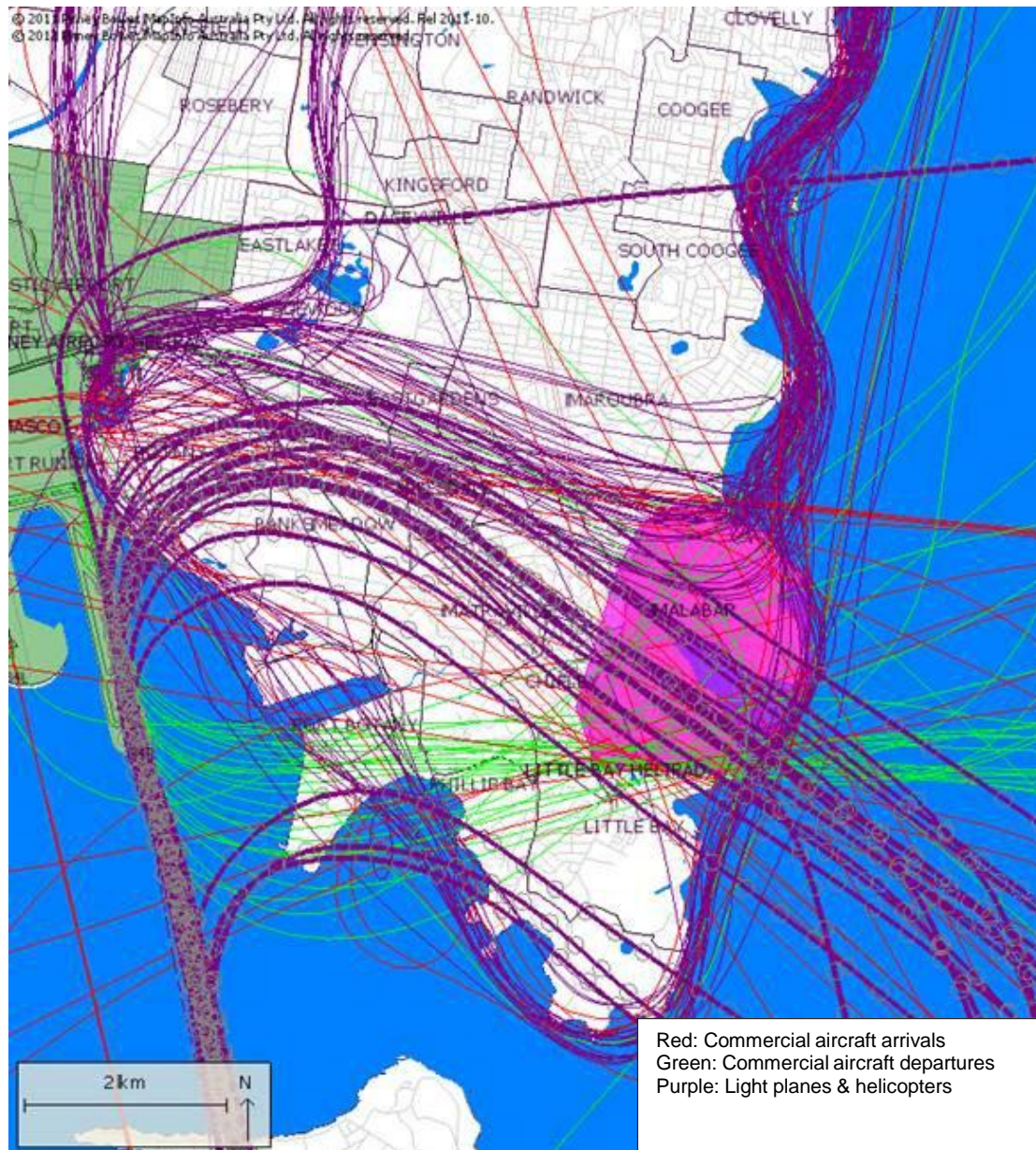
The above figures show that the number of aircraft movements is higher in the 2 weeks of April 2013 starting 14 April, compared to the previous 2 weeks in 2013. The number of jets is also up compared to the first 2 weeks of April.

Track plot diagrams showing aircraft movements over Malabar

Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 1 - 13 April 2013.

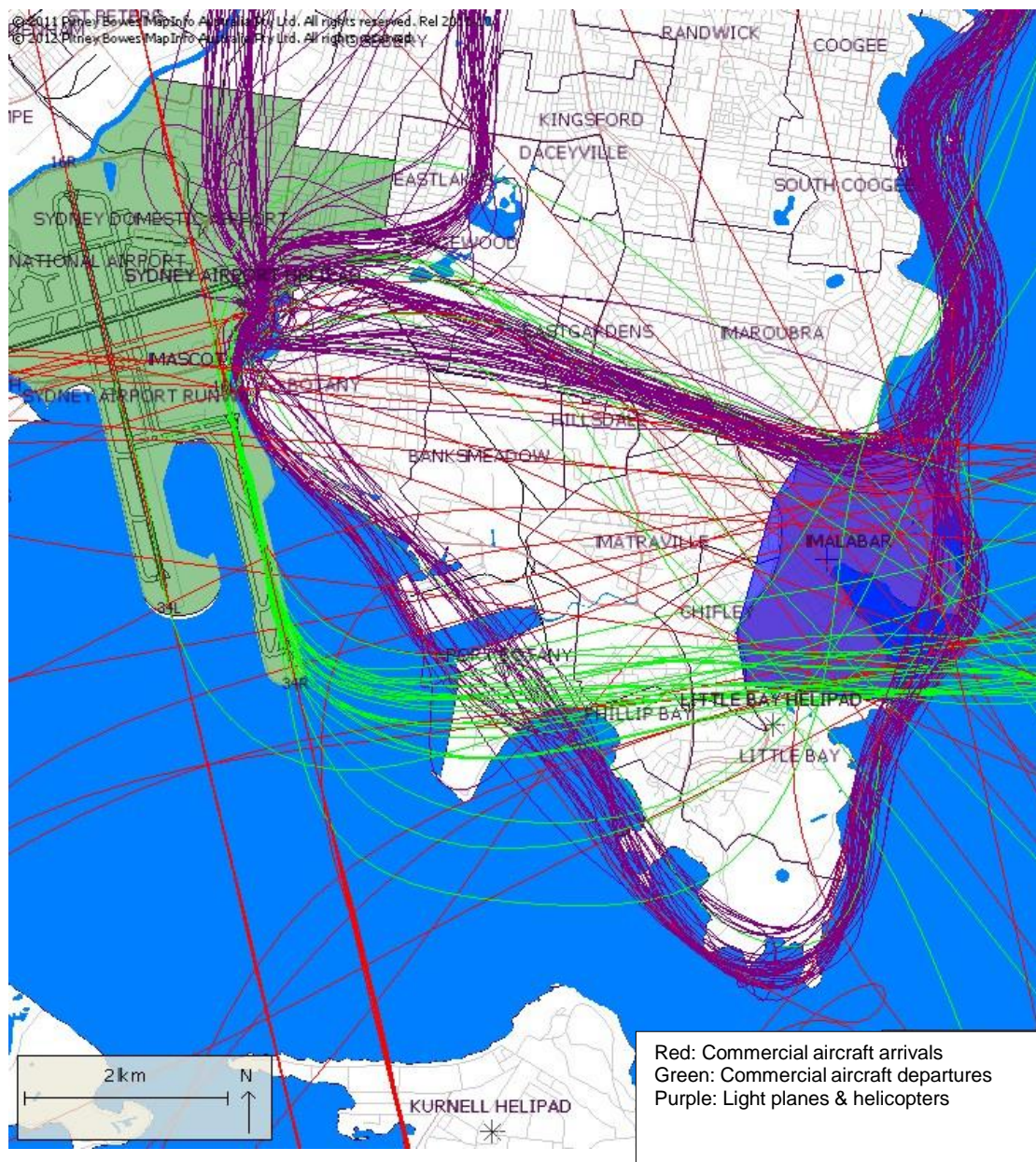
There were 122 aircraft movements of which 65 were helicopters, 21 were jets, and 36 were turbo props.

On the 13 April there was an aircraft doing some navaid checking onto Runway 34R which went over the Malabar area 14 times.



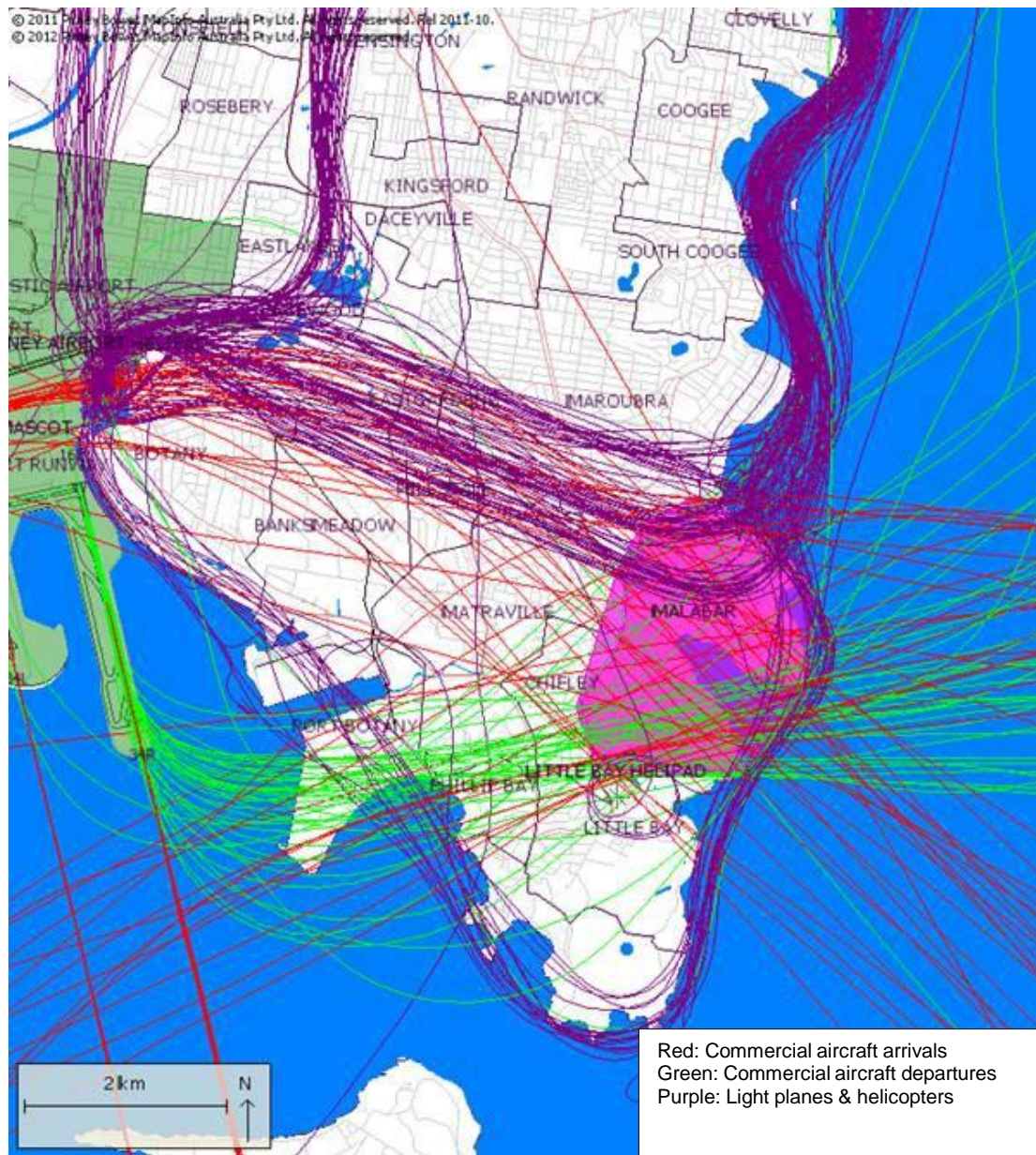
Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 1 – 13 April 2012

There were 135 aircraft movements of which there were 76 helicopters, 24 jets and 35 turboprops.



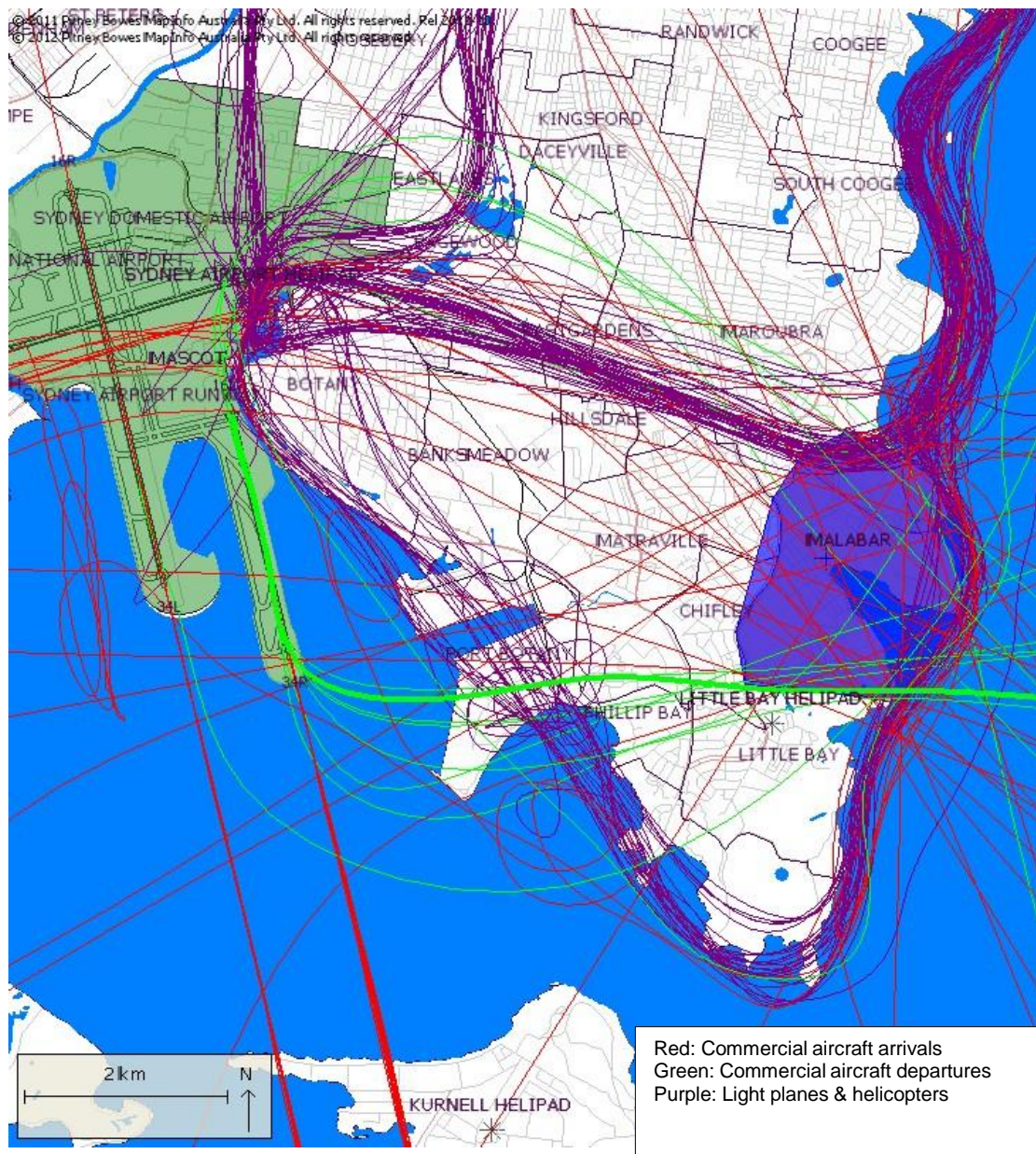
Below are the aircraft tracks that go over the suburb of Malabar 14 - 27 April 2013

There were 164 aircraft movements over the suburb of Malabar, of which there were 78 helicopters, 43 turbo props and 43 jets.

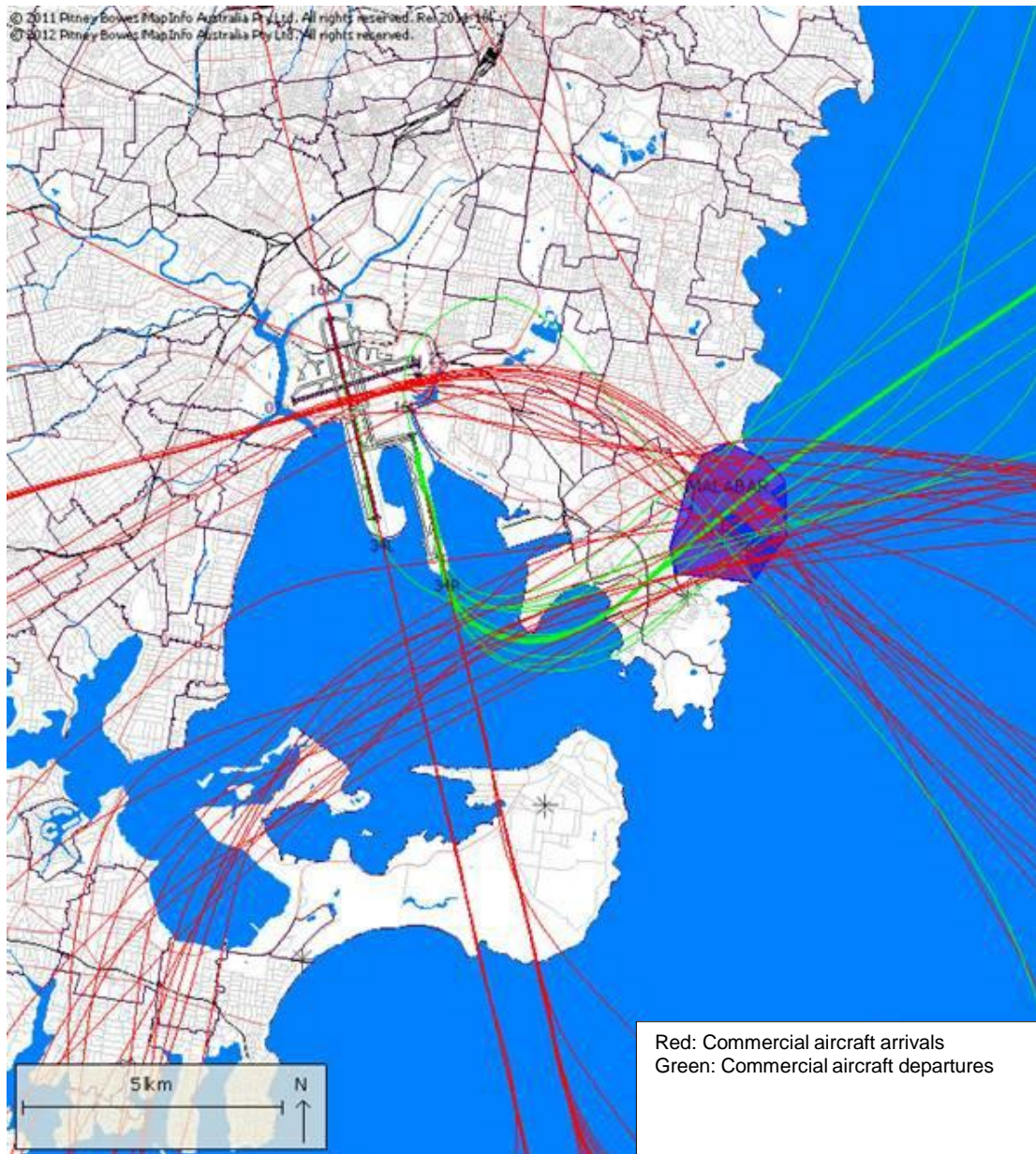


Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 14 – 27 April 2012

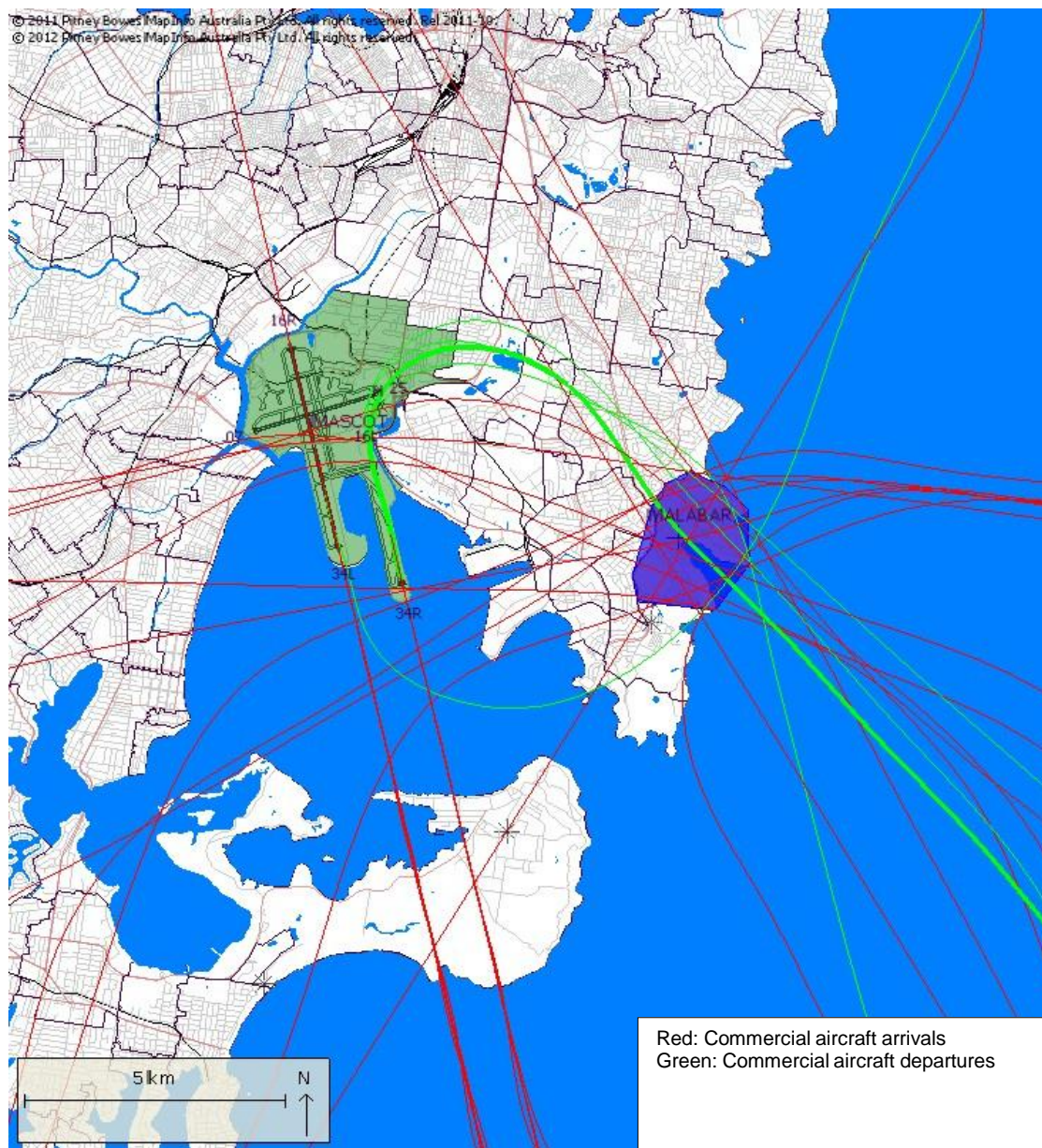
There were 106 aircraft movements, of which there were 68 helicopters, 20 jets and 18 turboprops.



Jet arrivals and departures overflying Malabar 14-27 April 2013

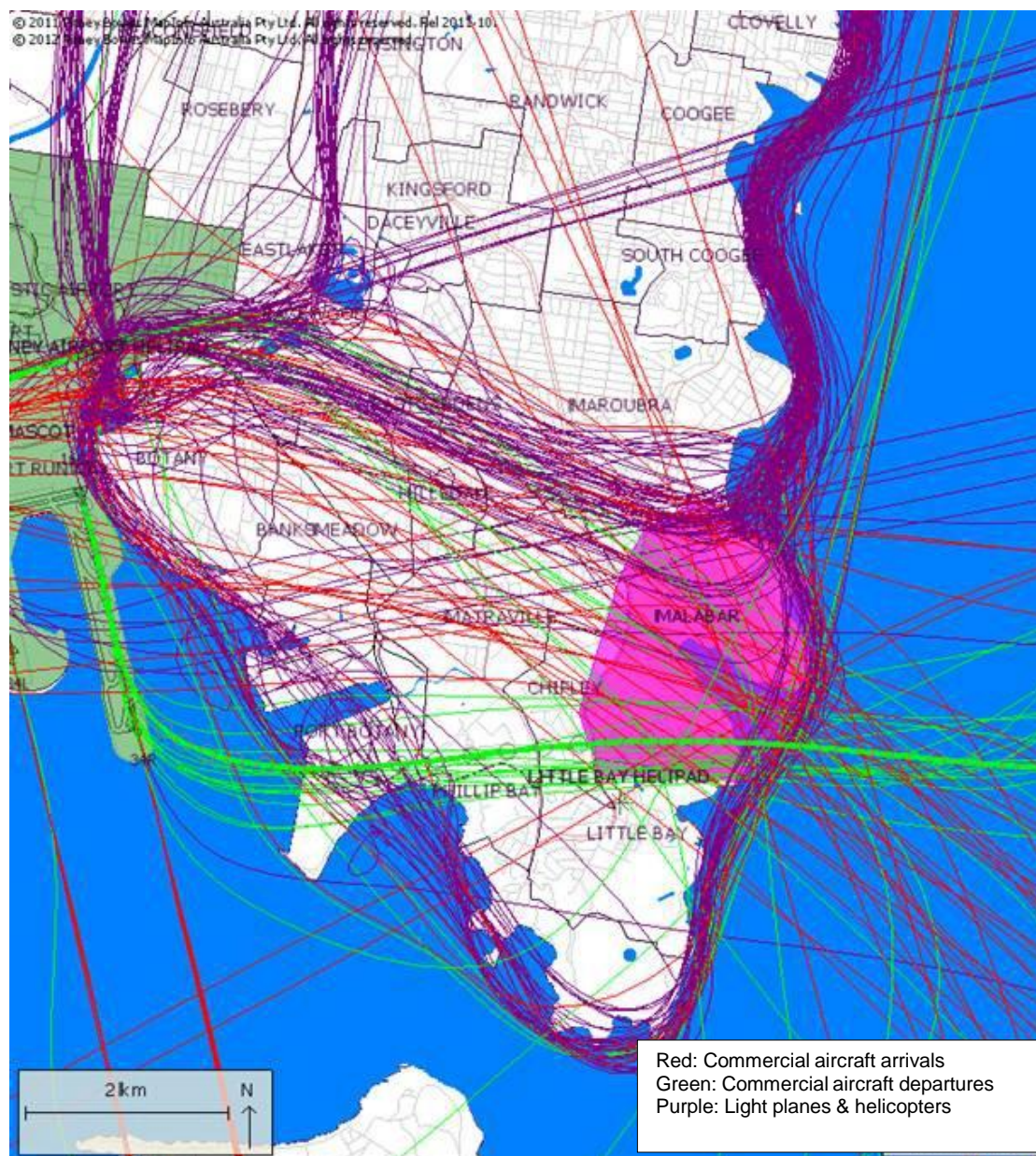


Jet arrivals and departures overflying Malabar 14-27 April 2012



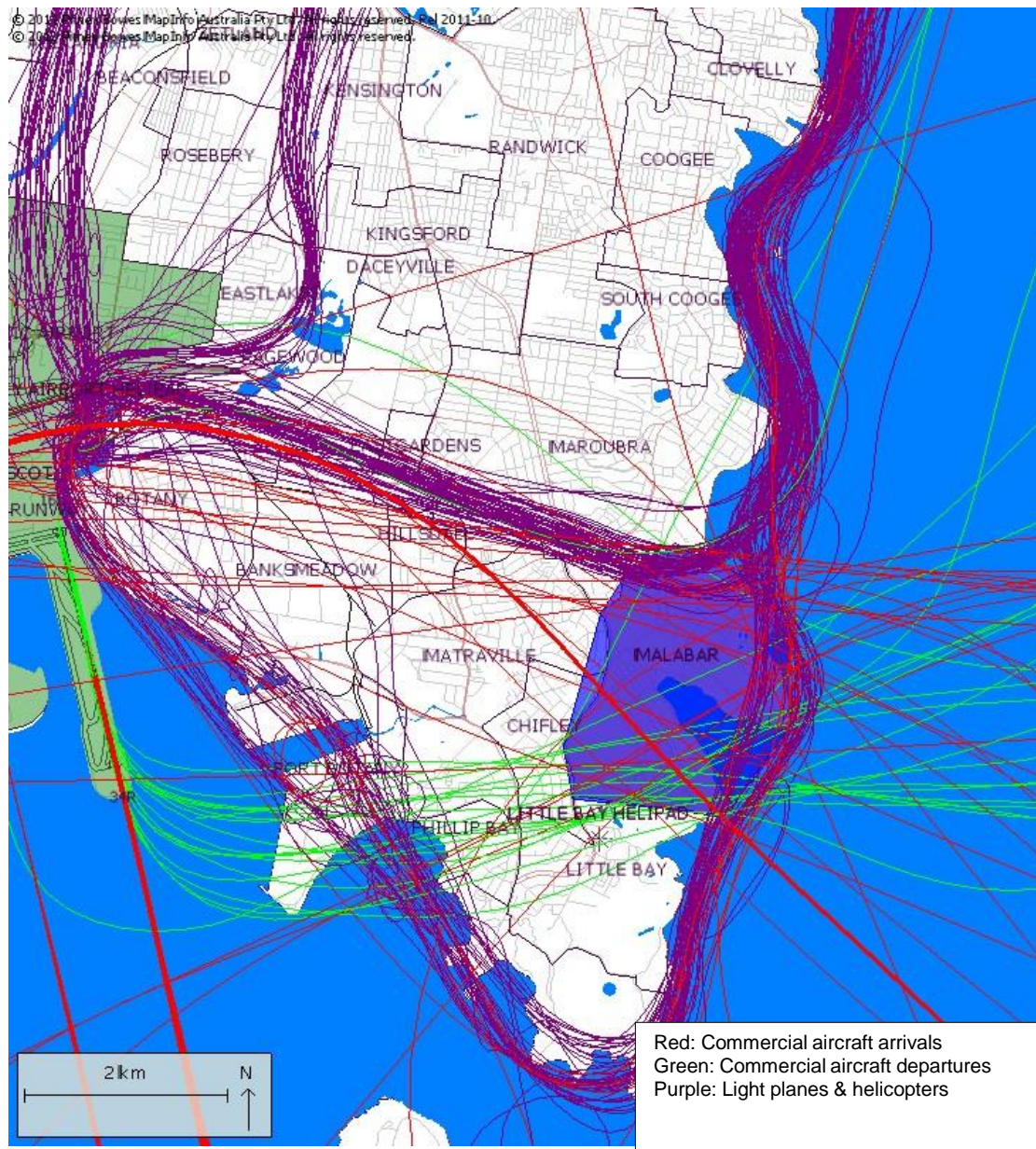
Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 1 – 14 March 2013

There were 155 aircraft movements of which there were 89 helicopters, 10 jets and 56 turbo props.



Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 1 – 14 March 2012

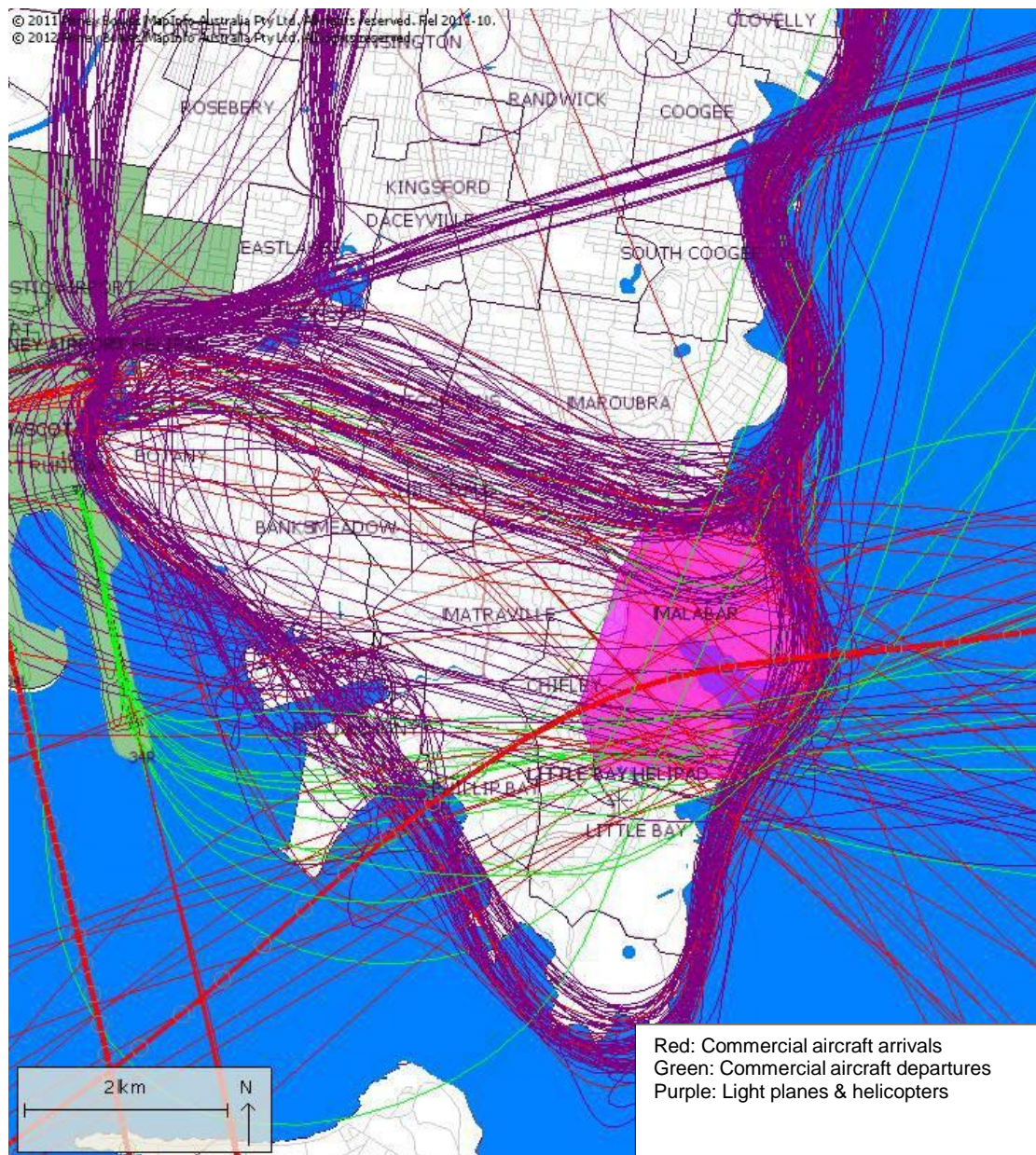
There were 134 aircraft movements of which there were 87 helicopters, 18 jets and 29 props and turboprops.



Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 15 – 31 March 2013

On the 24 March there was an aircraft doing some navaid checking onto Runway 07 which went over the Malabar area 17 times.

There were 180 aircraft movements, of these 127 were helicopters, 25 were jets, and 28 were turbo props.



Below are the tracks for aircraft over Malabar for 15 – 31 March 2012

There were 154 aircraft movements of which there were 112 helicopters, 13 jets, and 29 props and turboprops.

