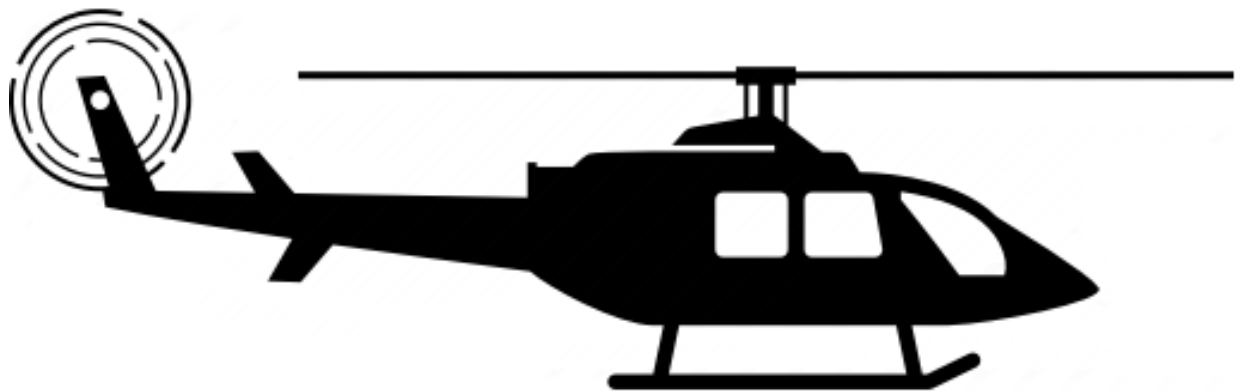




Fly Neighbourly Agreement



Helicopter Operators

April 2021

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1. Preamble

There are many stakeholders who have an interest in what happens at Sunshine Coast Airport including aircraft operators located at the airport, businesses that rely on the airport to attract visitation to the region to drive economic growth and our community who use the airport for travel or who may be impacted by airport operations.

The Sunshine Coast Airport Fly Neighbourly Agreement (FNA) has been developed by Sunshine Coast Airport in consultation with the Community Aviation Forum, Airservices Australia (ASA), the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and operators of Helicopters located at Sunshine Coast Airport with the aim of balancing the interests of all stakeholders while minimising noise impacts from airport operations on local residents.

As a responsible airport operator, Sunshine Coast Airport has several mechanisms in place to minimise the impacts of aircraft on community including:

- Our Noise Abatement Procedure; and
- Our Fly Neighbourly Agreements with Light Fixed Wing Aircraft and Helicopter operators.

The FNA is referenced in the Sunshine Coast Airport Conditions of Use and is a voluntary agreement between Sunshine Coast Airport and all **general aviation operators of Fixed Wing Aircraft and Helicopters** based at Sunshine Coast Airport.

An operator that has agreed to abide by the principles in the FNA is committed to the shared objective of minimising the impact, as a result of general aviation Helicopter operations, on the communities surrounding the airport to the extent reasonably possible consistent with safety and operational requirements.

The agreement aims to influence the manner in which general aviation Helicopters operate on approach or departure to the airport, including limits on operating altitudes, frequency of operations, the time of operations and the areas in which certain activities are performed.

The Sunshine Coast Airport requires Helicopter operators to continually monitor their operating arrangements to minimise their impact on local residents.

For transparency, operators who agree to abide by the principles in the Sunshine Coast Airport FNA will be published on Sunshine Coast Airport's (SCA website).

The Fly Neighbourly Agreement will be reviewed 12 months after its implementation and then on a biennial basis in consultation with the Sunshine Coast Airport Community Aviation Forum (CAF), airport operators located at SCA, Airservices Australia and CASA.

Please note: This agreement is separate to **SCA's Noise Abatement Procedures (NAP)**. While Sunshine Coast Airport operates 24 hours a day, the NAP requires aircraft greater than 5,700kg to receive airport approval to take-off or land between the hours of 11pm and 5:30am.

2. Aviation Safety and Air Traffic Management

The Fly Neighbourly Agreement is intended to be consistent with aviation safety regulations and air traffic management procedures. Mandatory aviation operating and safety procedures have precedence over the agreement in all circumstances.

During Air Traffic Control (ATC) operating hours, ATC direction overrides the requirements of the Fly Neighbourly Agreement.

The Fly Neighbourly Agreement also acknowledges the necessity for emergency services, medical/rescue and other emergency related activities to be undertaken without restriction.

No component of the Fly Neighbourly Agreement is intended to jeopardise any regulatory requirements or safety standards applicable to the type of operation. The Pilot in command is to ensure the safety of operations above any other requirements set out in the FNA.

3. Details

3.1 Influencing Factors

The ability for Helicopter operators to vary operations to reduce impact on surrounding communities is influenced by a number of factors:

- The nature of the operation
- The terrain over which the operation is conducted
- Weather conditions
- The type of Helicopter being used
- Airspace limitations and mandatory operational and safety requirements
- During ATC operating hours, ATC direction overrides the requirements of this agreement.

Opportunities to vary operations to reduce disturbance may be identified in:

- The altitude of operations over sensitive areas
- Flight tracks used including avoidance of sensitive areas and the repetitive use of certain tracks
- The origins and destinations of operations
- The times of operations
- Operating procedures available to the type of Helicopter in use and the type of Helicopter used in some cases.

3.2 Agreement Principles

Operators of general aviation Helicopters are to minimise the impact of Helicopter operations on surrounding communities at Sunshine Coast Airport by:

- a) Plan all flights to minimise operations over residential areas (eg. all flights to maximise operations over water or rural areas as far as possible).
- b) Wherever possible, using satellite strips for Helicopter circuit training operations to distribute the training amongst the number of provided satellite locations, routinely providing respite to those affected by these operations.
- c) Helicopter pilots avoiding flying low over residential areas. A map illustrating noise sensitive residential areas within 2km of Runway 13/31 is attached as part of the FNA.
- d) Helicopter pilots minimising flying over residential areas. Where flying over residential areas is unavoidable, Helicopter pilots should avoid tight manoeuvres and turns.
- e) Minimising the volume of touch and go and auto rotation training on Runway 13/31.
- f) Not undertaking any training activities east of a north-south line represented by Taxiway F.
- g) Including environmental awareness information (including minimisation of noise) in any Pilot training curriculum.
- h) Ensuring that engine ground runs for the purpose of engine testing do not take place between 22:00hrs and 07:00hrs local unless prior approval is provided by Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd by contacting operations@sunshinecoastairport.com.au).
- i) Providing advance information on any planned training operations, that may need to occur in the **Training Restricted Period** between 22:00hrs and 07:00hrs local by contacting operations@sunshinecoastairport.com.au.
- j) Not conducting training activity within the **Training Restricted Period** between 22:00hrs and 07:00hrs local without prior approval from Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd (by contacting operations@sunshinecoastairport.com.au . This does not preclude the need for aircraft to arrive to or depart from Sunshine Coast Airport.

- k) Assisting, through the provision of information, Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd and Airservices Australia in developing responses to community enquiries regarding operational matters including noise complaints.
- l) The Fly Neighbourly Agreement also applies between operators based at Sunshine Coast Airport. Operators should be mindful of how their operations and actions have impact on other tenants and limit where practicable these impacts.

Helicopter Training Aids

There are several Helicopter Training Aids on the aerodrome.

CASA approves training activities.

North of Runway 13/31

There are two aids located to the north of Runway 13/31. These aids are not on the airside of the airport but are on airport property managed by Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd. These aids are for daylight use only and the Helicopter operator is to assess the aids, surrounding terrain, flora and fauna within the vicinity and assess operations at the time on a risk assessment basis.

Training activities to the aids are to be restricted to a maximum period of 30 minutes. For the purpose of clarity, this means continuous circuit training.

If the planned training activity intends to utilise multiple sorties, a break of 30 minutes between the completion of each sortie and the commencement of the next sortie is to be maintained.

The operation will be as directed by Air Traffic Control at the time.

South of Runway 13/31

There are two aids located to the south of Runway 13/31. These aids are on the airside of the airport. These aids are for daylight use only and the operation will be as directed by Air Traffic Control at the time.

4. Agreement to Operate in a 'Fly Neighbourly Manner'

As a general aviation operator of Helicopters located at Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd

_____ is committed to undertaking operations in a Fly Neighbourly manner.

We _____ commit to undertake our operations in a manner which is considerate to local residents whilst maintaining safe operation of the aircraft.

Attachment 1: Residential Areas - Within 2km of Runway 13/31

