



Fly Neighbourly Agreement



Fixed Wing 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 fixed wing aircraft 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 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 **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 of aircraft operations on approach and departure from the airport to 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 aircraft operate, including limits on operating altitudes, the frequency of operations, the time of operations and the areas in which certain activities are performed.

The airport requires Fixed Wing Aircraft 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 more 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 FNA 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 general aviation Fixed Wing Aircraft 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 aircraft being used
- Airspace limitations and mandatory operational and safety requirements
- During Air Traffic Control (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 aircraft in use and the type of aircraft used in some cases.

3.2 Agreement Principles

Operators of general aviation Fixed Wing Aircraft are to minimise the impact of aircraft operations on surrounding communities at Sunshine Coast Airport by:

- a) Ensuring that where practicable, all Instrument Flight Rules aircraft depart via the appropriate Standard Instrument Departure (SID).
- b) Complying with all noise abatement procedures published in the ERSA/DAP.
- c) Plan all flights to minimise operations over residential areas (e.g. all flight plans to maximise operations over water or rural areas as far as possible).
- d) Wherever practicable, and in consideration of Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) safety requirements, departing the airport through the use of the full length of the Runway in order to maximise height over residential areas.
- e) The use of Preferred Runway Directions as per ERSA/DAP.
- f) Utilising satellite strips for aircraft circuit operations wherever possible and 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.
- g) Not undertaking engine failure training over residential areas.
- h) Not conducting aircraft engine ground runs for the purpose of engine testing between 22:00hrs and 07:00hrs local (unless prior approval is provided by Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd by contacting operations@sunshinecoastairport.com.au).

Not conducting any maintenance engine runs above idle setting **at all times** unless prior approval by Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd has been granted (by contacting operations@sunshinecoastairport.com.au). Engine runs above idle settings are to be undertaken in the designated run-up area on Taxiway A or as otherwise directed by Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd.

- i) Provide advance information on any planned training operations, that may need to occur in the **Training Restricted Period** between 22:00hrs and 07:00hrs local.

- 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 aircraft from arriving to or departing from Sunshine Coast Airport.
- k) Including environmental awareness information (including minimisation of noise) in any Pilot training curriculum.
- l) As far as practicable, whilst undertaking circuit activity, maintain runway heading when departing Runway 13 until crossing the coast.
- m) 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.
- n) 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.

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

As a general aviation operator of Fixed Wing Aircraft 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

