



FLY NEIGHBOURLY AGREEMENT



This *Fly Neighbourly Agreement (FNA)* is a voluntary code of practice endorsed by General Aviation aircraft operators based at Port Macquarie Airport in the interests of reducing the disturbance caused by pilot training aircraft in the vicinity of Port Macquarie Airport.

This FNA acknowledges that aircraft noise is an unavoidable consequence of aircraft activity, particularly in close proximity to the Airport and does not aim to cease aircraft noise, nor to reduce the level of aircraft activity, but aims to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on residents through the practical noise mitigation measures set out below.

The content of the FNA will be reviewed after an initial 12-month trial period, which will

provide the opportunity to seek further input from the community, Airport stakeholders and relevant authorities.

The primary geographic area of the FNA is nominally within 2nm (3.7km) of Port Macquarie Airport, as illustrated in *Figure 1*.



Figure 1: FNA primary geographic area



SAFETY FIRST

Safety is paramount at Port Macquarie Airport.

Aircraft operators utilise the aerodrome and its facilities in accordance with relevant obligations for the purpose of appropriate private or commercial activities.

All aircraft operations are conducted in accordance with Civil Aviation Regulations and mandatory aviation operating and safety procedures have precedence over the FNA in all circumstances.

LIMITING CONTINUOUS CIRCUIT TRAINING HOURS

A vital part of pilot training is “circuit training”, which involves repeated take-offs and landings, and flying along a designated path that is within sight of the Airport at all times.

At Port Macquarie, circuit training is conducted with a standard left hand (the most common) circuit, meaning that aircraft turn left after take-off and fly in an anticlockwise direction around the Airport.

When wind and traffic conditions permit, pilots are encouraged to operate off runway 03 with circuits conducted to the west of the airport.

To minimise the noise impact on Airport neighbours, continuous circuit training hours will be limited to:

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

– Monday to Friday 0700hrs-2200hrs AEDT

WINTER

– Monday to Friday 0700hrs-2100hrs AEST

SATURDAYS

– 0800hrs-1800hrs

SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

– No continuous circuit training

Note: Exemptions apply – refer to undertakings 2, 3 on page 3

Port Macquarie Airport operates 24 hours a day. Non-training aircraft departing or returning to the Airport are not subject to these training limits and may still need to fly around a circuit to land safely.

It is also acknowledged that emergency services operators including police, fire, search and rescue and infrastructure-monitoring operations may not always be able to adhere to the guidance contained herein.

FLYING HIGH TO LESSEN NOISE

Pilots are required by law to maintain a safe altitude at all times, including when flying over residential areas. Aside from landing or taking off, the minimum height a plane will fly is 1,000ft over inhabited areas and 500ft over uninhabited areas or the sea (Figure 2).

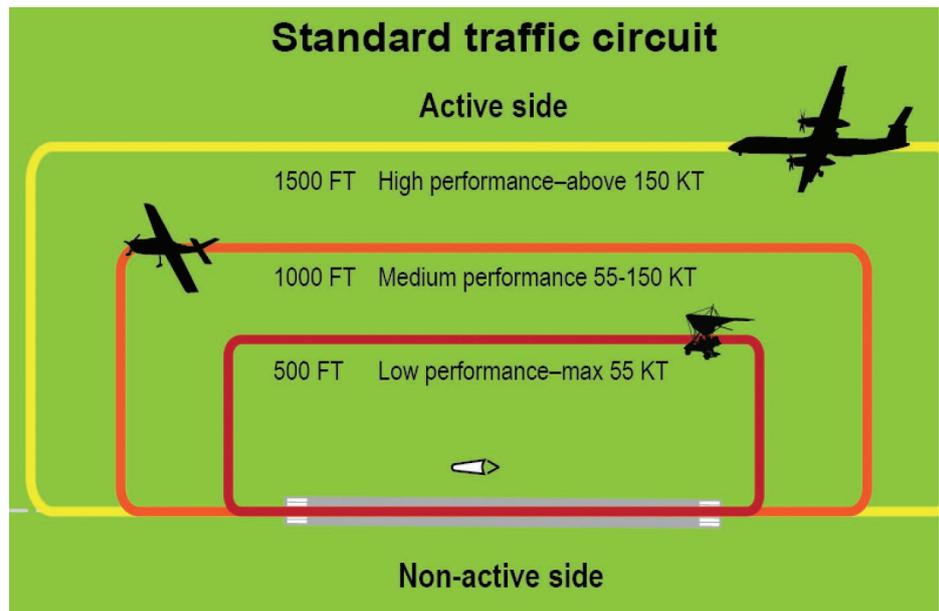


Figure 2: Lateral and vertical separation in the standard aerodrome traffic circuit

Flying around the Airport circuit does involve planes being below this height when they are landing or taking off, however as soon as practical pilots will fly at 1,000ft which decreases noise impacts on surrounding areas.

Note: The Civil Aviation Safety Authority may issue an exemption to altitude requirements for training purposes.



FLY NEIGHBOURLY UNDERTAKINGS

General Aviation operators at Port Macquarie Airport are committed to reducing the impact of their operations on the surrounding community, while maintaining the safe operation of aircraft, according to the following undertakings:

1. Conduct continuous circuit training during the *Circuit Training Hours of Operation*, being:

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

- 0700hrs-2200hrs AEDT
- 0700hrs-2100hrs AEST

SATURDAY

- 0800hrs-1800hrs

SUNDAY AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

No continuous circuit training

2. Recreational aircraft (up to 600kg MTOW) may commence continuous circuit training from 0600hrs Monday to Friday.
3. Operators may catch up on lost time caused by weather, airspace, technical or other disruptions, on Sundays between 0800hrs and 1600hrs.
4. Operators will implement their own procedures to practically and safely manage the number of aircraft operating in the circuit at any one time, preferring to maintain four or fewer aircraft in the circuit where practicable.
5. Preferred use of runway 03 (*Figure 3*) when wind and traffic conditions permit, with circuits conducted to the west of the Airport.
6. Commensurate with traffic situation and aircraft performance operators will implement their own procedures for turning crosswind after take-off that considers the impact of aircraft noise on residential areas.
7. When conducting Precautionary Search and Landing – not operating below 500ft within the vicinity of the runway, otherwise not below 700ft.
8. Aircraft engine ground operations performed by an aircraft maintenance organisation, for the purpose of aircraft engine diagnosis and testing, should only be performed during the hours of 0700hrs and 1800hrs all year round. This excludes urgent maintenance engine test operations required for a commercial operator and engine ground operations, including pre-take off engine functionality checks.
9. Minimising low level flight over built-up areas in accordance with Civil Aviation Regulations.

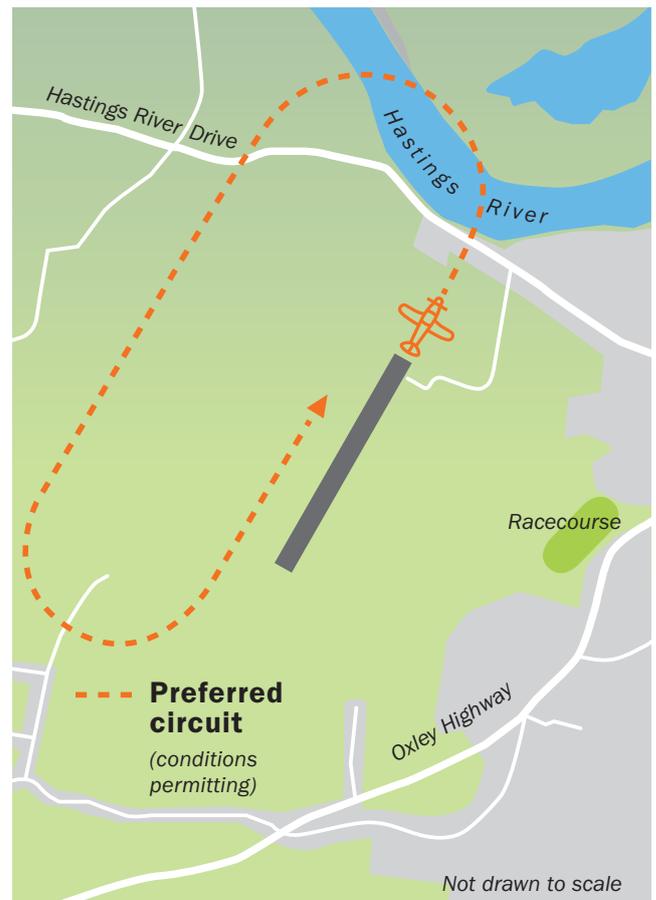


Figure 3: Preferred training circuit

NOISE INFORMATION

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council will maintain an aircraft noise complaint register and will coordinate communication with the community regarding noise management and events. Aircraft operators will be provided de-identified noise complaint data on a quarterly basis. Where the complaint relates to a specific aircraft movement, the data provided will include the time and location of the event.

Port Macquarie-Hastings Council will actively engage with an aircraft operator that fails to achieve the undertakings herein and seek to remedy the situation.

This FNA will be reviewed on a regular basis. For more information please visit our website, at www.portmacquarieairport.com.au, or to discuss Airport noise, please contact:

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