

# Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Fly Neighbourly Policy



## Introduction

Noise is an issue that attends all airports whether rural communities or densely populated urban areas. Once a fixed wing aircraft or helicopter takes-off from an airport, responsibility transfers from the airport to Airservices Australia to manage the airspace above ground level including aircraft noise. That is not to say that the management of Ballina Byron Gateway Airport (BBGA) are not interested in the wellbeing of Ballina's Residents and the impacts that aircraft operations may have on our neighbours.

For this reason and to minimize aircraft noise, Ballina Byron Gateway Airport has developed a 'Fly Neighbourly Policy' which has been endorsed by BBGA operators. The aim of this policy is to ensure that those operators based at and who operate out of Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, follow a set of agreed principals each time they fly.

## Fixed Wing Operations

All operators undertaking general aviation activities (GA) at the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport, are committed to undertaking such operations in a 'Fly Neighbourly Manner'. They commit to operating in a way is considerate to local residents whilst at the same time maintaining safe operation of their aircraft.

To achieve this, all GA operators including flight training students, endeavoring to adhere to the following guiding principles:

- Compliance with noise abatement procedures included in the ERSA.
- All pilots to plan all flights to minimise flight over built up areas (e.g. fly over water or rural areas)
- Consider using satellite strips for aircraft circuit operations
- Avoid flying low or repeatedly over populated areas
- Avoid engine failure, stall series or like training over populated areas
- No training to occur between the hours of 2200 and 0700
- No engine ground running for the purpose of engine testing to occur between the hours of 2200 and 0700 (unless approved by Airport Management for extenuating circumstances)
- Ensuring that environmental awareness and noise issues are included in pilot training
- Responding to community enquiries about noise in a prompt and cooperative manner
- Minimise impact on RPT operations (noting RPT aircraft have priority over GA aircraft).

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## Helicopter Operations

Operators of Helicopters at the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport we are similarly committed to undertaking their operations in a Fly Neighbourly Manner. They are committed to undertaking the flight and training operations in a manner which is considerate to all local residents, while at the same time maintaining safe operation of the helicopter.

We will do so by endeavoring to adhere to the following principles:

- All pilots are to plan *all* flights to minimise flight over built up areas (e.g. fly over water or rural areas)
- Wherever possible, use satellite strips for helicopter circuit operations
- Avoid flying low or repeatedly over populated areas
- Avoid tight maneuvers and turns while operating helicopters over populated areas
- No training to occur between the hours of 2200 and 0700
- Ensure that environmental and noise issues are included in all pilot training
- Respond to community enquiries about noise in prompt and co-operative manner

## Further Action

Complaints and enquiries about aircraft noise are important as they help identify issues of concern and possible opportunities for improvements. All complaints are managed by Airservices Australia and if making a formal complaint, you will be asked to provide your contact details and a clear explanation of your issue. You can lodge a noise complaint or make an enquiry online by making a [complaint](#), by phoning 1-800 802 584 or by post to Noise Complaints and Information Services, GPO Box 211, Mascot NSW 1460.

In the first instance, complaints must be made to [Airservices](#), however, if you are not satisfied with the way your aircraft noise complaint was handled by Airservices, you can seek an independent review by the [Aircraft Noise Ombudsman](#).

*Please also note that not all aircraft flying in the vicinity of Ballina Byron Gateway Airport operate from this airport. Many aircraft visit from other airports and transit Ballina's airspace en-route to their destination.*