



SUNSHINE COAST AIRPORT DRAFT MASTER PLAN 2040

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSION THEMES

Aerobridges

Investment in airport infrastructure is a priority at Sunshine Coast Airport, and all options for improving the passenger boarding experience such as aerobridges will be considered as part of the terminal development process.

Air route development

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd is committed to opening up the region to more domestic and international destinations and will work with airline partners to offer new services and routes to Sunshine Coast residents and visitors.

Route development is based on a number of factors including business, leisure and freight demand.

Submissions received relating to new services and routes will be considered as part of this process.

Airport lease / governance

Following the acquisition of the Airport business by Palisade Investment Partners, Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd is now the Airport manager and operator under a 99-year lease with Sunshine Coast Council. Our commitment is to safely maintain, operate and develop the Airport, grow aviation capacity, invest in appropriate infrastructure that meets the demands of the region and work closely with government authorities, the community, our existing stakeholders and regional partners.

Curfew

A curfew is a legislative matter. While the Environmental Impact Statement considering the new runway project found a curfew was not warranted, Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd recognises the impact aircraft noise has on neighbouring communities and has two ways to proactively manage overnight noise.

Mandatory noise abatement procedures for commercial aviation operators require commercial operators to gain prior Airport approval to take-off or land between the hours of 11pm and 5.30am. Permission is granted only a few times per year and is generally as a result of poor weather, engineering issues or other unplanned factors.

Our Fly Neighbourly Policy also seeks to limit general aviation activity between the hours of 10pm and 7am for general aviation operators.

Overnight operations that take place are generally medical and rescue response services or training and assessment activity for night time flying conditions.

Given the scale of current and forecast future operations at Sunshine Coast Airport, this is an effective approach to balance community impacts and operational needs.

Environmental matters

Sunshine Coast Airport has a strong track record and a firm commitment to sustainability and the environment, being Australia's first carbon neutral airport.

The Draft Master Plan is an overarching document which outlines proposed development for the next 20 years, including land use, ground transport and sustainability.

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd will make all statutory applications to the relevant bodies, including Council, at the appropriate time. Approval of the Draft Master Plan does not give any level of approval for any planning matter or matter requiring a statutory decision.

Key projects will require statutory approvals and may require detailed assessment on a wide variety of environmental matters.

As identified in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submission for the new runway project approved by the Coordinator General and confirmed through the Airservices Australia's Airspace Change Proposal (ACP), the environmental impact of aircraft emissions as a result of the new runway has been appropriately considered and addressed through conditions on the requisite approvals.

Flight paths

The proposed flight paths outlined in the Airspace Change Proposal were developed by Airservices Australia based on concept flight paths published in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Sunshine Coast Council's new runway project.

The flight paths referenced in the Draft Master Plan are consistent with the Airspace Change Proposal.

Further information regarding the proposed flight paths is available from Airservices Australia.

General support for development of Airport

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd appreciates the submissions in support of the Master Plan and looks forward to working with regional stakeholders to maximise economic and community benefits that can be delivered by an expanded airport.

Ground transport

The Draft Master Plan is an overarching visionary document which guides proposed development for the next 20 years at the Airport, including terminal expansion, land use and ground transport.

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd will make all statutory applications to the relevant bodies, including Council, at the appropriate time. Approval of the Draft Master Plan does not give any level of approval for any planning matter or matter requiring a statutory decision. Detailed traffic impact assessments may be required where key projects require appropriate statutory approvals.

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd recognises there is still further traffic analysis required to assess the practicalities of locating freight activities in the Airport North Precinct. Following community and stakeholder feedback to the Draft Master Plan during the public submission period, Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd has identified an option for articulated vehicle access through an internal road

network, subject to further traffic assessments, if freight facilities are established in the Airport North Precinct.

Master Plan consultation process

Consultation regarding the Sunshine Coast Airport Draft Master Plan began with key stakeholders in mid-2018 to understand the future needs of the region. These stakeholders included the Community and Aviation Forum, airline partners, airport tenants, Sunshine Coast Council and federal and state government agencies.

The Draft Master Plan was open to public comment for a 10-week period from May this year. In addition to the required public exhibition period, Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd hosted 13 information displays across the region, advertised in local papers and online, and presented to numerous industry and community groups.

We are satisfied we have run a robust consultation process regarding land use matters as outlined in the Draft Master Plan.

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd acknowledges the need to work closely with the community, including Traditional Owners the Kabi Kabi people, in implementing key actions of the Draft Master Plan.

Land use – General

The Sunshine Coast Airport Draft Master Plan 2040 is intended to be a high-level blueprint for the next 20 years, outlining the Airport's vision, objectives and strategies to facilitate future growth and economic activity in the Sunshine Coast region.

The proposed land uses as outlined in the Draft Master Plan are the result of considerable analysis of the current and future anticipated needs of the aviation community based on the best information available. Given the dynamic nature of the industry, this information may be updated, and land uses may evolve over time.

Sunshine Coast Council oversees development in accordance with the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014. Approval of the Draft Master Plan by Sunshine Coast Council does not automatically grant Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd development approvals. The Airport will make all statutory applications to the relevant bodies, including Council, at the appropriate time.

Land use – Aerospace Precinct

The Draft Master Plan provides an opportunity for the general aviation community, including helicopter and fixed-wing operators, to expand their operations from the current 6-hectare site to a centrally located site further away from residential homes, which has capacity to grow to an ultimate size of approximately 29 hectares by 2040.

It also details dedicated fuel facilities for these operators to be located in this core precinct.

Additional work will be needed to assess suitable airfield infrastructure to service this precinct, and we will be working with current and future operators to explore opportunities in more depth.

Land use – Airport North Precinct

Freight and logistics requirements at the Airport will evolve over the next 20 years, and Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd has amended the Draft Master Plan 2040 to better reflect this.

Freight facilities are likely to be established in the Gateway Precinct in the short to medium term. In order to ensure the Airport is appropriately positioned to cater for the anticipated growth of freight, additional assessment will be undertaken to determine whether freight facilities will be best positioned in the Airport West or Airport North Precinct in the medium to longer term.

Following community and stakeholder feedback to the Draft Master Plan during the public submission period, Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd acknowledges there is still further traffic analysis required to assess the practicalities of locating freight activities in the Airport North Precinct.

Land use – Airport West Precinct

The Airport West Precinct, as referenced in the Master Plan, provides for many development opportunities. Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd will consider opportunities to best benefit the region, subject to resolution of environmental considerations and the necessary regulatory and planning approvals.

Land use – Aviation Precinct

The Aviation Precinct, as outlined in the Draft Master Plan, is more than adequate for both commercial and general aviation activity.

Land use – Gateway Precinct

Terminal expansion is earmarked to occur in the Gateway Precinct to facilitate narrow and wide body aircraft operations, and this is expected to occur over several phases.

The types of ancillary commercial businesses that may be located on the Airport site could include short-term accommodation and retail businesses and are intended to complement the focus of the precinct and the community surrounding it.

As with any development in and around an airport, building heights are inherently limited by the airspace protection areas.

Noise

The noise modelling contained in the Draft Master Plan is consistent with the noise modelling contained in the Environmental Impact Statement for the new runway project and Airservices Australia's Airspace Change Proposal and is reflective of Runway 13/31.

Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd recognises the impact aircraft noise has on neighbouring communities and has two ways to proactively manage noise.

Mandatory noise abatement procedures for commercial aviation operators require commercial operators to gain prior Airport approval to take-off or land between the hours of 11pm and 5.30am.

Our Fly Neighbourly Policy seeks to limit general aviation activity between the hours of 10pm and 7am.

Given the scale of current and forecast future operations at Sunshine Coast Airport, we believe these measures are the appropriate way to balance community impacts and operational needs of the Airport.

Runway 18/36

In November 2018, Sunshine Coast Council confirmed that, as part of the new runway project and to provide Code E-compliant facilities with wide body aircraft parking on the eastern side of the

terminal, the existing runway (18/36) will be decommissioned and the southern section repurposed as a taxiway.

Airport Management investigated the viability of opening a new, short (800m) Runway 18/36 for a small number of General Aviation operations.

Airport management determined the significant safety issues far outweighed any potential benefits from establishing a new Runway 18/36.

The new Runway 13/31 will be safer, provide greater capacity and have a higher usability than the existing runway. It will cater for all current aviation users of the Airport and accommodate wide-body passenger aircraft, enabling capacity for long-haul flights to reach new domestic and international destinations.

Questions regarding the new runway project should be directed to Sunshine Coast Council.

[Supporting data for Draft Master Plan rationale](#)

Numerous data sources were used to prepare the Draft Master Plan 2040 document, including publicly available statistics such as census data, aviation analysis provided by industry experts, and technical reports prepared by external consultants. Publicly available data is cited in the References appendix in the Draft Master Plan.

As the Draft Master Plan is a strategic, long term planning document, it is important to note that any projects proposed at the Airport will be subject to further analysis prior to implementation. Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd is committed to the growth of the Airport and will endeavour to implement this growth in a sustainable and responsible manner that will benefit the Sunshine Coast region.

[Telecommunications \(internet etc\)](#)

Telecommunications are very important for the future operation of the Airport and the wider region. Sunshine Coast Airport Pty Ltd will proactively work with service providers to facilitate a high level of telecommunication services to the Airport.