

Fly Neighbourly Agreement

Created 2022

As an operator of General Aviation flying in airspace above the City of Melbourne, the Operator recognises that they have a social responsibility to ameliorate their impacts on residential communities and, accordingly, is committed to undertaking operations in a Fly Neighbourly manner. The entry into this Fly Neighbourly Agreement is voluntary and subject to aviation safety considerations.

The Operator will:

* Comply with Commonwealth legislative requirements for noise management
* Comply with noise abatement procedures relevant to the airport from which the flight originated.
* Ensure that environmental awareness and noise issues are included in pilot training
* Respond to community feedback about noise in a respectful manner; and
* Respond to community feedback supplied via the City of Melbourne within 5 business days, copying the City of Melbourne into any responses.
* Display this agreement in the reception of our business and on our website

## While the City of Melbourne was previously considered a commercial area, the residential population has increased by 250% in the last 20 years. In light of the increased residential use, the Operator will adhere to the following principles:

* Wherever practicable, takeoff in a manner that maximizes height over populated areas.
* Avoid, wherever possible, flying over residential areas, particularly the residential suburbs of the City of Melbourne.
* Adopt and maintain best rates of climb to minimise noise over residential areas, as soon as possible after takeoff
* Reduce engine revs as soon as possible
* Fly above 1,000ft unless arriving or departing the airport
* Minimise tight manoeuvres and turns when operating helicopters over residential areas
* Operate helicopters in a manner that minimises “rotor slap” noise
* Avoid helicopter hovering over populated areas whenever practicable. Helicopters should select hovering locations that utilise surrounding topography which minimises noise to local communities. Helicopters should preference hovering locations over railways, freeways, commercial and industrial precincts.
* Flights must be conducted in accordance with Australian aviation law and CASA permissions.
* Adhere to agreed flight paths to be established through a process of consultation, between operators and local communities, facilitated by the City of Melbourne.
* Limit operations at helipads to the following hours:
	+ Monday to Friday: 7am to 8pm
	+ Weekends and Public Holidays: 9am to 8pm

Where these principles cannot be met, the operator must notify the City of Melbourne at least 72 hours prior, if possible, to the event to forewarn residents of the activity.

The City of Melbourne will review this agreement each year in collaboration with aircraft operators and residents, taking into account any opportunities to improve the noise outcome.

The operators, relevant resident groups and the City of Melbourne (as chair) will meet quarterly to discuss issues and ensure continued support for this agreement. Updates to this agreement will be sent to Airservices Australia, CASA, Parks Victoria, and the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman and published on the City of Melbourne website.