



Trinity Point Marina and Mixed Use Development

HELIPAD PROPOSAL

FACT SHEET 5

Community Engagement

Johnson Property Group (JPG) is proposing the inclusion of a helipad at the approved Trinity Point Marina and Mixed Use Development site at Morisset Park. This fact sheet summarises the community engagement undertaken to inform the proposal and preparation of the Environmental Assessment, as well as the key issues and benefits identified by the community.

How has JPG consulted about the project?

JPG is strongly committed to ensuring optimum involvement of community and government in the development of the proposed helipad, and we recognise and welcome the strong local interest in the project.

During design of the helipad and preparation of the Environmental Assessment, we have spoken with, and listened to, a wide range of individuals and organisations, including residents, community groups, schools, local business, regional industry, tourism industry and operators, helicopter operators and technical specialists and incorporated suggestions and feedback into the proposal (a list of who we have engaged with is over the page).

Consultation has been undertaken in line with JPG's company values, and in consideration of the Department of Planning's requirements for genuine and meaningful engagement to inform the preparation of the Environmental Assessment.

In addition to engagement directly by JPG, our consultants undertaking the Social Impact Assessment for the project undertook targeted consultation around specific interests, such as follow up with schools around reports about impacts of the helicopter survey on learning, and discussions with other tourist establishments with helicopter services to better understand their operational experiences and the contribution of a helipad to their facilities.

Snapshot of Engagement activities

Engagement to date:

- Meetings with government;
- Conversation and correspondence with community groups;
- A community information session;
- Response to enquiries;
- Newspaper notifications;
- Mailouts of information and invites;
- Attendance at community meetings;
- Social media posts, e.g. Facebook;
- Response to lists of questions;
- Series of fact sheets;
- Establishment of a community information website; and
- Targeted consultation around specific issues, such as noise.

Future activities include (not limited to):

- Extra interface during public exhibition;
- Updating of website and fact sheets;
- Follow up community information session; and
- Ongoing availability to answer questions.

A list of activities undertaken to date, and upcoming, is included in the box above. Further opportunity for involvement of government and community members will occur during the public exhibition phase.

What were the key interests identified by local residents and community?

Key issues of interest to the local community identified during the Environmental Assessment preparation included are listed below.

- Impacts to local amenity, especially noise.
- Loss of access to the lake, including due to perception of permanent exclusion zones.
- Health and safety risks, from accidents as well as aviation fuels and gases.
- Impact to environment and wildlife values, from noise, pollution or downwash.
- Impact to schools and student learning, particularly those with specific sensitivities or needs.
- Impacts from downwash on marine processes and coastal erosion.
- Concern regarding the sufficiency of the helicopter acoustic survey.
- Concern regarding the process for approval (e.g. use of previous LEP).
- Mistrust of JPG and lack of confidence in government decision making agencies.
- Lack of economic justification to offset perceived adverse impacts to local residents.

The process also identified benefits and these were considered in the Social Impact Assessment. Potential positives of the helipad include:

- Diversification of client and recreational streams.
- Increased connectivity and access options between the Lake, Sydney and the Hunter.
- Enhanced economic benefits flowing from improved investor confidence in attractiveness and viability of development.
- Flow on effects to tourism locally and regionally, with increased connectivity to the Hunter Valley and increased spending from new customers.

Consultations during the Environmental Assessment:

- Lake Macquarie City Council;
- Elected representatives;
- RMS (NSW Maritime);
- Office of Environment and Heritage;
- Department of Planning and Environment;
- Department of Primary Industries (NSW Office of Water, Crown Lands, and Fisheries);
- Environmental Protection Authority;
- Commonwealth Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA);
- Commonwealth Department of Environment;
- Mine Subsidence Board;
- Registered Aboriginal Parties;
- Hunter Water Corporation;
- Ausgrid;
- Lake Macquarie Estuary and Coastal Management Committee;
- Lake Macquarie Aquatic Services Committee;
- Morisset Park and District Action Group;
- Sunshine Progress Association;
- Bonnells Bay Progress Association;
- Bonnells Bay Public School;
- Brightwaters Christian College;
- Commercial helicopter operators;
- Existing tourist establishments with helicopter facilities; and
- Residents and businesses on the Morisset Peninsula and parts of Summerland Point and Mannering Park (mail outs).

How has community input and issues been considered?

Community inputs have been fed into the wider environmental assessment process, as well as the development of Fly Neighbourly and Prior Permission protocols.

- Development of flight paths that predominantly avoid flying over built up areas;
- Temporary nature of safety zones;
- Limited frequency of operations and integration of operational management of the helipad with the marina; and
- Ongoing consultation with stakeholders.

Of particular importance to the application process, during initial consultation JPG communicated an intent for a concurrent state and local planning process, being the Environmental Assessment for the modification to the Concept Approval (MOD 3 to MP 06_0309) and at the same time, for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Development Application (DA 1176/2014). JPG received feedback from the community expressing confusion about running state and local planning processes concurrently. In discussion with NSW DPE and Lake Macquarie City Council it was agreed to proceed in a two stage process, being:

- a) Lodge the Environmental Assessment to NSW DPE for MOD 3, for exhibition, assessment and determination; and
- b) Lodge the Environmental Impact Statement to Lake Macquarie City Council as additional information to accompany DA 1176/2014 (assessment of which will remain ceased until MOD 3 is determined).

It is noted that some of the concerns have been based on misinterpretation or circulation of inaccurate information (for example, two widely distributed misunderstandings were that JPG was seeking 40 helicopter movements per day and that CASA required a large permanent 'no-go' zone, both of which have always not been the case).

It is our goal that the establishment of a Community Information website and preparation of targeted fact sheets will assist us in our responsibility to ensure accurate information is available to the public, as well as provide resources for community groups to use when communicating with members and residents.

JPG welcomes community interest and input in the proposal, and the quality of proposed project, especially management, has no doubt been strengthened by community suggestions and thoughts. We thank you for your thoughts to date and invite further involvement during the public exhibition phase.

Need more information?

JPG is committed to ensuring accurate and up to date information about the proposed helipad is available to all interested community members. We have established a Community Information web page <http://trinitypoint.com.au/helipad> that has details around the environmental studies and consultation activities, as well as a series of fact sheets including:

- Fact Sheet 1 – Why a Helipad?
- Fact Sheet 2 – Noise, Helicopter Survey and Flight Paths
- Fact Sheet 3 – Helipad Operations
- Fact Sheet 4 – Public Access and Safety
- Fact Sheet 5 – Community Engagement

We welcome your questions and feedback. Please contact JPG on 8023 8888 or visit the above designated webpage and use the feedback form.