



TRINITY POINT
LAKE MACQUARIE

Trinity Point Marina and Mixed Use Development

Proposed Helipad

FACT SHEET 4

PUBLIC ACCESS AND TEMPORARY SAFETY ZONE

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 responds to interest regarding public access and lake navigation, and details the proposal's temporary safety management zone.

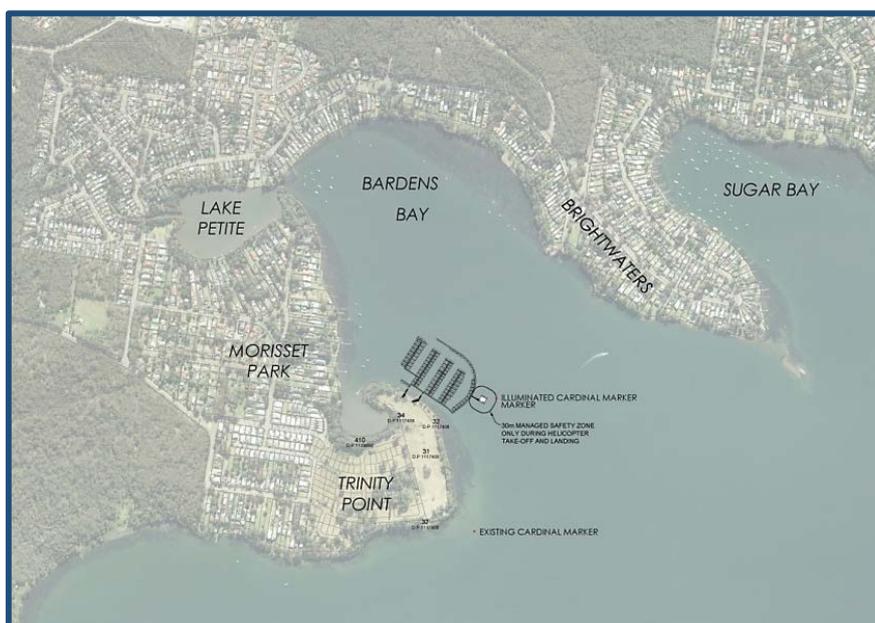
Where will the Helipad be located within the lake?

It is proposed that the helipad will connect to the approved marina, and be integrated into the overall access, operation and management of the marina.

To address past concerns about the extent of structures extending north-easterly into Bardens Bay, the helipad has been sited to the south of the marina, away from the centre of the bay and closer to Trinity Point site.

The total surface area of the physical structure of the helipad, as a footprint on the water surface, is approximately 436m² (being the pontoon, connecting pontoon and gangway). In addition to this footprint, there is an additional temporary safety management zone (see over page).

The figure below presents the proposed helipad location relative to the approved marina footprint, and identifies the area of the lake that is impacted in various ways by the inclusion of a helipad.



What is the temporary safety management zone?

To enable safe operations, it is necessary that public access to a small area immediately surrounding the helipad be temporarily restricted during aircraft take off and landings. This is not a permanent exclusion zone, but a management zone put in place temporarily for safety reasons during the movement of helicopters approaching and departing the helipad.

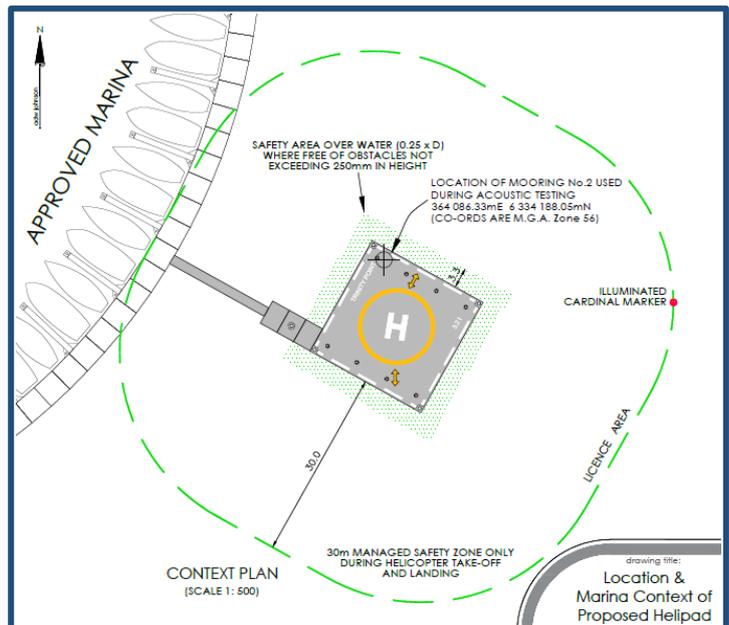
When the temporary zone is active, people and craft will be restricted from entering the zone other than those associated with the safe conduct of the helicopter operation and who are trained in safety procedures.

At times when there is no arrival or departures, public access will be not restricted within the water (beyond that which might be required for general safe Marina operations not related to the helipad).

How large is the temporary zone?

The temporary safety zone will cover an area with a radius of 30 metres measured from the edge of the proposed helipad pontoon.

The total area covered by the safety zone (excluding the helipad structure itself) is approximately 5165m². Some of that safety zone sits over the approved marina breakwater and will sit within a lease of the lake bed for construction and operation of the physical helipad (integrated with the approved marina and its lease). Approximately 3200m² may sit outside a lease area, and would form part of a licence with NSW Maritime to provide for that essential public safety management area of the lake (only during landing and taking off of helicopters).



In combination with the approved marina footprint, the helipad footprint and the temporary safety management zone footprint (to combined total of 6.53ha) is still less than the area identified in the original dealings with the Crown.

How long will the temporary zone be active?

It is estimated that the management zone will be active for a maximum of 15 minutes per helicopter movement. This equates to a maximum of two hours per day, most likely spread across the day. It is worth noting that this is a conservative estimate should the maximum number of 8 movements occur every day - in every day terms it is likely to be less.

It also should be noted that the temporary zone duration does not equate with the presence of helicopter noise, as the zone will be put in place in preparation for the approach of helicopter as part of pre-arrival inspections and in communication with the helicopter pilot.

Quick facts

- Need for temporary safety management zone only during take-off and landing – not a permanent restriction area;
- Safety Zone is part of a “prior permissions” and inspections protocol to ensure safety and smooth operations;
- Zone to be coordinated by the Marina and trained helicopter landing officer who will be in communication with the pilot; and
- Studies show the helipad will not unreasonably affect navigation or use of the lake.

Further, social impact research for the study has noted the efficient experiences of other helicopter operations in the Hunter Valley, which suggests that it is possible that a helicopter may land, shut off, disembark passengers and depart within the same 15-minute period (this would constitute two helicopter 'movements').

How will the temporary zone be coordinated?

The temporary zone will be managed by the trained helicopter landing officer associated with the Marina, with pilots ultimately responsible to ensure the helicopter will not constitute a hazard to persons or objects, including from impacts from rotor downwash.

The helipad will operate to a "prior permission" requirement, which means that includes:

- a pre-arrival inspection, including responsibility for ensuring persons and craft are clear of the management zone;
- a set of lights activated to signal imminent arrival or departure; and
- a permanent cardinal marker included on the eastern edge of the zone.

Communication with people or craft in the zone will be undertaken by the trained helicopter landing officer.

No helicopter will land unless the temporary safety management zone is clear of persons and craft.

What licences or regulations apply to the zone?

The physical helipad structure will be incorporated into a lease area to be established with the approved marina. Whilst the additional lease area required by the helipad structure is 1766m², (representing approximately a 3% increase from that required by the marina without the helipad), the total lease area with marina and helipad combined is less than the area identified in original dealings with the Crown.

As identified earlier, a proportion of the 30m temporary safety management zone surrounding the pontoon will sit within the lease area. In consultation with the Crown and NSW Maritime, an additional licence from NSW Maritime will be sought to provide for that area of the temporary safety management zone that lies outside the Crown lease area.

This will enable marina staff and the helipad landing officer to control public and craft over that area for safety reasons only during active use of the helipad.

How will it affect public access or lake navigation?

Combined, the additional lease area and management area arising from the addition of the helipad represents 4,967m² of the lake surface area. This accounts for proposed pontoon structure and temporary safety management zones. This forms part of an active marina and boating precinct linked to the tourist destination. Locally, this represents 0.5% of the water surface of Bardens Bay, and in the wider context of the entire Lake Macquarie waterway, cumulatively including with the marina lease represents 0.05% of the entire waterway.

Studies undertaken for the Environmental Assessment (and earlier as part of the Stage 1 Marina Environmental Impact Statement) have concluded that the inclusion of a helipad will not impact on a significant area of the lake and will not unreasonably impact on all users of the lake including recreational users and the boating public, including yachts, swing moorings, personal watercraft and lake swimmers.

It identified limited impacts on navigation in and around the approved marina, Bardens Bay and the wider waterbody, with a suite of operational management procedures identified for public, recreational, boating and navigation safety.

A new cardinal marker is proposed to the edge of the temporary safety management zone, which aligns with an existing cardinal marker further to the south at Bluff Point, and protects not only the approved marina and proposed helipad, but also protects the seagrass beds that sit inside those two navigational aids.

How does the temporary safety zone compare to information currently in the community?

JPG acknowledges the high interest in the helipad, including around public access and perceptions regarding permanent extinguishment of areas of the lake due to restriction zones. The differences between the actual proposed safety zone and information that has circulated within the community are highlighted below.

The actual proposed helipad safety zone will be:

- Temporary not permanent – only in place during take-off and landings, for 15 minutes at the most each time.
- The temporary management zone (including the helipad pontoon itself) is 5630m², less than the 6400m² expressed in some community feedback.
- In combination with the approved marina footprint, the helipad footprint and temporary safety management zone, it is less than the lease area of the lake identified in original dealings with the Crown.
- The temporary zone, where not required for the physical helipad and lease area, will be formalised by a licence with NSW Maritime.
- Is not inconsistent with original dealings with the Crown.

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.