

# PORT MACQUARIE AIRPORT

## CHANGES TO APPROACH PROCEDURES

Airserves is proposing to implement changes for aircraft arriving to Port Macquarie Airport from August 2019.

### Background

Since 2007, the [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#) has encouraged its members to implement approach procedures with vertical (straight up and down) guidance to improve safety for aircraft arriving to and landing at airports.

One way to do this is to make it possible for aircraft to use Baro-VNAV technology.

Baro-VNAV is technology available on most modern aircraft, as it uses either Global Positioning System (GPS) or the barometric pressure readings from on-board equipment, to provide vertical guidance for the approach.

It allows aircraft to land more smoothly, without using ground based navigation equipment. It also reduces the workload for pilots and decreases their reliance on visual assessments, making landing safer.

Baro-VNAV approaches will reduce the risk of aircraft over running the runway on landing, and the frequency of an aircraft needing to either circle or complete a missed approach.

Airserves has worked with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and identified more than 100 locations for the roll out of Baro-VNAV approach procedures across Australia.

Some of these locations require changes to their existing approach procedures in order for Baro-VNAV to be introduced.

### What will change at Port Macquarie Airport?

The introduction of Baro-VNAV requires changes to existing procedures for the main runway (Runway 03) at Port Macquarie Airport.

Runways can be used in two opposite directions, and each direction is named with a rounded-up two digit number based on the two different directions they face on a compass. The main runway at Port Macquarie is called Runway 03/21 because it runs between the northeast and the southwest.

### The change includes:

#### 1. *Lowering of the altitude for approaching aircraft to Runway 03*

The minimum safe height that aircraft may fly before they begin their final descent to Runway 03 will be lowered from 4,100 feet to 2,600 feet (a reduction of 1,500 feet).

Additionally, there will be the introduction of an airspace step to enable aircraft to commence their descent to a lower altitude earlier. Currently aircraft remain at 4,100 feet before beginning their final descent to land. The new procedure will keep aircraft at 4,100 feet but then will add a lower step of 3,240 feet (a reduction of 860 feet) before aircraft begin their final descent.

There will be no change in the distance of arrival or departure flight paths from communities, the height of departures, the number of aircraft movements or aircraft types at Port Macquarie Airport as a result of these changes.

There will be no change to the minimum height for arrivals to Runway 21 and it is likely that aircraft will continue flying their current descent profile.

### What will I see and hear?

Residents in Black Creek, north of Herons Creek, Kew, Logans Crossing, Batar Creek, Dunbogan, Camden Head, Laurieton, West Haven and North Haven may notice some arriving aircraft flying at lower altitudes of 2,600 feet. Aircraft at these lower altitudes may increase noise levels by approximately 4 decibels, which may be noticeable to some community members. Noise levels from aircraft in this area will remain at below 60 decibels.

Residents in these areas will continue to see on average 21 arriving aircraft per day.

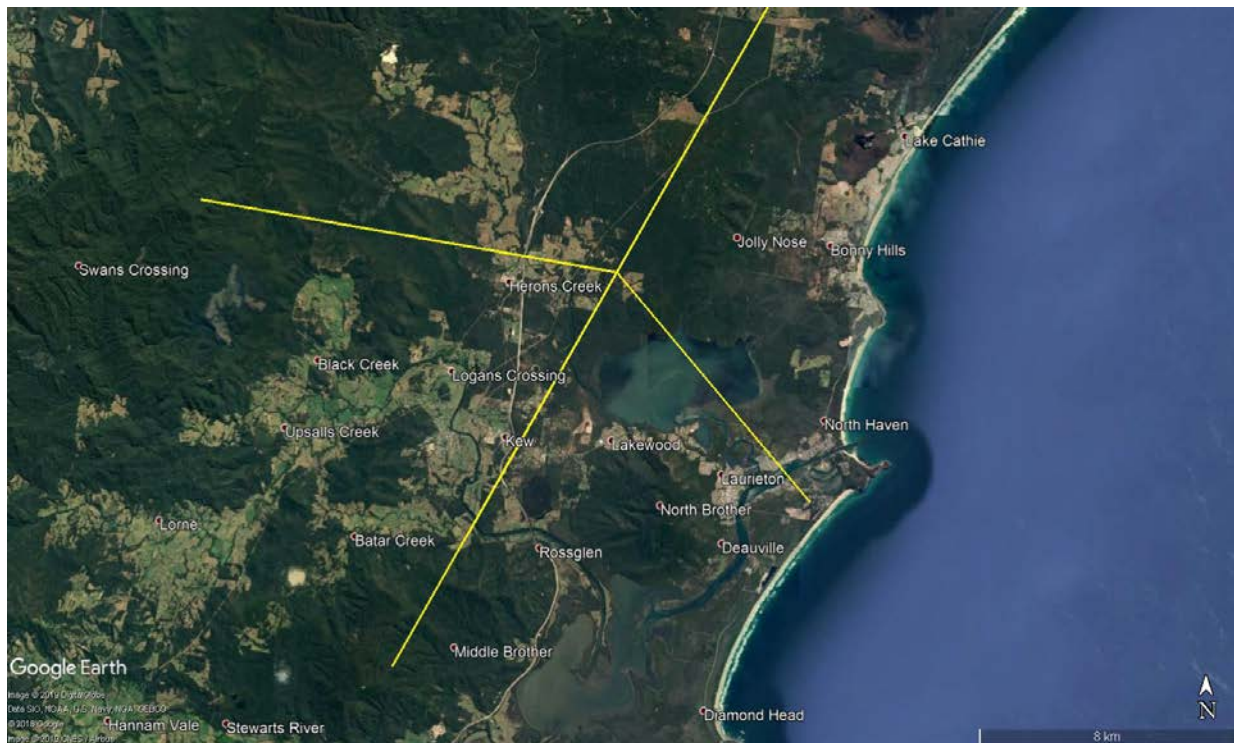


Figure 1: Existing and proposed flight paths for aircraft arriving to Runway 03

Key:  Existing and proposed arrivals (no change to distance from communities)

### How can I provide feedback?

Feedback can be provided:

- Via online form at: <https://feedback.emsbk.com/asa>
- Mail to Feedback c/o Noise Complaints and Information Service, PO BOX 211 Mascot NSW 1460

For general information on flight path changes, contact the Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS) on:

- 1800 802 584 (free call)
- 131 450 (interpreter service)



**Feedback closes on 5 June 2019.**