

A new north-west/south-east runway and associated infrastructure is being built at the Sunshine Coast Airport, in Marcoola. Construction of the new runway is scheduled for completion in late 2020.

A new runway and better facilities means greater accessibility and more opportunities for work, tourism and exporting businesses.

Work is continuing on the trimming (and in some limited cases, removal) of some trees in the vicinity of the Sunshine Coast Airport. Tree trimming in Marcoola is complete and work is now underway in the area to the north-west of the new runway primarily west of the Sunshine Motorway.

This trimming and management of trees is required to ensure the runway can operate in compliance with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations associated with obstacles on the ground or surrounding infrastructure that could be a safety hazard for aircraft using the new runway.

The clearances required by CASA are consistent with international standards for airports.

Vegetation management near runways is standard practice at airports across the world and has been occurring in the vicinity of the Sunshine Coast Airport since it opened in 1960.

Project summary

On 9 October CASA approved airspace changes which will enable new flightpaths to be in place to support the operation of the new runway when it opens.

For safety reasons, tree trimming is required at the north-western end of the new runway.

The process has been approved by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Federal Department of Environment and Energy.

The works will use the combined skills and expertise of local arborists on the ground and helicopter pilots from above.

Timing

Council's contractors, including surveyors, ecologists, fauna spotters and climbing arborists are currently undertaking the work.

Helicopters will be used in some areas to assist with tree trimming. Residents can expect increased helicopter activity near the Sunshine Motorway for around **two weeks** from the week starting **Monday 21 October 2019**, weather permitting.

Work hours will be between **7.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday**.

Caring for our environment

Trimming activities have been designed to have minimal impact and the least amount of disturbance to the vegetation and surface below the canopy.

A three-dimensional aerial laser survey is guiding precision trimming, minimising the amount of trimming required.

Ecologists have prepared a management plan for the activity, and ground survey has been completed to mark the target trees.

Fauna spotter catchers have been engaged to protect any fauna identified during the trimming operation.

Your safety is important to us

A safe zone will be created around the trimming works. We thank you for your patience during this time and please heed any instructions and signage in the area.

Traffic management

Traffic control may be in place to ensure the safety of motorists as required.

Do you have any questions?

Please contact the Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project team on 1800 210 755 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or email info@SCAexpansion.com.au if you require any additional information on the project.

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For more information:

Sunshine Coast Airport Expansion Project

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