



COUNCIL POLICY 1.3

Helicopter Landings on Council Controlled Land Policy

Version: V1 – 23/1/11

SUMMARY

1. Torres Shire Council owns and controls land in the Torres Shire local government area, including as the owner of land in freehold, and as trustee of reserve land granted under the *Land Act 1994*. Throughout this policy, land owned or controlled by Council will be referred to as “Council-controlled land”.
2. Because of Council’s remote location, helicopter movements occur frequently in the local government area. These helicopter movements can sometimes cause noise disruptions and other nuisances.
3. Council has established the Shire’s primary aviation facility at the Horn Island Airport, and Council’s policy preference is to ensure as many helicopter movements as possible occur to and from the Horn Island Airport. Council also provides a helipad at Sadies Beach on Thursday Island for helicopter movements.
4. Council recognises that there are some circumstances in which it is appropriate for helicopters to take off and land at locations other than Horn Island Airport and Sadies Beach Helipad.
5. Council’s policy position is that helicopter take offs and landings outside Horn Island Airport and Sadies Beach Helipad should be limited to one of the below circumstances, consistently with its overall objective to establish Horn Island Airport as the primary aviation facility in the Torres Shire:
 - a. disaster management responses;
 - b. responses to water and wastewater incidents and other local government related issues that have an impact on the community;
 - c. movements for and on behalf of electricity providers, during a power outage;
 - d. movements relating to medical emergencies including evacuations
 - e. movements relating to responses relating to law and order.
6. The policy position described in the preceding paragraph will inform Council’s decisionmaking, in response to any request by helicopter operators to use Council-controlled land for helicopter take offs and landings.
7. Where appropriate, Council will enter into formal written agreements with relevant operators to formalise their use of Council controlled land.

8. Nothing in this policy supersedes, overrides, fetters, or in any other way impacts, Council's decision-making function as the planning authority for the Torres Shire.

This policy is intended to guide the approach Council takes to particular decision-making in Council's capacity as the owner or trustee of Council-controlled land. Council acknowledges that private landowners are entitled to use their land consistently with Council's Planning Scheme and any approvals required under it, and this policy is not relevant to Council's assessment of development applications for the use of land other than Council-controlled land.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- *Land Act 1994*

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Resolution Date	Resolution No.	Policy Author
V1	24 Jan 2023	23/1/11	CEO

This Policy is to remain in force until otherwise amended/replaced by resolution of the Council.

Review Frequency: 3 yearly