

# AIRPORT Vegetation Maintenance Works

## FACT SHEET

**Vegetation clearing is required at the southern end of Port Macquarie Airport's runway to ensure safe approach and departure for aircraft, as determined by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).**

Clearing of vegetation will be an ongoing project to safeguard clear visibility for incoming and outbound aircraft.

The designated 'Tree Removal Zone' was determined by the Minister for Environment in a Biodiversity Certification Agreement signed with Council in 2018.

All work will be undertaken in accordance with a detailed Vegetation Management Plan, including an onsite ecologist supervising works, animal corridors, supplemental planting and erosion control measures.

*This project is part of Council's approved works program and 2024/25 Operational Plan budget.*

## Outcomes

- Ensure clear visibility for incoming and outbound aircraft
- Satisfy CASA recommendations by minimising current Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) obstructions
- Enable regular maintenance to ensure the OLS is maintained and future obstructions are minimised
- Full compliance with biodiversity, heritage and environmental requirements



# Frequently asked questions

## Q: What will be happening at the Airport?

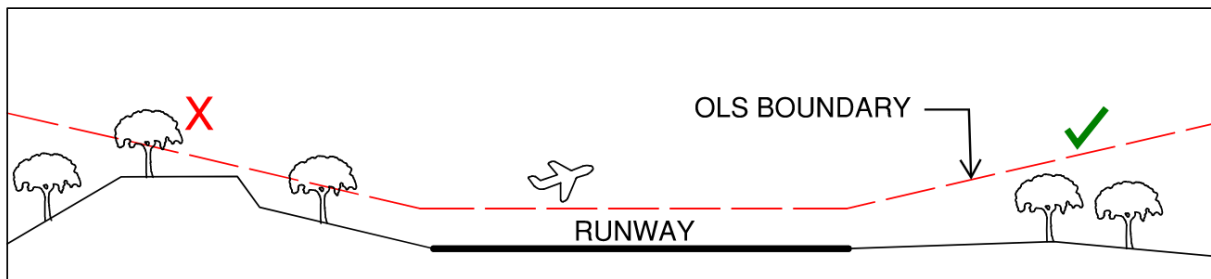
Council will be undertaking vegetation management activities to protect the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS).

A recent OLS annual survey highlighted that vegetation growth was impacting on the OLS, which requires Council to undertake tree clearing activities at the southern end of the runway.

## Q: What is the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS)?

The OLS is an imaginary line from a point on each runway end indicating the minimum angle of approach and departure for safe aircraft operations.

Safe approach and departure angles are determined by the Civil Aviation Safety Authorities (CASA) safety regulations.



## Q: Why does Council have to manage the OLS?

Protecting the OLS means actively monitoring vegetation growth and managing any obstructions through a maintenance program.

Failure to maintain the OLS boundary could impact the ability to receive certain aircraft types at the Airport due to runway length restrictions stipulated by CASA.

## Q: How has Council planned for this vegetation management activity?

Council has taken a strategic and sustainable approach. Council obtained NSW Biodiversity Certification for the land surrounding the Airport in 2018 and was granted Australian Government environmental approval in 2020 for the planned clearing activities.

## Q: How will this work be managed by Council?

Council has a detailed vegetation management plan (VMP) and clearing protocols designed to minimise the impact on fauna and flora. This includes ecologist pre-clearance surveys, supervision of all clearing works, animal corridors, supplemented planting and erosion control measures.

Council has also committed to extensive conservation offsets to balance the impact of Airport OLS vegetation clearing now and into the future.



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