

# Chopper training disturbs serenity

Peter Gardiner | 10th January 2012

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ONCE peaceful nights out in the wilds of Noosa North Shore to Boreen Point have been replaced by the shuddering noise of helicopters.

The lakeside serenity of Gayle Harris, who owns a holiday home at Boreen Point, last Thursday was replaced by the buzzing annoyance of what she believes is a helicopter night training that went as late as 10.30pm near Teewah Beach.

Ms Harris said this was the third night the intrusive chopper noise had rattled her evening peace and quiet.

"Being a predominately inner city dweller of Brisbane, I find it amazing that locals have to tolerate this," she said.

"The first time I heard it, I thought someone must have drowned off Teewah and the helicopters were searching for the person. Last year Noosa Parks Association went public with its campaign to put a stop to the commercial use of the old Noosa North Shore landing strip for commercial use that the NPA believes includes military helicopter pilot training.

NPA spokesman Paul Summers said on Friday he expected there would be many more complaints to come from residents about the night-time noise from the training operations.

"The thing is that in Brisbane the helicopters have to operate in controlled airspace but out here they can fly as they like, which often is very low over the land," Mr Summers said.

"And because the ambient noise is so low out in these areas the noise is noticed that much more."

The NPA said this commercial activity was outside the Noosa plan and the previous Noosa Council had intended for this 482ha parcel of the land to become part of the Cooloola section of national park.

The NPA claims there have been up to 20 commercial training flights flown there on week days and "the principal client of the helicopter training company is the defence force of a Middle Eastern country".

An NPA newsletter stated: "Canoeists in the upper Noosa River, or bush walkers on the newly opened Cooloola Great Walk, which links Noosa North Shore to Rainbow Beach, now have to contend with incessant and invasive helicopter noise.

"It would appear that the only way to stop such Sunshine Coast Regional Council environmental vandalism is to persuade the State Government to revoke council's trusteeship of the landing ground."

A Sunshine Coast Airport spokesman told the Noosa News last year that Becker Helicopters used the facility to carry out overseas training contracts.

A company spokesman is yet to confirm if the landing field is part of an overseas proving ground for military pilots, but the website states: "most of our clients wish to remain anonymous due to the nature of dealing with government agencies of other countries".

"We offer a full in-house theory solution, detailed reporting and grading, assessments, wings graduation and streaming for reconnaissance, attack, air mobile, air transport or other support roles," it stated.



Noosa Parks Association wants to put a stop to the noise.

Geoff Potter

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- By redsnake from Boreen Point on 10/1/2012 at 6:55AM [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)  
oh gee, the boreen point committee against everything is active again. funny thing though, they seem to be visitors and not locals that whinge about any thing at all. noise from the pub(best local in qld) or choppers. well next time you hear one it may be the rescue chopper off on a job, guess where the pilots train?
- By ydoit from Lake Macdonald on 10/1/2012 at 7:30AM [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)  
The landing ground is a WWII relic, now stuck in the middle of a national park. That it should be used for helicopter training, day or night, is simply crazy. It's a classic example of the Council placing economics well above citizenry's amenity.
- By carrot from Maroochydore on 10/1/2012 at 7:34AM [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)  
Nice to know our council are doing their bit towards conflict in the middle east. Pity about the ground parrots. Collateral damage I suppose.
- By out4more from Doonan on 10/1/2012 at 9:25AM [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)  
Hey redsnake, it's not just Boring Point that is affected by the helicopters. People on Noosa North Shore, Noosaville and Tewantin are getting buzzed day and night

too. But the real issue is why helicopters should be allowed to train inside a national park.

By [hyndSyte](#) from [Maroochydore](#) on 11/1/2012 at 8:14AM [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

The NIMBY will not be happy until the Sunshine Coast returns to the days of the 60's. That might be nice for those who just pack up and scoot back to Brisbane for work, but for the rest of us who need jobs in the region this is precisely the kind of industry that we should be encouraging. The agitated Ms Harris would no doubt be happy to see all the Sunshine Coast locals locked into dead end casual tourism jobs - serving her drinks, if you'd like - but some of us would like more opportunity than that. Thank you Becker Helicopters for investing in this region, and I am sorry that you have to deal with the soul destroying selfishness of people like Harris.

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Another example of why we need our Noosa Council back. This one is sure not looking after our interests. To those who wave the jobs banner, how about getting them to do the training in your backyard.

By [savetherange](#) from [Maroochydore](#) on 11/1/2012 at 5:46PM [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

Disturbing the peace of the hinterland in general. I'm sure it came over the Blackall Range as well.