



11<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## Community Notice

### Update on Pormpuraaw Aerodrome Upgrade - Temporary Airstrip Solution

Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council is committed to keeping the community informed as we move forward with the defect rectification and resilience works at the Pormpuraaw Aerodrome.

Since issuing our original construction notice, further technical investigations and safety reviews have identified that a temporary runway outside the township offers a safer and more reliable alternative to the originally proposed staged construction method.

### Why the Change?

The original plan involved keeping part of the main runway open while construction occurred in sections. However, this would have:

- Restricted aircraft operations to a 600m strip
- Delayed construction progress
- Resulted in safety and compliance risks for larger aircraft like the RFDS King Air

To ensure continuous RFDS access and limit disruptions to passenger travel, Council is building a temporary gravel runway to the east of the township. This change allows works to proceed faster without risking further damage to the main aerodrome during the upcoming wet season.

### What This Means for our Community

- RFDS medical services will continue uninterrupted from the temporary airstrip
- Council is working with commercial airlines to determine if regular passenger flights can also operate from the temporary site during construction

- The main runway will be fully closed during a shortened construction period (July–September 2025)
- Transport assistance will be provided between the township and the temporary airstrip, especially for the elderly or mobility-impaired

### **Temporary Airstrip Setup**

The temporary site will include:

- A gravel runway suitable for medical and small commercial aircraft
- Secure, fenced passenger area
- Temporary check-in and baggage handling
- Shade, seating, toilet facilities, and vehicle access

### **Ongoing Updates**

Council is actively coordinating with service providers, airlines, engineers, and contractors to ensure these changes are rolled out smoothly and with minimal impact to the community.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these critical works. More updates will be shared via community noticeboards, Council Facebook, and local service providers.