

Hello XXX

I refer to your email of 7 December and representations made on your behalf by Councillor Greenhill. Thank you for your letter to the General Manager where you outline concerns regarding the recent issue of a license for the non-exclusive use of the Katoomba Airfield by the NSW Department of Industry - Crown Lands and Water. I also note the concerns expressed on behalf of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

I would like to bring to your attention a report that Council considered regarding the Katoomba Airfield at the Ordinary Meeting of 17 October 2017. Please see a copy of the report attached. At this meeting Council resolved that:

- "1. That the Council notes that the NSW Department of Industry has recently published an Expression of Interest for parties interested in making use of the Katoomba Airfield site;*
- 2. That the Council notes that the Blue Mountains Aviators Club is preparing a submission to the Department of Industry for the use of the land through the Expression of Interest process and have requested the support of the Council for their submission;*
- 3. That the Council notes the importance of the airstrip remaining operational in the event of an emergency, in particular forced landing of aircraft with mechanical difficulties or bushfires;*
- 4. That the Council writes a letter of 'in-principle' support for the Blue Mountains Aviators Club's submission to the NSW Department of Industry for the use of the land, which will ensure that the airfield remains operational; and*
- 5. That the Council would 'in-principle' support submissions from other organisations to the NSW Department of Industry EoI, which ensure that the Katoomba Airfield remains operational for emergency landings, where they observe the principles of the CASA Fly Neighbourly Advice for the Blue Mountains National Park and the broader principles of Fly Neighbourly Agreements including that flights avoid noise sensitive areas (including residential), maintain appropriate fly-over altitudes, speed reduction, low noise descent settings, route variation and the use of high take-off/ descent profiles."*

[Minute No. 361]

I hope this clarifies the Council's current position.

Kind regards,

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