
From: Bruce Mclachlan [bruce@mclachlanpartners.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2020 5:45 PM
To: DPE PSVC Central Coast Mailbox
Subject: Warnervale Airport (Restrictions) Act 1996 review

Categories: Submission entered

Dear Sirs

As a life long resident and local business person, and currently elected Clr, I would encourage the NSW Government to support the proper use of this valuable aviation infrastructure asset.

The Central Coast demographics struggle in both high unemployment Rate and poor social issues, and the WEZ is a key component in activating an employment zone in the northern region.

The airport can be a key catalyst as a drawcard anchor destination, as a general aviation hub, with new skilled jobs in servicing and maintaining light aircraft, which other major sites like Newcastle with their military priority and Badgery Creek and Sydney international Airports, who do not want the competing air space with light aircraft.

Warnervale has currently uncontrolled airspace and is ideal as a pilot training venue, with no competition of airway from larger international or military flights. The economic future for pilot training facilities and world wide pilot shortages makes Warnervale an attractive training ground.

Importantly the approach and landing paths are predominately over the freeway, and Porters Creek Wetlands.

The Council owned airport asset will allow justification of Council to run services into the WEZ industrial area. Currently the first developer must run the services in, and this is prohibitive to any first mover who would have to pay for the initial serving of the site.

The Central Coast needs to attract new industry and employment and an Aviation Employment Hub recognises the opportunities of rapid advances in electronic aviation, and drone technology, with controlled airspace available above the adjoining freeway.

Currently the Central Coast has many years future of industrial land, but only has one aviation site. If it were to be just added to the existing land bank of current industrial land available, it would a "decision without vision".

We are the only Region in Australia with 330,000 people yet do not have a Regional airport facility.

We are also Australia's largest commuter population.

With the rapid advancement of silent electronic propulsion, and short haul passenger services announced by services like Uber air, Warnervale will be increasingly vital to reduce congestion on our freeway and train services.

Uber air is already on trial in Melbourne and this new Electric aviation short haul commuter opportunity, this will only grow in demand as fuel prices reduce and technology advances.

Warnervale will also be a vital infrastructure asset for RFS water bombers, and they current have fire retardant tanks onsite. With the prospect of increased bush fire risk and our heavily vegetated hinterland and coastal strips, the ability to be able to deploy Aerial fire services will be increasingly important.

As well as RFS we also require urgent medical transport services for our growing population and Warnervale is currently used for this role.

As with all staged developments, the risk is minimised, and Council would only commit to increased expenditure, as demand required.

The notion that Council will embark on a waste hundred of millions of ratepayers funds, on a major airport expansion that demand did not warrant, and is uneconomic, is a flawed argument.

Council would only commit to any capital outlay of the next stage, based on demand and economic feasibility.

Council has already received expressions of interest from its earlier EOI campaigns. The demand for hanger space would allow Council to receive an income stream and help new industry get established on the Coast.

The current political opposition make up of Councillors, is clinging to past scare campaigns of jets over peoples houses, and is refusing to acknowledge the direction of aviation to electric and silent propulsion, and the employment and community benefit the Warnervale Aviation Business Park opportunity the site presents.

I would urge the NSW Government to review the WAR act, with these items outlined in mind. Thank you.

Cr Bruce McLachlan

Sent from my iPhone