

Submission

Nicholas,

I have read the "Safeguards for Airports and the communities surrounding them".

My submission will be limited to the Public Safety Zones.

I live in Evans Head, NSW.

There is a wartime aerodrome here, and it is about to possibly have a huge DANGER created on the end of a runway!!!

The local Council has no concern, nor expertise in Aviation, and have applied to Planning Minister, NSW Government, to rezone an area of approx 150 metres on the end of runway 34, to build a Retirement Village of approx. 100 live in units, AND a Nursing Home as well!!!

And this is not on land adjacent to the end of the runway, but on the aerodrome land itself, and on both sides of the end of the runway!!!

It is a classic example just what your paper is about in this regard.

How could you ever get persons in a Nursing Home, and aged persons in 100 units, out of their units, to safety areas, in the event of an aircraft crashing or running into the area.

IMPOSSIBLE!!

I have been a pilot all my life. Ex RAAF pilot, served in Malayan Emergency on Lincoln bombers. 2nd officer with Qantas on Super Constellations, and then 26 years running own flying schools and charter services all over Victoria. 13,000 hours flying time, including 4,500 as instructor.

I well know the possibilities of engine failures on take-off, and brakes failing after landing.

Whilst this is only a Discussion Paper I do not believe some appropriate action cannot be taken by yourself in communicating with the NSW Planning Minister, about the horrendous (no exaggeration) rezoning being proposed at Evans Head aerodrome.

And that you should be drawing this situation to your Minister also.

I have contacted him a couple of months ago, about the difficulties we are having with Council on this aerodrome, but not specifically about the Public Safety Zones proposal, as I only read it, after my contacts with him.

The rezoning proposal is with the NSW Planning Minister right now, and I believe that no time should be lost in officially advising her of this Public Safety Zone proposal immediately.

I am aged 76, and whilst perfectly fit for my age, I may well be a candidate to live in Retirement Village, or Nursing Home as is being proposed here, and I am horrified at the potential danger that would exist if the proposed development took place.

I can assure you I am well aware how fast an aircraft can accident can take place, from personal experience, and no member of the public should ever be allowed to reside, be employed or gather in the area, at the end of runway 34 here, in Evans Head.

I would welcome any response you may like to make to me on the above.

Ron Fisher.