

Council's Reference:
DWS 245639 BW/AP

Telephone Enquiries to:
Brian Wilkinson

28 April 2008

The Minister
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir

Reference is made to the Issues Paper released in relation to the development of National Aviation Policy Statement.

On behalf of Richmond Valley Council, I provide the following comments in relation to the aviation industry.

Richmond Valley Council does not have a Regulated Passenger facility operating in its area. However, the Council area does have two (2) Aerodromes - at Casino and Evans Head.

Both the Casino and Evans Head Aerodromes, do have potential to contribute for the strategic direction of the aviation industry and due to their locations could attract private/government investment.

In recent years the Casino Aerodrome, which was previously utilised for Regular Passenger Transport, has been transformed into a recreational and private business facility. In that regard part of the original aerodrome has been sold for the development of a motor home and caravan facility (which is operating successfully). The remaining airport facility is significant in that there is an extensive sealed runway and adjacent land is available for business/recreational aviation development. Flying schools and other small aviation based business could effectively operate from the Casino facility, particularly if there were government strategies and policies that "promoted" aviation type growth and development.

The Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome is a facility that has evolved from World War II useage. Council is currently working with the Federal Department of Defence to resolve contamination issues at the site (that are linked back to World War II useage). The Evans Head facility is also subject to State Heritage listing; in that regard there has been a Plan of Management adopted to guide the retention of cultural heritage at that site.

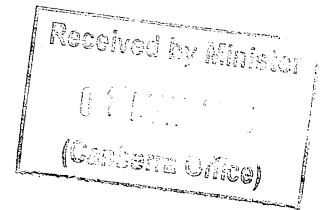
All correspondence should be addressed to:

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RICHMOND VALLEY COUNCIL**

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The Plan of Management requires ongoing aviation use of the site and also for the provision of an airpark/aviation industry. In that respect aviation strategy and/or incentives could promote private investment in the facility. As the Aerodrome is heritage listed, there is also an opportunity to promote aviation culture/heritage at that site.

Richmond Valley Council recognises the importance and potential of the aviation industry. In that regard the above information identifies two "aviation" sites that can contribute to strategy direction and growth for the aviation industry.

Yours faithfully


Brian Wilkinson
GENERAL MANAGER