



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
Via NSW Planning Portal

Dear Minister,

Re: DA21/15298 Helipad Penrith Lakes

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) supports the proposed construction and operation of a helipad in the Penrith Lakes precinct in western Sydney.

The NSW RFS increasingly relies on aerial capability in its bush firefighting operations and the location of this facility in the Penrith district would provide valued emergency capability for the Service.

Sydney Helicopters provides aviation assets to the Sydney Basin, contracting two Bell 412 helicopters to the NSW RFS under the standing National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) arrangements.

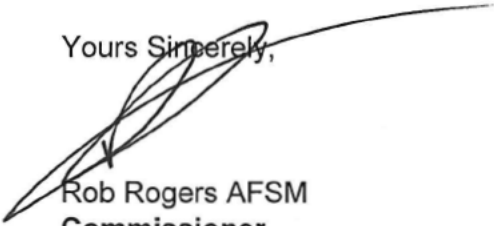
Given the increased duration and intensity of fire seasons, it is vital that the NSW RFS has aerial assets and personnel available when needed, not only during the recognised Bush Fire Danger Period. The proposed heliport would boost the Service's ability to activate aircraft at short notice for rapid deployment to fire prone areas of the Lower Blue Mountains and the urban fringe of Western Sydney.

The NSW RFS has been advised the facility would provide a safe and secure base for firefighting aircraft, providing essential aircraft refuelling and parking facilities, large training rooms and associated amenities during operations.

On the grounds that this proposed development would provide aviation capability to support our members work to protect the NSW community and environment, the NSW RFS is in favour of this proposal.

Should further information be required, please contact Renee Armstrong, Director Office of the Commissioner 02 [REDACTED] or via [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely,


Rob Rogers AFSM
Commissioner

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