



Department of Planning and Environment

**Planning and Assessment
Transport Assessments**

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Prof Mary O’Kane
Chair
Independent Planning Commission

Received by IPC
Tuesday 7 June 2022

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Prof O’Kane

Helipad Penrith Lakes – 100 Old Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh (DA21/15298)

The Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) has completed its assessment of the Penrith Lakes Helipad development application (DA21/15298).

The Department has referred the application to the Independent Planning Commission for determination as there were more than 50 unique submissions objecting to the proposal.

Heliport Developers Pty Ltd (the Applicant) proposes to develop a new helipad at 100 Old Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh (also known as 89-151 Old Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh), in the Penrith local government area. The construction and operation of the helipad would include:

- 25 flights per day between the hours of 5:30am and 10:00pm, with operation above this number of flights and outside these hours if required when undertaking emergency service works
- demolition of two storey sheds and integrated hardstand extending beyond the footprint of the sheds
- new lighting as required for the Final Approach and Take Off (FATO) and
- installation of a Jet A1 (Avtur) fuel storage tank.

During the exhibition of the environmental impact statement (EIS), the Department received a total of 225 submissions from the community and special interest groups, in addition to advice from eight government agencies. Of the public submissions, 200 objected to the project and 33 were in support of the proposal. Two submissions were received from councils Penrith City Council (providing comment) and Blue Mountains City Council (objecting).

In assessing the merits of the project, the Department has considered the environmental impacts of the project, submissions on the EIS, relevant environmental planning instruments, the suitability of the site of the project, and the public interest, in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act.

During the assessment process the Department visited the site, and consulted with local residents, Council and relevant government agencies. The Department engaged an

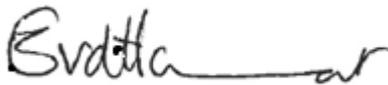
independent acoustic consultant (Rob Bullen Consulting) to assist its assessment of the operational noise and vibration impacts.

Based on this assessment, the Department considers that the project is approvable, subject to the recommended conditions of consent.

I have attached a copy of the Department's assessment report and other relevant documents for the Commission's consideration.

For further information or to arrange a briefing, please contact Glenn Snow, Director Transport Assessments, on 02 9274 6352 or glenn.snow@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erica van den Honert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erica van den Honert
Executive Director
Infrastructure Assessments
Planning and Assessment