
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Keep Blue Mountains Airfield commercial free Ref No. 602686

Attn: Department of Industry
Re: Medlow Bath Airfield Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a long term resident of The Blue Mountains and been lucky enough to be employed up here for all of it, most of this time in tourism. I understand how important tourism is to the Blue Mountains but how vital it is that this is balanced with protecting the National Park, the World Heritage listing and the people who live up here.

The airstrip at Medlow Bath is of course attractive to tourist operators but is unlikely to create an increased tourist demand to the area just another attraction for people already up here to enjoy. It would definitely increase noise, pollution and negatively impact the quiet lifestyle people enjoy here and probably pose a risk to World Heritage listing.

Even ignoring those reasons the fact that the airstrip is on Crown Land should mean that it is precluded from exploitation of commercial operators looking for a quick profit. I also think that this land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever with the one proviso of keeping the airstrip operational for emergency use only. I had friends lose houses in bushfires and the ability to have use of this airstrip could help mitigate these tragedies.

Please don't allow short term commercial interests to take precedence over the natural environment.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield submission

Dear Madam or Sir

As tourists to the area, my family members object to this public land and surrounding airspace being used for commercial purposes.

In consultation with the Traditional Owners, this Crown land and use of air space should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever.

Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

A cultural heritage study and cultural heritage management plan is required in consultation with the Traditional Owners.

--
Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

We note that the proposed lessees of the Katoomba Airfield state that helicopters and aircraft will not be flying over built up areas presumably to minimise noise and visual impacts. This proposed benefit has a cost for others. The blue line on maps tabled at community consultation meetings shows that the flight path from the airport passes to the northwest along the Grose Valley. This is a prime location for bushwalking and other outdoor activities. Bushwalking attracts many people to the Upper Blue Mountains and participants will be impacted upon visually and audibly by increased helicopter and light aircraft traffic.

From the airfield towards the North West, any increase in helicopter or light plane traffic impinges on the following areas:

- The iconic Grand Canyon Track is under 1km from the airfield. Noise generated at takeoff and landing approaches would affect the experience of those walking in this area
- The Blue Mountains are a premier destination in Australia for canyoning. The track to Juggler Canyon is opposite the airfield. Arethusa Canyon, Alpheus Canyon, Fortress Canyon, Butterbox Canyon, David Crevasse, Orunga Canyon, Dalpura Canyon, Birrabang Canyon, Koombamba Canyon, Wotta Canyon, Better Offer Canyon, Yileen Canyon and Hat Hill Canyon are all within two kilometres of the proposed flight path. Rick Jamieson's Canyons near Sydney, 5th Edition, is a guide to around 100 of the Blue Mountains more accessible canyons. It is sold at Blue Mountains outdoor activity shops and at the NPWS Centre at the end of Govetts Leap Road. A significant increase in traffic on the proposed flight path has a potential impact on the experience in 15% of accessible canyons if sound levels are not minimised or eliminated.
- The sides of the Grose valley are the sites of a large variety of lookouts. Many are easily accessible by tourists in their cars, primarily Evans Lookout, Govetts Leap Lookout, Pulpit Rock, Perry's Lookdown and Anvil Rock. Paths along the edge of the Grose from Evans to Pulpit Rock exploit a cliff edge location with stupendous views. Walkers access views in the valley at Baltzer Lookout, Lockleys Pylon, Mt Banks and Fortress Ridge. At the magnificent lookout of Anvil Rock, the views along three arms of the bottle shaped Grose Valley with the tower blocks of Sydney visible on a clear day are unrivalled. Helicopters and other aircraft will fly almost over the top of this lookout.
- The bottom of the Grose Valley is the site of a remote camp site. Paths lead to the bottom of the valley, through the Blue Gum forest and on to Mount Victoria. Perry's Lookdown, Rodriguez Pass, the Horse Track and Pierces Pass all lead walkers into and out of the valley. Mt Banks overlooking the Grose Valley and the site of the one of the Blue Mountains largest cliff faces could become a large echo chamber magnifying any sound.

The birthplace of the Blue Mountains National Park is the Blue Gum forest below Mt Banks. Almost 100 years ago, a group of bushwalkers intervened before trees were cleared to establish a walnut plantation.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service makes the following comment about this special place:

The historical and natural significance of the mighty Blue Gum Forest can't be understated. It's spoken of in hushed tones by those who know of it, and once seen, is never forgotten.

Situated in Grose Valley, in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, this stand of magnificent eucalypts is a fine example of closed forest. A haven for birds and wildlife, it was saved from the axe by bushwalkers in the 1930s. These intrepid nature-lovers pooled resources and bought the forest to preserve it for future generations.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/historic-buildings-places/blue-gum-forest>

Any increase in volume of traffic along the Grose Valley has the potential to have an impact on the area's conservation values and, in particular, on those of us who enjoy bushwalking and other outdoor activities. That impact needs to be managed so that it is minimised or made virtually non-existent.

This activity will also affect the neighbouring Megalong, Kanimbla and Jamison valleys, areas in which our club regularly conducts activities.



President

On behalf of

Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club Inc

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 1:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

This public land should not be opened up to commercial use, rather it should be incorporated into the national park. The airstrip should be for emergency use only.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mobile contact: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 9:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED]

I have been resident in Blackheath for nearly three years now. One of the things that I love most about where I live is the fact that there is not much noise pollution, the silence is literally golden to me. So I am writing to state my objection to the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. How anyone can think that it is a sensible idea to lease a part of crown land to a private concern so they can make some profit from a noise polluting, air quality polluting, petroleum based enterprise is just beyond me. I am quite literally flabbergasted that in this day and age, someone thought it a great idea to put profit before people and the environment in this way.

We live in a WORLD HERITAGE listed area, that literally millions of people flock to every year, to find a sense of connection to nature, to hear the wind and the birds and waterfalls and to experience the very essence of what it is like to be free and wild, something we should all be able to do when we need to, an antidote to the constant drone of technology and engines EVERYWHERE ELSE, whether on the road or in the sky. The experience of having a truly genuine sense of solitude and peace anywhere in the mountains will be devastated if we allow more aircraft to be taking off and landing in Katoomba. There is nothing worse than trying to escape it all and going for a bush walk and hearing planes roaring or droning overhead. Allowing this lease so a tiny minority of people can obtrusively invade and diminish the experience of millions of other people is WRONG.

The airstrip should be incorporated into the WORLD HERITAGE national park to protect it from this and further grubby, little grasps at greed and the airstrip kept for emergencies only, as it has been. We should be doing everything in our power to make sure that this place is protected for future generations to appreciate as we have been privileged enough to do so.

Just because we can commercialise everything it does not mean that we should, there are thousands of good people living here in the mountains who are striving to make this a better place to live with a sense of community and belonging, a friendly place to be, which is also a reason why millions of people visit here every year, pouring millions of dollars into the coffers. To stamp all over those people in an effort to make some sordid financial gain is just wrong, distasteful, cheap and absolutely not a fair go. In fact when I really think about it, I find it disgusting.

And the fact that the company are keeping quiet about the flight paths and the numbers of flights speaks volumes about their intentions. Trying to deceive us from the outset and the fact that they are churning out the spin and claiming to be environmentally friendly by planting lots of trees whilst they are going to be burning fossil fuel and polluting our environment is kidding no one. They are not in it for a love of the environment, they are in it for the profit, without which, they would not be here.

I just hope that you can see sense and see what an awful idea this really is at heart. In a age of environmental desperation, more burning of fossil fuels and more noise pollution and more air pollution is

not something we should be allowing in our National Parks, they are National Parks for a good reason and this flies in the face of reason.

Regards,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 4:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your Ref. 602686 No to Fly blue.

No commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield because there is no control into the future about where and how often .

The thumping noise from a helicopter at 1000 Ft. will gradually destroy what the blue mountains is all about. The tranquility of nature.

Current tourist industry will decline. Fly blue selfishly do not care about Tourism at ground level for the average people who cannot afford them.

They chase the international dollar.

This airfield can be supported as part of the National Park..

There are government funds available for that purpose.

Fire fighting helicopters do not need expensive infrastructure.

It will be sufficient for Emergency use and Bush fire operations.

The local fixed wing club must rely upon user pays support. as it now does.

Too much is unknown about how much the noise will impact Flore and fauna over time.

Community participation has been extremely inadequate.

No attempt at providing an Environmental Impact Statement.

Only deceitful non disclosure by Fly Blue , therefore great suspicion about the real backers behind this proposal and there commercial motivation.

Max. profit and then more of the same when the lease is sold on.

No realistic ongoing control. Every time they break the regulations

" Sorry but it was a safety issue"

You must simply say NO to avoid Big trouble from the Mountain

Community and certain legal and media action which will investigate the history of the Larsons including with whom they worked and there indifference to the impact of past actions upon others.

The truth will come out.

Yours Truly

The seekers of silence who got here first.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is [REDACTED].

I am currently vice president of the [REDACTED].

I served with [REDACTED] We saw a great deal of action as a result I have PTSD.

If I hear a loud bang with no warning I go into shock, and even more the sound of helicopters puts me immediately on duty. Hair on the back of the neck, standing up! Also on the arms with a haunting sense of expectation.

The proposed flying of helicopters in our area would be a disaster for myself and my wife. We live on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] next to the National Park. My wife searched for years to find a quiet peaceful place to live. Our current location serves this desire.

Because of my condition I sleep in later than the average and an early morning disturbance would not start my day well. I hope there is serious consideration being put to the proposal for the helicopters.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 1:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference No 602686 - Proposed commercial development of the Katoomba Airfield

Greetings,

I write to express my concerns about the old airfield at Medlow Bath being considered for the future use as a commercial airfield.

However in expressing my concerns about such a proposal becoming a reality I do believe that a working airstrip should be maintained for emergency services.

The noise we already experience from low flying helicopters when they are in the area, gives us as residents, a firsthand experience of what it is like having a helicopter flying over, and in close proximity to residences. It's dreadful.

Please reconsider granting the transfer of this land for commercial purposes.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 11:44 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airport

Flag Status: Flagged

Subject:- 602686 Lease of Katoomba Airfield, Blue Mountains.

To Department of Industry

Dear sir or Madam,

I would like to express my concern to the proposed leasing of Katoomba Airfield to a company whose activities are to include tourist helicopter flights over the World Heritage area.

My main concern is noise pollution and the impact of these flights, on residents, tourists and wildlife. Even perceptions of noise nuisance, pollution and safety, changes when helicopter flights over the Blue Mountains move from emergencies and rescues, to recreational flights.

These flights would degrade the Blue Mountains, an area of outstanding natural beauty and a unique UNESCO World Heritage area. Continue with incremental degrades of the Blue Mountains and there will be no World Heritage area just west of Sydney.

Yours respectfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 6:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686 - Katoomba Airfield proposed future use

Dear Sir/madam

Re: Katoomba Airfield (Ref No. 602686)

I wish to submit my objection to the proposed future commercial use of Katoomba Airfield for activities including helicopter joy flights. I outline my reasons below.

- A commercial lease of this particular public land which is within the World Heritage Area threatens its integrity;
- Public land should not be given away for private profit;
- Possible future commercial leases may be negotiated behind closed doors;
- A 2019 ecological study by BMRM Ecological Surveys undertaken adjacent to the site found that aircraft activity will negatively impact the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains and the many other bird species inhabiting the bushland surrounding the airfield and
- The noise created by helicopters which reverberates around the valleys (emergency helicopters are acceptable).

I strongly support the following:

- The transferring of the Katoomba Airfield to the National Park to protect it for future generations and
- The continued use of Katoomba Airfield for emergency aircraft operations e.g. medical evacuation helicopters and RFS fire fighting operations.

I trust you will seriously consider my submission, considering the negative impact of commercial use of the airfield to Blue Mountains residents, the surrounding World Heritage Area and also the native fauna in the area in making your decision.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

I object to the degradation of the blue mountains wilderness and world heritage national park from helicopter transport and/or joy flights!

As a walker using these area's natural splendour helicopter joy flights noise would ruin the unique wilderness experience.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:08 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; mark.maloney@crowland.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Commercial operation of Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to outline my objection to the commercial lease that is being considered for Katoomba airfield. I don't believe the community or environmental context of the Blue Mountains is at all suited to such an operation and the serious consideration of this to me is simply ludicrous in the current global climate (no pun intended.)

I have lived in the Blue mountains for the past six years my partner and I are home owners near [REDACTED]

Within the last two years I have noticed an increase in the number of Helicopters flying overhead in our vicinity. The thought that this is without the potential additive of a commercial operation is frankly scary.

The increased level of noise pollution particular in our own back yard would be immense.

We brought into this community because of the natural and peaceful environment and ideals that a place like Blackheath and the upper mountains, stands for and what it has built the back bone of its tourist industry on over the years.

Is that idea just to be cast aside for the economic gain of a few?

I work in the tourism industry up here and I see first hand the hundreds of people who come here to experience the serenity of this already highly accessible landscape.

Surely you do not need a helicopter ride to be able to drink in our glorious views from hundreds of view points drive-able within minutes.

I have witnessed first hand the horror of commercial Helicopter rides in Milford New Zealand. Hardly an hour goes by down then in the summer months with out the insistent drone of a Helicopter. Life is already busy and nosiey. We need to hold on to our bastions of peace where we can.

The Blue Mountains is also home to a world class paragliding/gliding site. The flight paths over the Shipley plateau indicated will immediately shut down the airspace for this activity. The Blue mountains is also home to world class rock climbs and canyons and is visited every weekend by hundreds of climbers and canyoners and through out the year from countless international travelers.

As a World Heritage area we should be setting the standards for eco-tourism.

Now more than ever, people are feeling the growing need to reconnect with the natural environment. This kind of operation heavily detracts from peoples ability to do this and encourages quite the opposite.

This is a National park dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment. We should be looking to ways to minimise pollution not add to it.

Katoomba airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains national park and used only as an emergency airfield.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 7:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 (Proposed lease Katoomba airfield)

To whom it may concern

I was deeply saddened and concerned to hear of the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator.

This will no doubt have a very negative and disruptive effect on Dhamma Bhumi, the Vipassana meditation centre.

The meditation centre is where people are either introduced to the meditation practice or retreat to for peace and tranquillity. Vipassana is a practice of quietening the mind whilst becoming sensitive to the environment within your body and surrounding you. The idea of aircraft randomly disrupting the silence during this physically and emotionally difficult process is upsetting. It would likely make it impossible for some to continue let alone progress and benefit from the practice.

Vipassana has helped me and others I know through some very difficult times, it is why a once suicidal friend of mine is still alive, it is why thousands of people around the world are happy and good decent people who spread love through their community. It is a source of true happiness and mental maturity. It is an ancient practice.

The benefits of the centres that exist go beyond what any person involved in the decision making process regarding the proposed lease could ever comprehend without having been to a centre before.

There will no doubt be just a handful of people who make the decision and I hope they each personally recognise and understand the gravity their decision will have.

I ask that they very seriously consider the benefits of the existing centre which has helped thousands of students, many with mental health issues, many as their last step to fighting emotional battles.

It has helped people of all ages from all backgrounds, it is non-sectarian, it welcomes all walks of life.

I ask that they compare this to the benefits of the land lease which is no doubt purely driven by financial gains.

The blue mountains are sacred and should stay this way.

Dhamma Bhumi has been in operation for 30 years. It has earned its right to the peace and tranquillity of the land on which it resides.

Thank you



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 12:14 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed commercial air flights in Katoomba Airfield.

I believe this part of land should be merged into the Blue Mountains National Park and be considered as part of the World Heritage Area, whereby no commercial flights may operate. The Katoomba area is synonymous as being part of the Blue Mountains.

I urge you to consider the environmental impacts commercial air flights will have on the area, including on the native flora and fauna. Think of the added toxic air pollution, added garbage and waste. If this paves the way for future commercial development in the area, where do we draw the line and say this is okay but this isn't - none of it should be okay.

Furthermore, commercial air flights will disturb the peace and tranquility of the area, including where the Dhamma Bhumi centre is located. Participants of the centre willfully decide to be away from the noise pollution and distractions of everyday life, but commercial helicopter flights will jeopardise that. Think of it on par as constantly hearing emergency service sirens right outside your window when you're trying to sleep at night. Another thing will be the lack of privacy for the participants at the centre as well, it will feel like they are being observed from the distance.

Please keep Katoomba air flight free from commercialisation and do your bit for the environment and the people who are happy to enjoy it from the ground.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2019 9:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref no 602686

I object to Katoomba airfield being used for private commercial use for the following reasons:

1. It is public crown land therefore it should not be allowed to be used for private commercial profit.
2. It is surrounded by National Park and is there for the purpose of park protection and for emergencies requiring an airfield only.
3. Because it is surrounded by National Park, it should be reclaimed by National Parks and Wildlife to protect the area from further potential commercial takeover bids
4. Helicopter joyrides over a World Heritage area will compromise the ambience of the National Park creating noise, pollution and visual disharmony. National Parks are places where people go to get back into nature, away from traffic of all kinds.

I hope the department of industry will listen to the residents wishes and stop pushing to do something that is that will be detrimental to the Blue Mountains.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I object to leasing Katoomba Airfield for helicopter joyflights.

I lived in Katoomba until recently but still regularly come to the Mountains for work and leisure. I fully understand the concerns of the local residents who chose to live in this area for peace and quiet of the natural environment. I am evenly concerned for the fragility of the ecosystems affected including the resident and migratory bird populations.

Helicopter flights are noisy. I have witnessed joyflights in other areas of incredible beauty such Uluru and the Kings Canyon in Central Australia and I have always felt they are an intrusion and unjustified disruption to a peaceful scenery and the people who have come to enjoy the tranquillity of these ancient places.

The Blue Mountains are no exception. They are an ancient, timeless place that can only truly be enjoyed in peace and quiet for example when taking in breathtaking views from a lookout above or when walking one of the bush tracks in the valley below. And if you have ears to listen carefully you will be able to hear the calls of birds too many to count. It is hard to imagine for someone who has lived in the mountains for many years and who has come to truly love the natural beauty and wildlife of the Blue Mountains, that this should be put at risk by noisy joyflights for the comparably few. I feel for the residents of Katoomba in particular who understandably feel threatened by the licensee's proposal.

Commercial helicopter joyflights in my opinion do not have a place in the Blue Mountain, a world heritage listed environment of exceptional beauty and worth protecting in its natural state.

There are many ways and activities to enjoy the Blue Mountains that do not have such a damaging footprint like helicopter joyflights have.

I would like to ask the NSW Government to incorporate the property of Katoomba Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park and maintain it for emergency use.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ph [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield Proposal

I wish to place on record my OBJECTION to the proposal that Crown Land at Katoomba/Medlow Bath (the old airfield) should be leased for commercial purposes.

I believe the land should be transferred to the World Heritage-listed national park which surrounds it. It seems entirely wrong for commercial use to be extended to this piece of land enclosed in this currently listed area.

At the same time it does seem appropriate for a working dirt airstrip to be maintained on this site FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY. Fire and ambulance services should have access to this airfield for emergency service to this important wilderness area.

Aviation tourism through our national park is not wanted. It is bad for our ecology, our flora and fauna, and for the residents who have moved to the area seeking the benefits of a natural environment, which does not include aircraft noise apart from emergency services.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:16 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield - submission

Reference: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield – submission

I object to the issuing of a long term commercial lease over Katoomba Airfield. I support the inclusion of Katoomba Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park, to be managed only as an emergency airfield, with specific funding provided to the NPWS for management.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I think there is already too much aircraft noise overhead from joy flights, and it is rarely policed, so basically it is a free for all to the detriment of the residents of the Blue Mountains and those who visit. The Fly Neighbourly Agreement of 1994 too, was unenforceable and unlikely to be enforceable now. I object to even more unenforced commercial flights being allowed in the area. The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage Park not a playground. Aircraft noise impacts on animals as well as people. The allowance of yet more aircraft will have adverse effects on the environment, flora and fauna, for example on migrating flocks of birds. Tourists on the ground have come to the Mountains for peace and quiet, for a picnic or bushwalking. Why should these people along with residents be subjected to unnecessary aircraft noise for the sake of a handful of tourists who can splash a bit of money around to see it from the air, and operators cashing in on the popularity of the area?

Previous use of the airfield for joy flights was heavily opposed by the community and the same applies now. This is a sensitive and valuable area appreciated by those who live here, and those who enjoy nature activities such as bushwalking. The Department should not be pandering to private operators at the expense of the broader community of the Blue Mountains.

In two previous assessments in 2000 and 2008 it was concluded that the land should not be privately leased but should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and used for emergency and bushfire operations only. This was supported by the Blue Mountains City Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Consultation with the community of the Blue Mountains for this new proposal has been totally inadequate. It appears the department has instead been promoting the proposal, for example supporting the operators' wishy-washy "green" arguments. There is nothing "green" about increased commercial flights over a national park and shame on the department for instituting a process which appears to favour the lease operators. Listen to the people of the Blue Mountains! The parcel of land needs to be considered not in isolation but within the wider area ie the Blue Mountains National Park and beyond.

1. I object to any commercial lease being given for this public land.
2. This land should be part of the national park, cared for by the NPWS.
3. The airfield should be for emergency use only.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Both members of our household are vehemently against the lease granted to operate tourism flights from Katoomba (Medlow Bath) Airfield. Like many others, we moved from Sydney to the Blue Mountains (in 2010) specifically to get away from noise and pollution. The proposed use of Katoomba Airfield will have a devastating impact on our daily lives, and it should never have been granted.

Furthermore, I have been informed that the person to whom this lease has been granted worked, in the past, at a government department managing land and its uses. This is a factor that warrants further investigation, and, if proven true, appears to be an alarming case of nepotism - or even worse.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email sent using Optus Webmail

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposal to use the Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes, in particular tourism flights over or near the Blue Mountains National Park/World Heritage Area.

It is my belief, and the belief of many, that the Blue Mountains is an area we live in and most visit due to the peace and serenity of the environment and the absence in the most part of noise. I live in Blackheath and do have to put up with the noise of helicopters flying to and from of the National Park helipad in Govetts leap Road but I understand that in emergencies this has to happen. I believe the airfield at Medlow Bath should also be used for this purpose only and not for commercial ventures. Commercial flights will reduce the amenity of residents, lower property values and diminish tourism overall which will then reduce employment opportunities.

A National Park is not a normal tourism site. It is a special place, designated as a National Park for quite specific reasons often related to significant vegetation and animal/bird habitat. It is not a theme park to be cruised around or over via a tram or in this case a helicopter or light aircraft.

It is also an location where due to the National Park covering such a large area, the population lives in a narrow band along ridge lines and that is where the helicopters and/or light aircraft would have to fly over should they not be permitted (understandably) to fly over the National Park.

The Katoomba Airfield should not be used by private organisations but should be taken under the control of the State Government to be used for emergency purposes and National Park maintenance only.

Yours faithfully,

Bob Colman

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref 602686

As a long term resident of [REDACTED], nearby the beautiful Grose Valley in our World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, I wish to lodge the strongest objection to the ridiculous notion of granting of a long term commercial lease of Katoomba airport for aviation tourism - possibly including helicopter rides.

The Blue Mountains is a wonderful asset - one of its key features is beauty accompanied by tranquility. This tranquility would be shattered if frequent helicopter flights were to be allowed for commercial purposes. In Blackheath we already experience a significant amount of helicopter traffic - in most cases operated by either the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Rural Fire Service or emergency rescue service. Naturally these are all very necessary and therefore acceptable. But an increase in the number of flights purely for tourism and commercial gain should be out of the question.

In order to protect this Crown Land from forever from any form the of commercial exploitation I suggest that it become part of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Logically it would be preferable to keep th E existing dirt strip for emergency use

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 3:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF:602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived in the vicinity of the airfield for over 20 years now and at first I did not feel the need to object to this proposal as when it was in operation in the past it had minimal impact on our environment and my own amenity. However, people and the nature of tourism has changed and the fact that this may be used for sight seeing and shuttling tourists back and forth really does change my outlook.

Firstly, we do not know that the conditions imposed will be policed and that the claims made by the applicants will be adhered to.

Secondly, the old usage was minimal and not used for a generation of profit. As this proposal is to generate a profit, the boundaries are always pushed and broken when people feel the pinch or see a rainbow and I can only see usage continually increase and for tourists to get that wonderful view, pilots will fly low over the ridges and valleys without any consideration of people not visible to the aircraft above.

Thirdly, it has lain dormant for so long now that people are used to what we have and in the light of not knowing where the Western Syney Airport flight paths will go, this could add another layer of noise to the residents, tourists and animals currently living in peace.

Fourthly, I see no benefit to the local population other than to the owners and perhaps an accommodation venue.

Fifthly, it is likely that passengers arriving to the mountains by plane will wish to be transported to Katoomba and add to traffic on the single lane highway.

Sixthly, I feel it should certainly remain an airstrip that can be used for emergencies and for National Parks purposes so it should be transferred to the national Parks portfolio.

Lastly, and probably most importantly, it is so damned close to our water supply and catchment that it is not worth the risk.

Please reject this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow airfield

Hello.

I have no objection to the airfield as such. The occasional light plane and it's very important use in emergencies. However the commercial use for tourism is a step to far. It would increase the noise (especially helicopters) in the local area and in the very important national park adjacent to the field. I believe a lot of people live and visit Medlow Bath for the reasonable quiet ambience.

The other fact that comes into play, is the increase in traffic that would be a consequence of expansion. This again would decrease the amenity of the local area and put more pressure on an already inadequate road. A law suit just waiting to happen.

In a fire prone area at the end of the one and only road, any expansion in such a situation defies logic.

Hoping that the rights of local wellbeing transcend the momentary gratification of the passing throng.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:49 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number LX 602686

Dear Minister

I am dismayed to hear the government is considering letting the Katoomba Airfield be used for private profit at the expense of the local community and the one million plus visitors to the Blue Mountains.

I object to any commercial lease for this public land. The proposed business will be elitist and will contribute financially only to the owners. The noise will echo up and down the valley ruining the beauty for everyone who visits and the people who live here.

To consider a commercial lease is to underestimate entirely the contribution peaceful enjoyment in nature makes to humans. More and more people are escaping the noise, pollution and pressure of Sydney; either permanently or over the weekend. Commercial helicopter flights over the mountains will ruin this for everyone.

This land will be better utilised and preserved if it were added to the national park . In my view this airfield should only be used for emergency purposes such as rescue and fire fighting.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 6:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX 602686

Hello,

As a resident of the upper Blue Mts. I **DO NOT** want the commercial lease to run scenic helicopter flights out of a public-owned airstrip in a World-heritage Area!!! I only want the Katoomba Airfield to be incorporated into the National park **for use in emergencies only.**

We **must** protect our towns, our economy, our fresh air , tranquility of our Australian World-heritage Area from helicopter noises and pollution. Please help us to protect our unique World-heritage Area, thank you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo7 Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:15 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: David
Subject: Reference: 602686 - Submission re Katoomba airport lease

Dear Sir or Madam

I am making a submission regarding the lease of Katoomba airport on behalf of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] who are also copied to this email. [REDACTED] are currently traveling and have sporadic access to emails.

The authorisation by email follows, then the submission.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2019 at 6:23 PM
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] Katoomba Airfield Lease Proposal
To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]
I have no problem with you adding [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED] to a submission of your creation if that helps. I trust you would have the relevant info to submit.

Unfortunately I am not in a position to do anything else from here.
Both [REDACTED] and I signed a petition before we left.
Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone
----- End of Forwarded message -----

Mark Maloney
Projects Manager,
NSW Department of Industry – Crown Lands and Water
PO Box 2155, Dangar, NSW 2309
email: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
04 August 2019

We, [REDACTED], oppose the proposal to grant a lease for the commercial operation and development of the Katoomba airfield, on land which is within the Blue Mountains National Park.

1. Operating an airport (heavy polluting industry) on a for-profit basis has no place on public land which is located in a World Heritage Site. The land should be returned to the National Park.

2. Aircraft are noisy. The topography of the Mountains will amplify this noise. We can already hear helicopters landing and taking off from 4 km away. The refurbishment of one the runway will bring airplanes in addition to the helicopters. We moved to the Blue Mountains to enjoy the peace and quiet.

3. With helicopters and airplanes flying about, there is a risk to our privacy. The fly neighbourly agreements are not enforced.

4. the FlyBlue Management directors have no experience running an airport. Being a helicopter pilot is not enough. No noise assessment, no risk assessment, no environmental impact statement are available to the public, suggesting that the financial interests outweigh environmental and community interests.

We would like to see the land returned to National Parks.

Sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 11:57 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Commercial Airfield Strip on crown land - Katoomba

Importance: High

Re Commercial Airfield strip on crown land.

A decision to use crown land for such an environmentally invasive, devisive commercial purpose should be put to a public vote: where local Blue Mountains Council members include their policy at the next council elections. Or if at the State level - ditto.

The Department of Industry has clearly lost sight of the wishes of the local residents. The reason why people want to visit the Blue Mountains in the first place, is because of the environmental peace and unspoilt character it enjoys. A declared National park is just that. If you introduce negative commercial presence, aircraft noise, internal combustion engine pollution for no other benefit than state coffers, via lease fees **you are spoiling the very asset that visitors want to see !!**

For 20 years the Great Western Highway was worked to improve traffic flow, accessibility. That work is now complete. **Suddenly now, the improved access is not enough ??**

Do no give way to commercial lobbying, donations to political parties, etc and despoil the natural quiet and environmental peace that you seem willing to sell off.

I deplore your department in even considering such a disgraceful proposition. Do not proceed with it. Environmental groups and local residents will have this issue and DICL executives on the 7:30 report as soon as you can say Jack Robinson.

signed

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 9:00 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I'm writing to oppose the granting of a commercial lease to open the Katoomba Airfield for private and tourist use, especially joy flights.

For the long term benefit of citizens the Blue Mountains Heritage National Park, maintained for the present citizenry and our children, the future beneficiaries, is urgent. It is too valuable to diminish for dubious business practices focused on short-term profit.

Against the advice of several inquiries to lodge the field within the national park and maintain it for use only in emergencies, the government/would-be licensee apparently see an opportunity to make a few bucks. Issuing such a licence would seriously undermine the integrity of the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, as well as the amenity which draws locals, tourists, bushwalkers, and rock climbers from around the world to visit this tranquil country.

Businesses in the Blue Mountains thrive on providing quiet respite for its clients, most of whom come from Sydney. Helicopter joy rides in other districts have destroyed small businesses such as accommodation providers and restaurants. The constant flights create noise pollution.

There are schools, hospitals, religious retreats and residents entitled to a noise free environment in the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park precinct.

Respect for the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park ought not be ignored.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:13 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield because:

1. it will decrease tourism due to more tourists flying in by helicopter from Sydney
2. of the noise generated by the helicopters reverberating along the escarpment line
3. no environmental impact statement is required until after the proposed commercialisation the airfield is approved
4. the 50 year length of the lease ensure permanent damage to the world heritage listing of the Blue Mountains region

regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 4:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir /Madam,

My wife and I have been living in [REDACTED] since 1997, one of the main things which attracted us was peace and tranquility, the natural beauty, somedays you see flocks of black cockatoos flying close to town, these sorts of things draw in tourists.

One of the things we greatly appreciate when returning here after travelling to other places is the peace and silence, which is such a blessing. Silence is golden ! and to threaten the tranquility of thousands for a few visiting tourists flying around in a noisy helicopter is madness. What an absolute loss it will be to have this tranquility threatened. What an absolute shame it will be to lose this.

An alternative maybe to make some very good virtual movies of the prime areas so the tourists can have the same experience without disturbing the harmony of all that live here

I strongly object to a commercial lease and ask that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use only.

Please protect our peace

[REDACTED]

From: cl.enquiries@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 12:06 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: FW: Ref 602686

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 12:11 PM
To: cl.enquiries@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

My wife and I have been living in [REDACTED] since 1997. One of the main things which attracted us to the World Heritage area is it's peace and tranquility, and natural beauty,. The crisp Winter mornings with flocks of migrating Honeyeaters and Silver eyes, Black Cockatoos and even rarer Gang Gangs flocking so close to town, and the beautiful bush walks. These sorts of things are what draw in the majority of tourists.

One of the things we greatly appreciate is the peace, which is such a blessing for visitors who come to immerse themselves in the tranquility and silence. Presently there are multiple retreat Centres and Health Spa's dotted around the Upper Mountains who cater to those seeking peace and healing. Our silence is golden and we have a priceless gem which is being threatened for a few dollars. To risk the tranquility of the environment for these few visiting tourists flying around in their noisy helicopters is really madness. What an absolute shame it will be to lose this peaceful environment and potentially our World Heritage status. An alternative would be to make some very good quality 3D virtual reality movies of the prime areas so the tourists can fully experience arial vistas. These could be screened across the mountains at various venues, which would spread the economic benefit across local enterprises. We have the technology to produce these without disturbing the harmony of all that live here.

We strongly object to a commercial lease and ask that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use only. The lack of information that has been so disrespectful to our community and greatly underestimates the passion that this community holds for it's natural spaces.

We implorer you to advocate on our communities behalf to protect our beautiful natural environment. In years to come people will flock to the Blue Mountains specifically to escape the ever increasing noise and stresses in built up areas where people are unable to protect their urban spaces. We must protect this for our future generations and the native creatures who make our home so special.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 10:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Objection Letter

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am so very disappointed to hear of the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield. The Blue Mountains are a place of peace and serenity, where people and nature can get away from the very development your office seems to support. We need to protect the few spaces in nature that we have left that are like this. Additionally, a world renown Vipassana meditation centre is located under the proposed flight path. This proposal would completely destroy years of hard work in developing this centre which provides so much to so many people.

Please, please stop the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield. Our generation and the ones to come will thank you for it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 1:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Katoomba Airfield Community Group; bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Opposition for commercial helicopter flight license LX 602686 operating from Katoomba

Dear Crown Lands Committee,

My family and I are residents of Wentworth Falls in the Blue Mountains. We are opposed to commercial helicopter tourism in the mountains. This is public land. The commercial tourist flight proposal provides little benefit for the public. It is better to remain as an occasional emergency airfield rather than a disruptive commercial airfield.

In the past six months, we have had a taste of occasional test helicopter flights. We have become increasingly concerned that a license has been granted to operate a tourist helicopter flight business from Katoomba airport. We are mostly concerned because our lives, the sensitive ecology and existing tourism in the mountains are being disrupted by the specter of tourist helicopter flights over the escarpment.

Tourism is important for the local economy. But these flights do not add to the greater benefit of local people or existing tourism operations. This disruption will not contribute to the long-term sustainability of tourism in this region.

Birdlife and the diversity of species make the mountains a very special place. Such beauty and diversity can be observed by a tourist on foot, by wheels or on-line. Helicopter flights will create enormous disruption to the living ecology of the mountains and contribute little to sustain the community.

We cannot see how such a 'thin' business proposal has gained traction in State Government when it is a direct conflict with historic State and Federal Government investment in the region.

I suspect the helicopter operators are well-aware of their weak business case. I'd like to offer them an alternative that helps make aerial perspectives available to tourists.

I would encourage them to invest in Virtual Reality. The State Government can direct them to its Arts agency, Create NSW who are developing VR in the digital economy. VR is a very sustainable and potentially profitable business. It would give local tourists an immersive experience. And could be tied in with existing business like the Edge 120° cinema. It would also enable local artists and technicians like MTNS MADE to make a living.

Constant commercial chopper noise pollution will clearly degrade the substantial investment made in this region by State and Federal Governments. It will disrupt of wild-life and degrade human well-being. It cannot benefit the region.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 1:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Medlow Bath - Reference No:602686

My name is [REDACTED] and my address is [REDACTED] Medlow Bath. I live on the direct route to the Airfield.

I wish to register my objection and say NO to the granting of a commercial lease at Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath.

I have lived at this address for almost [REDACTED] and have directly experienced commercial flights of both helicopter and fixed wing aircraft over and around my home. The continual joy flights over my home and surrounds have caused untold annoyance and distress to me and the animals. The 'fly neighbourly policy' is a joke and not policed by anyone and so is not worth the paper it is written on.

I have also experienced the very much increased road traffic during these commercial leases as well as when there has been emergency use of the Airfield. Very rarely is the 50kph speed limit adhered to past my home or in the village generally. The transportation of dangerous fuels past my home on narrow roads is a direct threat to my well- being.

I totally reject the idea that public land be used for commercial purposes. The Airfield should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever. I do support the Airfield being used for emergency use only and it being incorporated into the National Park.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

- Good evening,

I would like to object to Katoomba airfield being operated on a commercial basis.

I feel that my quality of life, living in Medlow Bath, and other residents of the Blue Mountains, will be greatly impacted by Katoomba airfield operating as a commercial venture.

There will be increased noise from helicopters and light fixed wing planes, flying in and out of the airfield. We are already experiencing helicopters flying low over our home and I have seen at least one large helicopter flying in circles over Medlow Bath and out over the escarpment..

There will be increased traffic using our local roads travelling to and from the airfield. Railway Parade in Medlow Bath, is barely wide enough for two cars to pass in some places. In addition to this, Grand Canyon Road has already fallen into disrepair, and requires significant investment to return this to a suitable level to allow cars to travel on it.

There will be an increased number of tourists visiting the Blue Mountains to access the commercial flights. Tourism is already impacting on many mountains villages, making it difficult for local residents to find parking and being affected by long traffic queues at the weekends.

There will be an increased risk of plane and helicopter accidents which could start bush fires in hard to access places.

Increased pollution is another concern. The airfield is not far from Medlow Lake which is our local water supply.

The impact on wildlife, particularly birds, which would be affected by increased noise levels is another worry.

There will be an impact on the beauty and peace of the natural environment of the Blue Mountains which tourists want to experience and locals want to preserve.

I would like to see Katoomba airfield purely maintained for the use of emergency services only and for the safe landing of aircraft in the event of an emergency.

I would like to see the airfield maintained by National Parks and if necessary for the government to allocate extra funding.

I would like the local Aboriginal people to be consulted about the use of the land and to investigate whether they would have a claim on the land. I believe that a claim has been made previously.

[REDACTED]

•

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 7:11 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 concerns

Hello,

I am writing to place my concern and protest about the proposed airfield upgrade to the Katoomba site. The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage site and one of the key destinations for Australian and International tourists. Any development of this site with increase in helicopters and aircraft traffic will seriously damage the pristine environment of the bushland where thousands of people chose to come to enjoy the peace and tranquility of the Blue Mountains.

As a concerned Blue Mountains person I object to the proposal and think the airfield should, on such an important site be added to the National Park and only used as an emergency airfield. The noise of helicopters is in every way not in line with the protocols of a World Heritage status destination. Helicopter noise is invasive, loud and disturbing to the residents, tourists, business owners and to the environment.

Why should yet another beautiful area of NSW be developed for profit of the few? Over a million people come to the area to enjoy the fact that it is not developed and is as close as one can get to silence just 2 hours from Sydney.

The Blue Mountains is a major draw card for people to enjoy the Australian Bushland and highly discussed and yearned for experience across the world. This will be lost and the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a Wilderness Experience will be damaged Internationally resulting in fewer tourists to the area.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 3:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield ref no LX602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to register my objections to the proposed leasing of Crown land to this commercial enterprise. I have resided in the Blue Mountains for forty –two years. Visitors comment how fortunate we are to live in such an uniquely relatively unspoilt place.

1. I believe the intrinsic value of the Mountains area, for residents and tourists, is due to the ambience of the natural environment.
2. This airfield would create substantial air-traffic noise pollution. Already an increase in low-flying light-planes and helicopters flying over my own home have negatively impacted on my peace.
3. As this is Crown Land it should be used for the benefit of all, not only a few stake-holders. Leave it only for emergency use. Protect it in the World Heritage Park.
4. The development of the site will necessarily impact negatively on the surrounding park.

I hope you will consider the over-all negative impact that such a far-reaching development will have on this magnificent area.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

I am fortunate indeed to have resided in the beautiful Blue Mountains for over 30 years, and I wish the area to remain so.

By allowing the old airfield at Medlow Bath, Crown land, to be used commercially, is too awful to contemplate.

What possible value can it bring to this area? It will fill only the pockets of the company planning aviation tourism, without benefiting local businesses.

Tourists helicoptering in, 30 minutes in the air, and out again, meanwhile disturbing not only the peace of the local residents, but the wildlife that inhabit this wonderful area.

This land should be transferred to the national park and protected.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to voice my concerns, in the expectation that my opinion, and that of countless others, will be considered with respect as important decisions are made.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 10:34 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I wish to strongly object to the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield. This would cause a significant increase in air traffic over what is a World Heritage area. The Blue Mountains are a world famous tourist destination which provides employment and income for many local people. The majority who visit do not do so in order to get on to a plane or helicopter, but rather to actually immerse themselves in the beauty on the ground. These flights would take away from that experience for all everyone other than the couple of people in the flight.

The Blue Mountains also provide a much needed area of respite from city life for many in Sydney. Sydney's proximity to such a large area of unspoiled bush significantly increases this city's livability. Bringing the noise of commercial airplanes (a constant stressor to many living in Sydney) to the mountains would be a huge detractor from the therapeutic value of this place.

Please reconsider and make the decision that would be of benefit to the majority of people, as well as all the non-human residents of the mountains.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 11:51 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686. Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

RE: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield; your reference 602686

During the NSW April 2019 school holidays my husband and I went for a walk along the Grand Canyon Track within the Blue Mountains National Park near Blackheath. According to Google Earth this is less than 1.5 km from Katoomba airfield. During the course of our 2 hour walk I counted 42 people, a mixture of ages and ethnicities. Most of these people seemed to be visitors to the Blue Mountains, i.e. not locals. These were people who had come from other places to enjoy something of the Blue Mountains and would no doubt be adding something to the local economy. If the number of people who were counted on one walk on one day during one two hour period were extrapolated to a whole day and then a whole week it can be argued that over a thousand people may use this one walk in one week of the school holidays. This does not take into account the many others who may do walks on other tracks or merely enjoy the views from and serenity of nearby lookouts.

Noise from aircraft is something people have to endure in Sydney. People come to the Blue Mountains to escape things such aircraft noise. They come to enjoy things that cannot be enjoyed in built up regions and cities such as peace, quite and serenity. It is not something people appreciate within or adjacent to the Blue Mountains National Park. This includes both residents and visitors.

From the website of the lease applicant, Fly Blue, I note that flights will be at least 30 minutes duration but that this does not indicate the number of aircraft movements per hour that may be possible. I also note that the applicant for the lease does "not intend to fly in sensitive and populated areas or over Echo Point, the Three Sisters, Grose Valley and up the Grand Canyon". An intention is not legally binding and the lease applicant was not required to submit flight paths in their lease application. If Fly Blue does not intend to fly over what are some of the most scenic places near to Katoomba airfield where will they fly? Surely Echo Point, the Three Sisters, Grose Valley and up the Grand Canyon are the most desirably scenic places "high-yield" customers might wish to view.

My objections to the proposed development of Katoomba Airfield are that it would have a negative effect on a far greater number of people than it would advantage and as such is inequitable.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 3:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Katoomba airfiled lease

As a long-time resident of the Blue Mountains, I wish to make an objection to the proposal to grant a commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield. The basis of my objections are:

- **I do not support private, profit-making commercial leases being issued over public land.** The public gets no benefit from this and I am concerned that the airfield site could eventually end up in private hands, thus alienating even more public land.
- **Any commercial leaseholder would want to maximize their profit on the investment through maximizing aircraft operations at the site.** I believe that any long term leaseholder would want to take advantage of the magnificent Blue Mountains scenery to make maximum money by running as many 'joy flights' (even if longer than 10 minutes) or other commercial operations as possible. This will amount to fun for some at the cost of noise and visual intrusion/pollution for everyone else.
- **Noise. I absolutely object to the intended and unavoidable introduction of more noise into the Blue Mountains environment through aircraft operations based at the airfield.** I remember when joy flights previously ran out of the Katoomba Airfield in the 1990s and the disruption and noise pollution they caused. My understanding is that they stopped because of the noise that local residents, as well as other mountains' residents and holidaymakers and tourists, experienced. The noise ruined the quiet enjoyment of local residents at their homes, and helicopters buzzing over tourist icons and around the escarpment ruined the experience and quiet appreciation of the mountains for residents, holiday makers and tourists. No doubt the joy flights ruined the wilderness experience for bushwalkers in the national park because of the amplification of the noise in the valleys. Since then, the Greater Blue Mountains has gained status as a World Heritage Area.
- **Impact on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.** I believe the federal government should be involved in considering this proposal because of the impact of aircraft noise on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Becoming a World Heritage Area has attracted international tourists, including bushwalkers, naturalists, canyoners etc, to the Blue Mountains. I believe our reputation as a nature-based tourist destination which recognises and protects the values enshrined by World Heritage listing will be ruined by the impacts of aircraft noise.
- **Noise impacts on native fauna.** What are the impacts of aircraft movement and noise on the native fauna of the World Heritage Area? The Blue Mountains is renowned for its fauna and bird migrations through the region. I do not believe that disruption caused to the native fauna of the region has been considered in the proposal to lease the airfield.

I strongly believe that Katoomba airfield should be incorporated into the national park and maintained for emergency use only. I trust you will listen to the community that will be negatively impacted and reconsider issuing a long-term commercial lease over this site.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 7:44 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield Helicopter Use

Hi,

Having attended one of the meetings led by Department of Industry in Katoomba, I was pleased to hear the public concern, the questioning by educated community members and the answers provided by Department of Industries, although some answers are still to come after further investigation by them.

The Blue Mountains community is objecting to this proposal on valid grounds. We live in an internationally recognised World Heritage Area.

The area is renowned for its wildness, its beauty, fabulous bushwalks, diverse fauna and flora, serenity, peace and quiet, clean air and a community who want to protect it for the future. These are also the features which attract our tourists.

If this proposal is given the green light, it guarantees the demise of all of these. It is an environmental disaster in the making and will be frowned upon by the rest of the world, if we allow a private money-making business to reduce the integrity of the area. One business venture to be always present audibly and visually to the community and disturbing the wildlife who depend upon what the Blue Mountains National Park offers to their survival - peace and protection.

The Katoomba Airfield is absolutely necessary for disaster relief in times of bushfire and in my opinion (and that of many others) should be maintained solely as such. It belongs to Crown Lands and I understand that National Parks cannot afford to maintain it. As it is National Parks and the emergency services who need to utilise the location during disasters, why cannot Crown Lands donate it to the Emergency Services or National Parks and the Blue Mountains City Council maintain it? Surely a levy of \$2 per annum onto every household's rates would surely cover annual maintenance.

It should not be used for commercial purposes.

Please do not allow this destructive proposal to go ahead.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airport - ref: 602686

As a long term resident of Blackheath, nearby the beautiful Grose Valley in our World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, I wish to lodge the strongest objection to the ridiculous notion of granting of a long term commercial lease of Katoomba airport for aviation tourism - possibly including helicopter rides.

The Blue Mountains is a wonderful asset - one of its key features is beauty accompanied by tranquility. This tranquility would be shattered if frequent helicopter flights were to be allowed for commercial purposes.

In Blackheath we already experience a significant amount of helicopter traffic - in most cases operated by either the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Rural Fire Service or emergency rescue service. Naturally these are all very necessary and therefore acceptable. But an increase in the number of flights purely for tourism and commercial gain should be out of the question.

In order to protect this Crown Land from forever from any form the of commercial exploitation I suggest that it become part of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Logically it would be preferable to keep th E existing dirt strip for emergency use

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba airfield submissions

Greetings,

My wife and I live in North Katoomba and are very concerned that public land is going to be used for a fifty year lease for a commercial airfield. This site is surrounded by National Park and it should stay as a park. While we have no objections to the emergency use of this airfield we do object to commercial helicopter and light plane flights including 'scenic tours' of the Blue Mountains.

We attended the 'drop in' session at the Hotel Blue and no one could tell us how many flights there will be per day, if there are any limits on size of aircraft and whether or not there will be further development of amenities at the 'new commercial airfield'.

My wife and I retired here for the quiet and the peaceful bush setting. We are horrified that this proposal appears to have been a done deal despite the overwhelming objections of the community without any meaningful consultation or consideration of the impact on a World Heritage listed area that attracts tourist due to its peace and quiet.

We hope that before any final decision by the Minister, the department will make public its report on this matter.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 8:11 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: MEDLOW BATH/KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

I'm writing to oppose the granting of a commercial lease to open the 'Katoomba Airfield' for private and tourist use, especially joy flights.

Having lived in the upper mountains for over 30 years, I have observed the sorry history of how the airfield has been used and abused in the past. Against the advice of several inquiries to lodge the field within the national park and maintain it for use only in emergencies, the government/would-be licensee apparently see an opportunity to make a few bucks.

This move would seriously undermine the integrity of the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, as well as the amenity which draws locals, tourists, bushwalkers, and rock climbers from around the world to visit this beautiful and quiet country. The experience we and they seek is on-the-ground immersion in the unique atmosphere of this currently protected canyon country.

Please don't let the short-term gain of the government and would-be licensee, along with a handful of flying enthusiasts, seriously diminish this special place. Reserve it forever in the National Park and maintain it for the activities that really matter, namely the protection of the park and the local community.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Future of Katoomba Airfield

I am a Blue Mountains resident who spends 2 months of every year visiting and residing at Medlow Bath and wish to voice my protest at the proposal for a lease for Aviation Tourism .

In a general sense, this business would be so out of keeping with the quiet of the surrounds of the National Park and with the reason that most people visit the Blue Mountains . Something is very wrong with the picture of visitors taking in a beautiful view at one of the local lookouts only to be disturbed in the most gross manner by a helicopter flyover. Bush-walkers, backpackers and climbers do leave a small "footprint" on the park but virtually no sound disturbance and surely that's how it should be in a national park. Visitors should be raving about the peace, quiet, wildlife etc not about the disturbance of helicopters being used for a select few.

Home-owners close to the airfield must be so anxious about this proposal and the effect on their lives and the value of their homes . I can see a class action coming on and I would certainly contribute to support it !
Such an unfair proposal for those particularly close to the end of Rutland Rd.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sirs

My sincere apologies for sending six JPEG files individually

My computer could just not handle the old format

Please take the time to print and read this submission
It supports my first email

Many thanks for your patience

Conclusion

We strongly believe that we are the most suitable candidate for this lease. The directors are able to individually offer their considerable professional experience in the areas of aviation, management, construction, architectural and civil engineering.

We have been managing the property for some years now and believe that we are able to put forward the most economically, socially and environmentally viable proposal with the least cost to the tax payers of this State. We understand the importance of the responsibilities that we have inherited with this airfield and we are willing to undertake the expected obligations.

We have first hand experience in many emergency situations at the airfield and understand the importance of the continuing existence of this vital asset to the local community and Australians at large.

Attachments:

1. Shore College letter
2. 176 Air Dispatch Squadron letter
3. Aerial photograph of site
4. Letters of support

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 12:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - NO TO THE COMMERCIAL LEASE

I write in response to learning of the proposed commercial flight operations over the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park.

I am extremely opposed to this proposal for numerous reasons. Firstly, the Blue Mountains National Park is a World Heritage Listed Area, an area marked for future preservation that should remain as unpolluted and as close to its 'natural' self as has always been. It is to be preserved in the most pristine condition possible and putting in a commercial flight operations would be going against this.

Secondly, the noise and air pollution to the surrounding area will not be appreciated. People come to the Blue Mountains for peace and quiet and to find the space to escape from busier areas of Australia. Putting in a commercial flight operations would be going against this.

Additionally, we have not been informed of the flight paths or number of flights or little about the actual operations. It could potentially mean helicopters flying over the more touristy areas i.e. 3 Sisters at low levels which may interfere with the pleasure of seeing such marvels. I personally do not wish to be going on a bush walk with helicopters constantly flying over the canopy and having to hear the constant droning noise of these machines.

Thirdly, commercial flights are at a cost that only a few could afford. This luxury would bring in an elite clientele to the area which may be time sparse. This clientele may subsequently only stay in the Blue Mountains for a limited amount of time and thus not inject additional funds into other commercial enterprises in the mountains such as hotels, restaurants or boutique shops. Additionally, I believe most locals in the Blue Mountains would not be able to use this service as they could not afford it.

Fourthly, I believe that the prior attempt to have a helicopter operation in the area failed. This subsequently proving that on an ongoing basis this tourist service is not viable.

A successful tourist operation such as the Scenic Railway only uses a specific area of the mountains and is not working against an urbanised housing area. It is close to Katoomba Centre/3 Sisters yet does not create congestion, unnecessary noise and is able to bring in more tourists to the area by having the Sculptures at Scenic World associated with it.

Should people wish to have the thrill of seeing the Blue Mountains by air possibly a proposed hot air balloon company may be appropriate. This is a quieter, less pollutant alternative. The operators could even possibly establish a hot air balloon festival luring colourfully shaped balloons and thus even more visitors to the area. I believe it would also bring in a broader range of interested parties from very young children to the elderly and not just an elitist crowd.

Subsequently, I propose that the airfield be used as an emergency facility only and not as a commercial venture.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/Madam

This land, public land, should only be used for matters in the public interest. That would be airlifting the critically injured, search and rescue, etc. This land should not be used for rich tourists to spoil the amenity of this beautiful area. Who wants to come to the area to listen to helicopters buzzing loudly overhead, annoying visitors and upsetting the wildlife. It would be a betrayal of residents and all the visitors who might expect this commercialism on the Gold Coast not in the Blue Mountains. It will result in a dip in visitor numbers which will be detrimental to local business. In this digital world the complaints of noise and disruption will quickly go viral and there goes the reputation of the area.

Are the Blue Mountains for the rich few or for all?

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 10:21 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposal to allow the use of helicopters for commercial purposes on public land and over our beautiful National Park.

Why does the environment always come last?

As a society we need to be more forward thinking.

The area surrounding the National Park should be preserved for future generations.

If this plan goes ahead wildlife will most definitely be impacted and the general ambience of the area will be changed forever.

This is a truly crazy proposal.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom It May Concern, which I suspect is a great number of people !

My name is [REDACTED] and I reside at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My concerns are :

1. What are the operating hours going to be ?
2. How many aircraft are we talking about and at what frequency ?
3. Who will be held responsible for the maintenance of the track leading to the airfield and the increase in traffic flow ?
4. What provisions will there be for removal of rubbish ?
5. What provisions will be in place for possible spillage of fuel to and from the airfield in our sensitive bushland area and the native animals that live in these areas ?
6. Has an impact study been carried out to ascertain the risks on native birds, fish, insects and animals should the airfield proceed ?
7. What about the increase in noise levels to residents and visitors to our area ?
8. Has consideration been made to the possibility of unexpected events such as a bushfire, paragliders/hand gliders going off course, putting them in the flight path, major traffic or other accidents where service and rescue vehicles need to gain access to the track leading to and from the airfield ?

As a resident I moved to the Blue Mountains from the City of Sydney to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, peace and quiet away from a bustling noisy city. I am the owner and rider of horses that are agisted at Shipley and pose the following question. Who will take responsibility if one or more of my horses with a rider on board get frightened from the low flying aircraft, bolt, possibly causing an accident to horse, rider and vehicles ?

The Megalong Valley, Centennial Glen, Shipley and the Kanimbla Valley are full of residents, domestic stock and wild life whose quiet enjoyment of their lifestyle will be impacted by this proposed airfield.
Local Medlow Bath residents, Katoomba, Bell, Lithgow and further afield residents will also be impacted.

To sum up : I am against this airfield and the way in which the operators obtained the lease without local considerations being taken into consideration.

Yours Unhappily,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemoountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to voice my strong objection to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield.

The Blue Mountains are a place of refuge: for Sydneysiders, for visitors from all over the world, for people who live there. People go there because it is wild. People go there because when you stand on the cliff tops looking over the green expanse of the Grose or Jamison Valleys you see nothing but unbroken green. When you walk in them you hear nothing but the wind in the trees, the lyrebirds, and the babbling of streams. Having wilderness right beside a major international city is unique in the world.

In a world that is becoming ever busier, more developed, noisier and more hectic, tranquillity and preservation of nature and wild places will become even more valuable in the years to come.

Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield is not in the interest of the majority. As public land its use should be of benefit to the majority of the public. The number of people who will benefit from commercial flights is much smaller than the number of people who will be disadvantaged. The loss of amenity and a feeling of being in the wild for those visiting, bushwalking or living within the vicinity of the airfield will be ongoing and unavoidable and an invasion of their privacy and rights. The commercialisation is trading economic benefits and an additional entertainment option for people who already have many for a loss of amenity for many.

I believe the Crown land should be transferred to the Blue Mountains National Park. In this way the public amenity of the surrounding areas will be preserved for the public. The airstrip should be preserved for emergency use.

Because the proposed commercialisation is of most concern to locals, you will probably receive submissions predominantly from locals. This does not mean that tourists, both local and overseas, won't have an opinion on commercial helicopter flights, nor that they won't be appalled if they go ahead. Thus the consideration of the proposal to commercialise the airfield should not only take into account who has written, but also the surrounding land use, the reasons people come to the Blue Mountains, and the World Heritage and natural values, and the position of the National Parks & Wildlife Service on the proposal. Not everything should be for sale.

In conclusion, I object strongly to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. The land should be incorporated into the surrounding national park, and kept for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 1:13 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: YKAT

I fully support the upgrading of Katoomba Airfield. It is in a bad state with 2 unusable runways. It will never be a busy airport due to runway limitations and also the weather in the mountains. Thus whilst there may be some helicopter tourist flights they would barely impact on the noise in the area. Already there are 'fly neighbourly procedures' to which responsible operators adhere. There is potential for the airfield to become a good community centre with premises for a flying club, or flying school, vacant grounds for cadet camps etc. All this was in place in the past prior to the new lease, and there were never objections.

The approach for light aircraft from the East is away from any house, and the approach from the west only passes 3-4 properties. Helicopters can land and take off well away from any houses.

YKAT is a great place for emergency landings as it is situated between Bathurst/Orange & Dubbo to Bankstown route. Also vital that the airfield is marinated for the bush fire season when the emergency service can commandeer the field for firefighting equipment.

For the Airfield to remain viable it must be able to attract more traffic and contribute to the local economy and tourism. The claims that there would be helicopter flights ever 20 minutes is spurious and unfounded. There is not a big enough market for such activity. In the future technical advances will also lessen any noise footprints.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of [REDACTED], please accept this letter of support to grant a lease to Derek Larson (Fly Blue) over the Katoomba aerodrome.

[REDACTED] is a helicopter charter business based at [REDACTED] airport and has utilised Katoomba aerodrome for many years. We offer one way and return transfers from Sydney as well as “day trips” in which guests meet a local ground based tour operator to experience the area. During the 17/18 financial year, we conducted 69 flights to/from the Blue Mountains and 74 during the 18/19 financial year. Without access to the aerodrome, there is no where else to land in the Katoomba area.

Derek Larsen and Fly Blue have put together a comprehensive plan that will rejuvenate the aerodrome and have considered the environment, local community and tourism to one of the country’s most sought after destinations. [REDACTED] provides unwavering support towards Fly Blue’s proposal as long as the aerodrome remains accessible to all operators.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Re Commercial Use of Katoomba Airfield.

ATT: Minister Pavey, Minister for Crown Lands

Dear Minister Pavey,

I am writing to express my concern over the possibility that the Katoomba Airfield will be available for commercial lease. As public land situated in the middle of one of Australia's most significant national parks it would be an absolute travesty if this land was made available to a commercial enterprise, which will, almost undoubtedly put profitability before environmental protection. Any commercial activity that this land will be put to, and its attendant noise pollution, will inevitably compromise the integrity of the natural environment and be a disturbance to surrounding townships.

We strongly urge you to put the environment and the wishes of the local people before profit and deny the use of the airfield to commercial interests, keeping it available for emergency use only. We strongly wish to see this public land put back into the national park.

Thank you for taking this submission into consideration.

Regards

[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, in particular the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation on whose land I most frequently work and the Darug and Gundungurra people on whose land I live. I acknowledge that their spiritual connection is unceasing and I pay my respects to their elders past, present and future.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 8:50 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: lobbyists@elections.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference: 602686

To the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,

I sincerely object to the proposal of the use of Katoomba airfield, Medlow Bath, for tourist flights for the following reasons:

Any use of the airfield that will have or is likely to have a significant impact on its World Heritage values would breach the (Commonwealth) Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. It would require a full Environmental Impact study and the approval of the federal Minister for the Environment. No such study has been done, nor any such approval given.

The major impact would be noise, especially from helicopters and low-flying aircraft. This not only affects all those who wish to enjoy the park in all its grandeur and spectacular scenery, but also the wildlife. The park protects a large number of threatened, rare and restricted species. Australian record on extinction is very poor.

The airfield is within 10 kilometres of the townships of Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath, so also of the Centre, all of which would be affected.

The current commercial lease process is in direct contradiction of the land assessments and consultations carried out in the past.

The community engagement policy of the Department has been flawed. Public drop-in sessions have been held, but the rooms were too small, and the public's comments were not recorded as they should have been. The department's submission form is misleading.

The airfield property is zoned E3 (environmental conservation under the Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan) and an aerodrome is not a permitted use.

I propose that the Katoomba Airfield should be merged into National Park as should have happened in 2008. It could still be used for emergency purposes.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: Useof Katoomba Airfield LX602686

Dear Crown Land NSW,

The Grose Valley just below the Katoomba Air Strip, is a place that myself and so very many other folk regualrly enjoy for bushwalking, canyoning, plant research, art projects, bird watching and relaxation. Wonderful memories are made here, in the peaceful environment of the Blue Mountain's National Park. They are places much enjoyed by so many people both alone and together with family and friends.

Today I walked to Lockley's Pylon with a group of friends, and we picniced there along with a with a steady flow of families from the Blue Mountain's and elsewhere. A little further along the escarpment edge a young couple flew their drone. The noise was a little bit irritating, disturbing the quiet whilst we took in this magnificent view, and enjoyed this precious time.

My thoughts are that it would be terribly sad to destroy the wonderful experiences unique landscape like this offers for so many people, for the pleasure of a noisy joy flights, affordable to very few.

In fact if noisy helicopters were to fly in this area I would most certainly drive further west, to find places more peaceful, for my recreation, art and relaxation. I would consider moving to a less developed area also. These thoughts are shared amongst the wonderful friends that I enjoy bush walking with.

Joy flights in this peaceful location would change the area completely - it would be a terrible mistake to allow this to happen.

Thank you of your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:04 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

As a resident of Blackheath in the beautiful Blue Mountains I strongly object to the proposal to lease the Katoomba Airfield to a commercial enterprise for helicopter tourism. Why has the government considered this without proper consultation with the community and full disclosure of the details.

This is a greedy grab for money by the super rich and the government. It would damage the environment and create extreme noise which would be deleterious to the wildlife and residents alike. It would create a severe safety risk to pedestrians and motorists. Increased traffic on the GWH would be hazardous. Sending heavy vehicles onto Station Street, Rutland and Grand Canyon Roads which are totally unsuitable for heavy vehicles is a dangerous prospect. These roads have no footpaths forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. There is no street lighting, they are narrow, have sharp bends, blind crests and overhanging trees. The airfield should be reserved for emergency use and be managed by the National Parks.

We do not need any more tourists who think that they can do whatever they wish in our towns. Already they are swarming all over the place. It is unsafe to drive on our local roads because tourists are standing in the middle of them taking photos!

What are you doing to the World Heritage Status of the Blue Mountains National Park with this proposal and the proposal to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall?

Do not wreck my environment,
Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 9:01 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

To who it may concern:

This email is in support of the reopening and proposed upgrade for Katoomba Airfield and am fully in support of FlyBlues proposal as outlined.

The route over the Blue Mountains to Lithgow is problematical but is the only direct means for an aircraft to access the west from the Sydney Basin. While practical it is dangerous but is the only space in the area that is known as "tiger country" as in the event of an emergency there is a chance of crashing close to an area that could provide rescue in a timely manner to you and your passengers.

An airfield at Katoomba could boost economic activity in the area or save lives by providing an option to an aircraft in distress while offering a foothold in the mountain area in the event of a natural disaster.

This proposal has my full support

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 12:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Dear Glen Bunny,
Re # 602686 regarding submissions as objections to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

I am a [REDACTED] who spends much of my leisure time bushwalking in the Grose Valley wilderness area & escarpment trails surrounding my home.

I'm a member of the Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club & have been Canyoning & Rockclimbing in these remote areas for 30 years.

My friends & neighbours choose to live in a beautiful, peaceful area adjacent to a National Park & World Heritage Wilderness area, & many of us are prepared to commute long distances to work.

I object to the proposal to lease the Katoomba Airfield as a commercial venture on the grounds that the aircraft noise will adversely affect the lifestyle of thousands of residents like me who choose to live here for the peace & tranquility of the natural environment.

No one objects to the use of the Airfield for emergencies, such as for Firefighting or Medical Aircraft.

Presently there appears to be no limit on the number of aircraft movements or any indication of the height of the flights above the Grand Canyon or the actual Grose Valley floor.

Leaving these vital details to a "neighbourly agreement" is patently ridiculous, when the submission involves a tiny minority of business shareholders making money at the expense of the peaceful lifestyle of many thousands of Blackheath/Medlow Bath residents & other land users enjoying our National Park.

Please reject the commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:42 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I am strongly opposed to the plan for using this Crown Land for private commercial purposes. In its present state it complements effectively the quiet and peaceful natural character of the adjoining National Park, together with avoiding the proposal's noisy and unnecessary helicopter flight impacts on the widespread residential and commercial areas of the broader Blue Mountains.

Therefor, rather than allowing its use as a commercial tourism-driven and noisy airfield, it should be incorporated with the nearby National Park so that its ongoing contribution to the Blue Mountains heritage values will be assured. That will enhance and support the style of tourism on which the area currently thrives.

I have no objection to an emergency airstrip continuing operation at the site - that is of ongoing value to the Blue Mountains community and also those who visit the Mountains to enjoy their unique attractions.

I trust that you will take account of my reasons for opposing the airfield proposal when deciding on the application.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 10:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No 602686

The future use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath is concerning.

The granting of a commercial lease for the land is totally contrary to the character, the beauty and the charm of the Blue Mountains. As the old airfield is public land, it should be transferred to the National Park that surrounds it, maintained ONLY as a dirt strip for emergency use (e.g. bushfires, lost tourists, etc), and protected forever like the National Park itself.

Residents of the Blue Mountains are already expecting an increase in air traffic with the eventual opening of Sydney's second airport; we don't want more, especially the noise of helicopters and other aviation tourist aircraft. The environment is a National Park - to be enjoyed by residents, visitors and, of course, wildlife in its natural tranquility. And "National" means for the whole of Australia, not just for a commercial interest to intrude and dominate its skies.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:57 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath to a private company for commercial and tourism purposes.

This land should be incorporated into the National Park and a basic airstrip maintained for emergency purposes.

The location of this site is close to many bush walks, canyons and the peaceful enjoyment of the mountains and the experiences people come here for (both residents and tourists) will be lost to noise pollution if the lease is allowed to proceed.

The private lease of this airstrip would be for the benefit of few to the detriment of many.

Please transfer the land to National Parks. I am sure many locals would assist in the maintenance of the airstrip if this is a concern for National Parks to administer - we all benefit from it in times of bush fire and other emergencies.

I hope this submission is taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX602686

Dear Sirs

1. I object to a Commercial Lease for this Public Land.
2. Please put the land into the National Park.
3. Keep the airfield for Emergency Use Only.

Residents of the Upper Blue Mountains already have to cope with:

- a. 24 hour noisy trucks up and down the Mountain;
- b. Being harassed by the same trucks when we don't drive "fast" enough;
- c. Freight train brakes screeching all the way down the Mountain;
- d. The 24 hour aircraft noise we will have to endure when the new Airport operates;
- e. Traffic jams every public holiday when visitors crowd our roads - we have to sit in the same traffic, there are no back roads to go around.

According B.M.Council figures, there were 4.7 million visitors in 2018;

- f. Over half of the year is spent on bush fire watch - Tourist helicopters would make it every day of every year;
- g. Who would pay for the Fire fighters and rescuers if there was an accident - and who pays for the cleanup;
- h. Low flying helicopters send vibrations down to the ground. We live on a huge rock - this enhances and echoes the noise. When a Helicopter flies over my house, the floor vibrates and it hurts my ears.

The Blue Mountains are not just important for New South Wales and Australia, they are WORLD HERITAGE LISTED. A massive task to gain that accreditation. Please, think again. No more noise.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
2nd August 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission to the Commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield LX602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing a submission to you to strongly object to the proposed commercial application of Katoomba Airfield for the purposes of Helicopter joy flights LX602686.

There is nothing “joyful” in the exposure to the ongoing and hideous noise impact of flights nearby to areas of our Blue Mountains National Park and World Heritage Area.

As long term Blue Mountains residents, we highly value these unique ecosystems and the peace and quiet that this precious area provides.

It is also of deep concern the impact on flora and fauna that helicopter movements in and around the Airport will create in regards to noise and air pollution.

Add to that the fear of a human error resulting in an accident and chemical contamination on land or water sources or additional risk of a helicopter crash in a bush fire prone area.

Hence, we would like the state government to incorporate the airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park and for the airfield to be used only for emergency services.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 0

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 1:47 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airport

Dear Scott Mullen

I object to the proposed development of Katoomba airport to allow joy flights on the grounds of unnecessary and very intrusive noise and the pollution these air craft will cause. They are totally alien to the ethos of a World Heritage National Park

When helicopters have to land at Murray Park about 1km from my home, the noise is horrendous and it goes on, sometimes for hours, making it impossible to garden or just relax outside (and even inside it is impossible to escape the incessant drone as the aircraft circle, sometimes for hours.) Given the Wentworth Falls site is used only for emergencies so has infinitely less usage than proposed for the Medlow Bath site, I contend it is totally irresponsible for government to even consider such an invasive change for a hitherto very quiet area. And these helicopters will not just stay in the vicinity of the airport, they will make life unpleasant for homeowners and visitors alike.

Additionally, with part of the Sydney water catchment area so close it seems doubly irresponsible to allow polluting aircraft access to the area. Helicopters and light planes helping out during times of emergency are acceptable, necessary evils. Joy flights to enrich a few business owners at the expense of the wider community are not.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 4:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Hi

I'm writing the email in support of development proposed for Katoomba Airfield I live approximately 2 km from the airfield as the crow flies and do not have a problem with the airfield being used for commercial development.

I believe this publicly owned airfield and has been used for joy flights sense the mid seventies.

There is a new brand of persons trying to stop all development in the mountains these persons have what they want and don't want any one else invading their space.

I'm totally in support of the airfield development.

Thanks [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Medlow Bath Airfield

Dear Department of Industry (Crown Lands) Staff,

It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the future use of a piece of Crown Land in Medlow Bath, NSW. This particular piece of land is about 5 minutes' drive from my house at Blackheath and, as a local resident, it shocks and saddens me to think that this small area of land, located within the Blue Mountains National Park which surrounds this World Heritage-listed area, could become the base for aviation tourism and regular helicopter activity.

I strongly object to this land being used for any kind of commercial activity, particularly activity that will significantly disrupt the peace and quiet of our World Heritage Area. This is an area of natural and cultural significance and should not be used to entertain tourists. The area is filled with native wildlife and vegetation that will be changed forever should commercial activity be allowed to intervene in the serenity of the National Park.

What really needs to occur with this particular stretch of land is that it be transferred to National Park land so that it can be looked after and protected forever. That way, it can be enjoyed by everyone, not just tourists with enough money to go on noisy helicopter joy flights!

I have no objection to the landing strip that is currently in place being maintained for emergency use only. This has been the case for a very long time and should continue in its current format. Because this area is prone to bushfires, it is essential that the emergency landing strip be kept.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

I am very hopeful that reason and common sense will prevail along with consideration for the long-term health and well-being of the area, its residents, and its fauna and flora.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Being a local resident of Katoomba, I am deeply concerned about the impact of noise from aircraft flying over our National Park. Not only will bird life be affected but also the thousands of people who come for the peaceful bush environment that is so unique.

I have lived here for 38 years and in the past few years, since the Western Airport went ahead, there has been a massive increase in large and small aircraft flying over the Upper mountains, and it is already disturbing to go for a half hour bush walk and here at least 4 aircraft.

Helicopters and light aircraft taking off and landing from Katoomba and flying wherever they please really, is a very bad idea for tourism as well , all for the gratification if an elite few and profit for some private company.

I'm hoping common sense will prevail here.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 1:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to commercial development of Katoomba Airfield. Ref No 602686

Dear Sir/madam

I am a [REDACTED] from Katoomba. I have lived and worked in the Blue Mountains for most of my life. I study, paint and promote the wonderful flora and fauna of our local bushland

I would like it to be recorded that I object to the development and commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath.

It should be included in the surrounding national park and kept exclusively for emergency use. No conflict of interest.

The Blue Mountains National Park is World Heritage. National Parks are supposed to be about retaining wild heritage values for the long term.

Our national park is valued by many as a quiet and peaceful escape from encroaching development.

The ultimate attraction of our beautiful lookouts and bushwalks is being able to look over, or immerse ourselves in, untouched, peaceful and unsullied bushland. Repetitive helicopter and small plane joy flights will destroy the wilderness values most people come here for.

In a world of fast accelerating climate change from burning fossil fuels, the last thing we need is fuel-guzzling helicopters - just for fun. We need to move to lower impact ways of doing things.

Please do not put the high end entertainments of the few above the peaceful enjoyment of nature by the many. We are destroying what we love.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. 602686

To whom it may concern

As a Blue Mountain resident living in Blackheath I am very concerned about the proposal for commercial use of the Katoomba airfield.

The airfield is surrounded by a World-Heritage listed National Park that attracts millions of tourists every year for its beauty and serenity. In close proximity are several bushwalks, including the popular Grand Canyon Walk, which is enjoyed by numerous people every day.

A commercial license to a private business would allow commercial flights including helicopter joy flights in this serene, quiet environment and would destroy not only its attractiveness to tourists and bushwalkers but also would impact the residents of surrounding villages greatly by the noise of these aircraft, especially the rotary aircraft.

I strongly object for this public land to be used for commercial purpose, as it will impact on residents as well as tourists seeking to enjoy the tranquillity of the Blue Mountains

A commercial license will impact everyone in the Upper Mountains but a single company running its business out of the airfield

As the airfield is Crown Land and belongs to all Australians it should be transferred to National Park and kept as an emergency airstrip only

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

As a resident of the Blue Mountains National Park I wish to register my objections to the proposed plan to allow a long term lease of the Old Medlow Bath airfield on crown land for aviation tourism and helicopter use.

My concerns include:

1. NOISE FACTOR from takeoff and landing of helicopters which would destroy the peace and tranquility of this World Heritage area.
World Heritage areas on crown land should always be protected.
Bushwalkers would lose the attraction of the peaceful atmosphere offered in the area.
2. Noise factor from low flying aircraft.
3. Disruption of bird migration routes and damage to local native fauna.
4. If the runway is sealed, there will be the ability for light planes to take off and land adding to the noise factor. A working dirt strip should be kept for emergency use only.

With appreciation for your attention.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 6:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re proposed commercial lease of old airfield near Medlow Bath Ref 602686

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my strongest objection to the potential granting of a long term lease for commercial purposes for the old airfield at Medlow Bath.

This is a piece of crown land surrounded on all sides by the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park.

This long term lease would allow for the the use of the land for aviation tourism including helicopter use. Noise from this helicopter use would be deeply disturbing not only for the population of the Blue Mountains but also for the hundreds of thousands of bushwalkers and tourists who come to the Blue Mountains to experience the unique peace and serenity that this world heritage park offers.

In addition I strongly object to this piece of public land being used for commercial purposes. To avoid this ever being an issue again in the future, this land should now be transferred to the national parks and protected for ever, with a working dirt strip kept at the airfield for emergency purposes only.

I ask that you act to preserve the beauty and undisturbed natural environment of this unique area.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission regarding commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

I am writing regarding the proposal for Katoomba Airfield to be leased for use as a site for helicopter flights. I have been a resident of the upper Blue Mountains for 20 years, and, like many others, I moved here to enjoy the natural environment. I am also a psychologist, and am aware of the real benefits to wellbeing that come from being in peaceful, natural environments. I am highly concerned about the impact that helicopter noise will have on the experience of people who live in, and visit the upper Blue Mountains. I have spent a considerable amount of time travelling both in Australia and overseas, including in natural environments with helicopter joy flights. As a walker in the Bungle Bungle National park in WA, I remember the experience of peace that came at the end of the day when the last flight had landed. I also remember the sense of intrusion and anger I felt while climbing in the Alps in France, with helicopters roaring past all day. My own experience is far from unique. A very brief look on google scholar yields numerous research articles on visitor experience and helicopter noise. This research shows that people visit national parks not only for the visual beauty they contain, but also for the peace and quiet, and the for the natural soundscapes. However, visitors to parks report experiencing less natural beauty, peace, and tranquillity in areas where there are helicopters, and consistently rate their experience much less positively if they are exposed to helicopter noise.

The Blue Mountains is the city in a national park – we are proud to be a world heritage listed area. Importantly, we are a community that relies on tourists. The commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield will no doubt provide financial gain for the operators, but this should not come at the expense of the wellbeing and experience of the rest of us, including tourists and those of us who live here. Instead of commercialisation of the airfield, this area should become part of the National Park.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686. Katoomba Airfield

Dear Department of **CROWN LAND**

I write to you as a concerned resident of Blackheath, NSW.

I am very, very concerned about the proposal to grant a long term lease of Katoomba Airfield (located in the next suburb of Medlow Bath) for commercial purposes.

Please note that I strongly object to this proposal.

Katoomba Airfield is a piece of CROWN land located in a world heritage area. It should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever.

A dirt airstrip should be retained for emergency services only, such as for managing bush fires and for supporting emergency evacuations.

Your department's title should indicate to you that you are custodians of Crown Land and therefore you should not enable private commerce at the expense of preserving the beauty of the area.

The airfield is located in the heart of a World Heritage-listed National Park. It would be utter madness to enable the airstrip to be used for commercial purposes. It may indeed contribute to the loss of World Heritage status for the Blue Mountains.

Please listen to the concerns of people like me - the local residents - and **DO NOT** enable a commercial aviation business in this beautiful part of the world.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re Katoomba Airfield. Ref No 602686

REFERENCE 602686: PROPOSED LEASE OF KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to commercialise Katoomba Airfield (and introduce helicopter joy flights).

Having studied the issue I believe that the approach with the most benefit to the broader community interest is to return this Crown land to the national park, to be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service for emergency use only.

Over the years I have travelled many times to the Blue Mountains and to nearby Blackheath and Medlow Bath to enjoy the beautiful scenes from its look-outs and from walks criss-crossing its valley floors. One of the stand out memories of these walks is the fact that all that can be heard is birdsong, trickling creeks and wind in the tops of the forest. This form of serenity is largely absent from our noisy world today.

There is bushland near where I live in the city but its noises include cars on nearby busy highways, people calling, car horns, planes overhead and machinery going full bore. The Blue Mountains are surely unique in that they maintain their serenity while still being quite close to Sydney. The tranquillity they evoke is one of the cornerstone reasons that bushwalkers, bird watchers, day trippers and tourists are drawn to the area.

I am an ardent birdwatcher and lover of our extraordinary natural biodiversity. I would note that the high level of noise generated by helicopters (amplified by the canyons' natural stone amphitheatres) would invariably impact on the flight paths of birds, their feeding, breeding and nesting. The mountains are an important flight path for hundreds of thousands of birds during peak migrations. Many of these birds are already threatened or vulnerable and can be diverted dangerously from their goals by buzzing helicopters. Other animals can be severely impacted when loud, intermittent noise breaks into their daily lives.

Having lived under the flight path in the inner city of Sydney I can also attest to the aviation-related pollution that this proposal would introduce to otherwise pristine forests and streams in this World Heritage listed park.

The proposed introduction of commercial joy flights is yet another example of how we can ruin the very best aspects of our world by constantly seeking a quick profit. I spoke recently with a friend who had just returned from visit to a part of Western Australia with her family. Their day walks at this location in the 'wilderness' were constantly interrupted by helicopters buzzing overhead. She indicated that she would never visit again because the noise ruined their experience. I agree with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) which has noted that:

“Noise within the National Park system often interferes with the very reason visitors go to the National Park - for peace and quiet. Aircraft tends to interfere with natural quiet for visitors within National Parks. Another consideration of aircraft overflight over National Parks is the reduction in enjoyment and appreciation of cultural and historical resources within the National Parks and the reduction of the sounds of nature at the park. Studies have shown helicopter noise in natural settings has resulted in lower ratings of scenic beauty, solitude, tranquillity, freedom, naturalness, and preference, and higher ratings of annoyance.”

Commercial joy flights over the Blue Mountains will also impact greatly on the local community, many of whom moved or retired to Blue Mountains to escape the noise of Sydney. Living in Chatswood we are exposed a number of times a year to helicopter noise with emergency transport of hospital patients and police pursuits being carried out by helicopter. The noise travels for kilometres, is often deafening and is akin to living in a war-zone. Luckily for us, we are only exposed to this half a dozen times a year. I am horrified on behalf of the hundreds of local residents that might face this on a daily-basis.

Please don't squander our World Heritage listed park and the amenity of the communities who surround it.

There should be no commercial lease approved for Katoomba Airfield.

Return the land to the surrounding national park.

Fund the National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage the airstrip for emergency use and not for commercial profit.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: LX602686 - Submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Mr Glen Bunny
Department of Industry and CrownLands

airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr. Bunny,

RE: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I object vehemently to FlyBlue's proposal to operate Katoomba Airfield for scenic flights. I am a Blue Mountains resident that caters to tourists and visitors. Most of my visitors come from Sydney for the weekend, and a smaller proportion come from interstate and overseas. The main reason visitors come to the Blue Mountains is for the sense of peace, tranquility, serenity, and natural majesty.

My anecdotal evidence matches government surveys of the Blue Mountains Tourism Region¹. In fact, tranquility and relaxation has been the trademark of the Blue Mountains since Victorian times when the Blue Mountains became a centre of rejuvenation and health spas. Today, these qualities are becoming increasingly rare and more valued in global recreational and travel markets. Tourists come here to recharge their spirits and they need natural sounds and vistas in which to do that. FlyBlue's proposal threatens those valuable qualities that international and domestic tourists want. If they can't find it here, they will go elsewhere and leave a gaping hole in our regional economy, and Sydney-siders will have lost their nearest place to retreat and recharge.

Tourists' reviews on [TripAdvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com) illustrate the loss of tranquility that is associated with helicopter noise in natural landscapes. For instance:

Uluru, Australia: "The incessant noise of helicopters flying the wealthy over the rock detracted from the magic of this ancient spiritual site of the Aboriginal people of Australia" August 2018

Kings Canyon, Australia: "The visit was however spoilt by the constant noise of helicopters over the canyon. Sometimes two (or three) at the same time. Park management should consider to reduce this audio "pollution"." May

Franz Josef Glacier, New Zealand: 27 reviews that mention "helicopter noise". e.g. "The serenity of the landscape is spoiled by (too many) helicopters. Lot of noise. New Zealand have to think about making the whole country one big theme park for youngsters." December 2016

Waimea Canyon, USA: "And you will hear and see helicopters. Lots of them. A never ending racket that utterly destroys the short lived 'quietest place on earth' reputation. Perhaps once it was, but not anymore. They do not stop. It's a shame. They should have a time limit on aircraft so that one can go up to the canyon and hear nothing but the winds and the birds without having to listen to the never ending helicopter (and private plane) noise." January 2017

Grand Canyon, USA: “Really wish the helicopter tours don't exist. The frequent helicopter noise really ruined the atmosphere.” December 2012

Katoomba Airfield’s location and the proposed flight paths will propagate noise much beyond the flight lines depicted in the proposal. The prevalence of rocky cliffs and canyons in the vicinity will mean that aircraft noise echoes along valleys and cliff lookouts that visitors favour.

Katoomba Airfield is public land. Consistent with the Crown Lands Act 2016, I object to it being used by a private company for private gain:

Excerpt from Crown Lands Act 2016:

1.3 (d) to provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of New South Wales.

Moreover, this public land is surrounded by a World Heritage Area National Park. The impacts of a commercial airfield are antithetical to such a glorious example of natural splendour and threaten the World Heritage status that attracts visitors. Impacts of this proposal range from noise and visual pollution, to the threat posed by refuelling in a remote location surrounded by flammable bushland that is accessible only by a narrow dirt road—a very difficult location to service should a fire or fuel spill occur. Rare and endangered hanging swamps ecosystems occur on the Airfield site and downslope of it, and should a fuel spill occur, both these and two adjacent waterways that feed into the heart of the Grose River bushland would be destroyed.

There are several problems with FlyBlue’s proposal that haven’t allowed a full and exhaustive understanding of their proposal. Firstly, there’s been no information on the number of flights per day, and the time of day that they propose to fly. While FlyBlue has said on community fora that they will establish a Fly Neighbourly Agreement, that will include not flying over popular bushwalking areas like the Grand Canyon and the Grose Valley, the flight maps in their proposal directly contradict this, and show aircraft flying over the Grose Valley, while the Grand Canyon is not in their No Fly Zone.

Unfortunately, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) defines a Fly Neighbourly Agreement (FNA) as “a voluntary code of practice”², with no requirement for monitoring and adherence. Recently, Australia has seen the spectacular failure of self-regulation via the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry. Thus, any FNA will not have public confidence, because there is no independent regulation authority, restrictions, or fines for breaches of the FNA.

The duration of the proposed lease is too long, especially considering the lack of regulation. Furthermore, FlyBlue could on-sell their lease to another commercial entity that doesn’t adhere to the FNA.

The proposed flight paths don’t accurately represent the noise impacts on locals and visitors. A noise intensity map would better help other assess potential aircraft noise to people on the ground. Such a map would take into account the balance of hard surfaces that echo the sound, the lowest aircraft elevation flying levels, typical clouds conditions that might bounce the sound back to the ground, the type of aircrafts, and both the density of residents and visitors at lookouts and on bushwalking tracks.

FlyBlue’s proposed flight paths use local drinking water supplies as landmarks, by flying directly over Cascade Creek Dam and Lake Medlow. Because of their proximity to Katoomba Airfield, and the associated low flying levels of associated aircraft, these local drinking water supplies are likely to be adversely affected by the fallout of aircraft exhaust pollution which will then affect locals and visitors drinking from the reticulated water supply.

The associated effects of commercialising Katoomba Airfield will be seen to benefit a few people who are directly associated with the Airfield at the expense of many established businesses and private residences in the region that rely on the current mix of tourists. Thus, it will divide the Blue Mountains’ community, both economically and socially.

I believe that Katoomba Airfield should be returned to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, in line with several reports that have made such recommendations. For instance, the NSW Government via the Department of

Industry (Crown Lands) has previously carried out many studies of the site, culminating in a recommendation in 2000 that the area be added to the Blue Mountains National Park, with the airfield being used for emergency purposes only.

Returning Katoomba Airfield to the National Park would allow for this public resource to be used for emergency use only, for fire-fighting purposes in the National Park. This is in keeping with the Crown Lands Act 2016, the surrounding land use, the wants of domestic and international visitors, and the majority of local residents.

The Blue Mountains National Park is the result of generations of forward-thinking people that have sought to protect and preserve these natural landscapes by encouraging appropriate developments that are in long-term harmony with landscape. Current visitor numbers and spending are at an all-time high³ and indicate that the Blue Mountains Tourism Region has a world class sustainable tourist industry that services both Australia’s largest city and visitors from further afield. I urge you to act in line with the generations of visionaries and preserve the serenity of the Blue Mountains for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

¹ Destination NSW, 2018, Travel to the Blue Mountains Tourism Region. [https:// www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/blue-mountains-time-series-ye-dec-2018.pdf?x15361](https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/blue-mountains-time-series-ye-dec-2018.pdf?x15361)

² Civil Aviation Safety Authority, 2016, <https://www.casa.gov.au/sites/default/files/arasmm.pdf>

³ Destination NSW, 2018, Travel to the Blue Mountains Tourism Region. [https:// www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/blue-mountains-time-series-ye-dec-2018.pdf?x15361](https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/blue-mountains-time-series-ye-dec-2018.pdf?x15361)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 4:50 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference: 602686 Airfield proposal Katoomba region

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear sir/ madam,
reference: 602686

I oppose the proposed Airfield for the following reasons.

1. Superfluous to needs of local community with very little flow on appreciation of the natural beauty not having loud engines in the air 2. Contrary to local community wishes 3. Degrades established sporting and recreational flying in the area 4. Adds another layer of complexity to mountain flight in an area known for meteorological instability 5. Local fauna and flora endangered by increased mechanical and aural stressors.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 2:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The future of the old airfield at Medlow Bath

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my strongest objection to the potential granting of a long term lease for commercial purposes for the old airfield at Medlow Bath.

This is a piece of crown land surrounded on all sides by the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park.

This long term lease would allow for the the use of the land for aviation tourism including helicopter use. Noise from this helicopter use would be deeply disturbing not only for the population of the Blue Mountains but also for the hundreds of thousands of bushwalkers and tourists who come to the Blue Mountains to experience the unique peace and serenity that this world heritage park offers.

In addition I strongly object to this piece of public land being used for commercial purposes. To avoid this ever being an issue again in the future, this land should now be transferred to the national parks and protected for ever, with a working dirt strip kept at the airfield for emergency purposes only.

I ask that you act to preserve the beauty and undisturbed natural environment of this unique area.

Yours Sincerely

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 6:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Concern over the potential granting of a long term lease for the old airfield at Medlow Bath. Ref. No: 602686

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my concern over the potential granting of a long term lease for the old airfield at Medlow Bath.
This piece of crown land is surrounded on all sides by the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park and commercial helicopter use would be deeply disturbing for the voting population of the Blue Mountains and for the thousands of bushwalkers who come to the Blue Mountains to experience this unique world heritage park.

I strongly object to this piece of crown land being used for commercial purposes. This land should now be transferred to the National Parks and protected for ever, with a working dirt strip kept at the airfield for emergency purposes only.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: (LX 602686) carbon offset proposal

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 5:47 PM
Subject: (LX 602686) carbon offset proposal
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: <katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com>

Dear Sirs/Madams: I am not a mathematician, but I can do some basic arithmetic. I have done a back of envelope calculation on the risible carbon offset proposal by Derek and Floyd Larsen of FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd in regard to their application to run commercial flights from Katoomba airfield, including short trips from Mudgee, from where they operate exclusive pleasure flights.

By my calculations their proposal to plant ONE tree per flight leaving Katoomba airfield is ONE-SIXTIETH of the required offset.

I based my assumptions on a Bell Jetranger helicopter (one pilot and four passengers) and/or a light twin-engine aircraft (carrying four passengers). A helicopter uses about 100 litres of fuel per hour and a small fixed-wing about 19 litres per 100 kms. I made my calculations on a return flight from Katoomba to Mudgee (a return distance of 320kms).

Aviation fuel generates about 2.2kgs of carbon dioxide per litre, making this about 132kgs of carbon dioxide for the return trip. An average tree sequesters about 22kgs of carbon dioxide per year. Dividing 132kgs of carbon dioxide generated by Katoomba-Mudgee return trip by one tree's carbon sequestering capacity (2.2kgs) gives a figure of SIXTY.

FlyBlue Management is offering ONE tree per flight. It needs to offer SIXTY trees per flight to even get within the ballpark of managing carbon dioxide emissions.

I trust this aspect of the Larsens' application will be reviewed.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes or dates.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 11:57 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Brian
Subject: Reference LX 602686 Katoomba airfield.

Hello, I note that an application to improve and run the Katoomba airport is presently being investigated. There seem to me to be overwhelming reasons to take this course rather than lose it forever. Would any of you like to be flying over this area when your aircraft becomes faulty and has to land? No of course not. There is not anywhere else to land in this difficult country. Would any of you like to feel responsible if/when this scenario happens to others? No of course not. For safety and emergency reasons alone this airport should be maintained/improved and kept in operation. What about military use? There fact that a private company appears willing to take this project on is surely a blessing for cash strapped government agencies?

Fire is an ever increasing risk to residents of the Mountains . Fire fighting is now largely done from aircraft. When [and it isn't if]the next major blaze affects the Blue Mountains and lives are lost do you want to be part of the enquiry that asks why there was no airport facility to fight the fire? No of course not.

Tourism is a major earner for this region, a fully operational airport will aid this activity without doubt, to the advantage of the Mountain community and NSW in general. You do need to be responsible and allow this facility to proceed. Please approve it.

I do not doubt that there will be some opposition, there always is, but progress and progressive people overcome and move ahead, especially important in this case with community welfare at stake, you need to be strong in your advocacy of this facility.

REGARDS

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 4:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear staff,

I live in the Blue Mountains because it is a beautiful place and I value clean air, clean water and peace and quiet. I enjoy living in a national park and do not want this compromised or devalued. I do not want to hear or see helicopters, small planes or anything else disturbing the peace and contaminating the air. For these reasons I object to the lease of this public land for commercial purposes. I would like to see this land included the Blue Mountains National Park. Of course, in the interests of the community, the airfield can and should be kept for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au; [REDACTED]
bmcs@bluemountains.org.au; katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: (LX 602686)

Re: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Cc: Trish Doyle, MP; Councillor Mark Greenhill, Mayor, City of Blue Mountains; Blue Mountains Conservation Society; Katoomba Airfield Community Group

I must object to leasing Katoomba Airfield for helicopter joyflights because the areas that would be affected have sensitive ecosystems. I must also object because residents who live near those areas choose to be there for the peace and quiet and they appreciate living close to natural places that should be protected.

Please understand that I have reached this conclusion with regret, having carefully considered the promises of the licensees and the objections of community activists opposing plans for the airfield.

In principle I admire people who aim to bring economic activity to our community in the Blue Mountains. I appreciate the stated intentions of the Katoomba Airfield licensees to care for the natural environment, to set aside areas of the land for community use and to maintain the amenity of residents — while contributing to the local economy. Several months ago, when a Katoomba shopkeeper asked me to sign a petition opposing the licensees' proposal, I declined and said I would need to research this question before forming an opinion.

However it has become clear to me that helicopter noise would have a severe impact on resident and migratory birds and other wildlife. I note that the report "Birds and the Katoomba Airfield", prepared for the Blue Mountains Conservation Society (which I recently joined), says bird species including Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, White-naped Honeyeaters and Silvereyes use the airfield property and nearby areas for their annual migration. This report also says vulnerable species including Gang-gang Cockatoos, Glossy Black Cockatoos and Scarlet Robins live in these areas.

I note that the licensees promise that helicopters would fly no lower than 500 feet above non-residential areas. That is less than 170 metres. Helicopter noise from this height would disrupt the activities of migratory and resident birds — and thereby threaten local populations. This would be exacerbated by helicopter noise echoing through nearby canyons.

I also note the licensees' promise that aircraft may fly no lower than 1,000 feet above residential areas. This is approximately 300 metres. Frequent helicopter noise from this height above private properties would have a severe impact on the amenity of residents who have chosen to live here for peace and quiet and because they enjoy being close to nature. I must also ask whether people who live on more remote properties would have to endure noise helicopter joyflights from 160-170 metres above their homes.

I wish to emphasise that these residents have chosen to live where they do because they enjoy being close to nature. I live 20 to 25 minutes' drive from the main residential, tourist and bushwalking areas of the upper Blue Mountains and I share this enjoyment of nature. We residents assert our firm belief that human beings have a responsibility to be stewards of nature, to care for it and protect it. The clear negative impacts of noise from frequent helicopter joyflights on migratory and resident birds is a direct contradiction to this value of stewardship.

In many such contentious matters, the ultimate question is: what level of impact could be accepted? In other words, can a compromise be negotiated? I regret to say that in this case the answer is no. The sincerity of my regret does not weaken my resolve. The severe negative effects that frequent helicopter joyflight-noise would have on populations of migratory and resident birds and on nature-loving residents is not acceptable.

I must point out my confusion about the licensees' campaign literature. In the frequently asked questions section of flyblue.com.au, the licensees say "FLYBLUE will not be undertaking joy flights over Echo Point, the Three Sisters, Grose Valley, up the Grand Canyon and all residential areas of the Blue Mountains". However I cannot help being confused by screenshots in the "Info pack", downloaded from the link in the top right corner of this website, including these words: "Avoid the crowds and explore Sydney's famous Blue Mountains from the best vantage point — from a chopper! See the Three Sisters, Katoomba, explore the valleys and catchment areas and fly over the iconic areas of the Sydney Harbour." This would clearly bring noise that would disrupt local bird populations and the amenity of residents and tourists.

I am also confused by the licensees citing the regulation in this "Info pack" that aircraft may not fly less than 1,000 feet above residential areas and saying in their website's frequently asked questions section that that their helicopter joyflights would not fly above residential areas at all.

Even if I had misunderstood these screenshots, I remain convinced of the threat to wildlife posed by noise from frequent helicopter joyflights.

Please note that I believe Katoomba Airfield should be maintained in good condition for use in emergencies. Emergency actions are essential. Disruption to wildlife and amenity from emergency flights is unavoidable but occurs less frequently than would disruption from commercial helicopter joyflights.

I would like to ask the NSW Government to incorporate the property of Katoomba Airfield into Blue Mountains National Park and maintain it for emergency use.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

Phone

[Redacted phone number]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:08 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to a private operator. I believe the benefits outlined to the community are minimal, and do not outweigh the negatives, particularly increased aircraft noise over the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The fact there are no caps on aircraft movements indicate there is potential for significant aircraft movements. People who use the Blue Mountains for recreation do so for enjoyment without intrusion, including from noise such as aircraft noise. The small minority who take aircraft charters/scenic flights, will do so to the detriment of the vast majority of people who use the Blue Mountains in a non intrusive and silent manner. I don't think the small economic benefit is justified, considering aircraft will intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of all others using the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

I strongly urge you to reject the proposal to lease Katoomba Airfield to a private operator.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:47 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 MedlowBath airfield lease

To whom it may concern,

The Katoomba airfield is in a strategic place for precautionary landings for light aircraft when flying from the west to the coast.

It would also appear to be an appropriate place for emergency services to operate from in cases of fire or serious accidents with major highways and large residential areas and associated business activity surrounding the field.

The plan displayed by FlyBlue appears to be balanced with emphasis on safe operation and minimal environmental impact for the services provided.

I would therefore support the application for lease by FlyBlue and subsequent restoration of the field and surrounding lands.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ph : [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Submissions group,
I strongly object to the use of Katoomba Airfield as public land for purpose of Commercialisation.

The natural beauty that attracts visitors and is enjoyed by locals cannot be replaced once it is made commercial. I believe that at the least this land should be transferred to National Parks, so the whole community and visitors enjoy the land and green spaces, in its quiet and unique place in our lives.

Commercialisation simply privileges a certain group of people, often who are not caring or engaged with the preservation of the lands beauty and habitat, but whose aim is to exploit and use it for shallow entertainment. In a way allowing commercialisation detracts tourists from coming to the area of the Blue Mountains, rather than encouraging it.

As you will have heard many people local and distant visit this nearby World Heritage area for its serenity, something which adds to all our health. But also the natural habitats health of many species. Come on, we know that biodiversity is required for our future health. When future generations ask, 'why this vital area was/was not preserved', what do you want those generations of people to hear? ... that someone sold out to commercialisation, and that there was once grand forests and an area of natural beauty for all to enjoy, OR 'oh that concreted area was once green fields and bushland adding to the World Heritage area we once had'?

I am a visitor to this area for over 30 years because of its quiet natural beauty, and if that is graded by allowing commercialisation this will detract from my recommendation of the area to others. There are many friends I have made in the area over the years and I know I speak for literally hundreds of people who return again and again here for its quiet serenity, that will be lost if commercialisation is allowed to go ahead. Please do not be swayed by simple money gains. Open this area for the community's care and protection, and add it to care and protection of National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Most of all do not allow joy-riding helicopters to invade the privacy and serenity of this area. We all know that increased traffic to the airfield will in itself change the area, and open it up for possible pollution and degradation.

Yes, if there is a need, then allow a working dirt air strip at the site for emergency use only.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

Please keep Katoomba Airfield in community hands and incorporate it into the Blue Mountains National Park. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park.

It is public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during emergency fire fighting operations. Please keep it available for the benefit of the community rather than licensed to a private operator.

Helicopter noise travels long distances in an acoustically-sensitive environment characterised by cliffs and canyons, potentially affecting all upper Mountains communities.

These flights will increase noise and reduce amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoneers, damage the Blue Mountains experience as a quiet and peaceful escape, and in the long run potentially have a detrimental effect on tourism.

Please do not allow tourist helicopter flights from Katoomba Airfield.

Regards,
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Katoomba Airfield Submission

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my strongest objection to the proposed use of crown land at Mellow Bath/Katoomba for commercial aviation purposes.

Local residents have for years been advocating the return of this crown land to the National Park. The existing dirt airstrip is surrounded by National Park and as such is unsuitable for any commercial development. It needs to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The proposed commercial development of the airfield will have detrimental effects on the local tourism industry. The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within the World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyons
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or “wilderness experience” will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native plant species, including those listed as endangered.

I have particular concerns that a commercial lease of the airfield will result in damage to the nearby rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the asphaltting of the runway.

The proposed commercial development of the airfield will also adversely affect residents’ lifestyle and amenity. Residents in eastern Medlow Bath will bear the brunt of noise pollution from the proposed helicopter operations. However, from past experience of “joy flights” from this location, the noise readily spreads to residents in Evans Lookout Road, Blackheath and North Katoomba which are both less than 2km from the airfield and which will, no doubt, experience fly overs despite the unenforceable fly neighbourly policy.

Finally, I have major concerns about the bureaucratic “process” which has got us to this point. The paralysis of intellect on display here is simply breathtaking. It’s almost unbelievable that someone thought that this

was a good idea. Proposing a commercial lease of crown land situated where it is demonstrates lack of insight, arrogance and complete disdain for the democratic process.

The lease of crown land at Mellow Bath for commercial aviation purposes must not proceed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 2:44 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I fully support the proposal put forward by fly blue. Katoomba airfield holds a special place in my heart, I have been flying since I was 14 and spent time with friends at the airfield growing up.

Katoomba airfield is an asset both to the local aviation community and to the greater blue mountains community. My grand father learnt to fly there and I have Flown there myself in the years preceeding Rods passing and the subsequent loss of access to the airfield for fixed wing aircraft.

I have been a member of local RFS brigades for over 10 years and my father 20 plus years as well, katoomba airfield has been an invaluable asset to our brigades as a place for training and active fire fighting support with aircraft.

The airfield needs to be restored and maintained to a high standard so that fixed wing aircraft can access the only safe location to land between bathurst and bankstown. This will also increase versatility for fire fighting aplication as the RFS also has many fixed wing aircraft which would other wise be restricted because of lack of access.

With out a commercial option to raise the funds to repair and maintain the airfield the local community would have to fit the bill, which without the Larsons has not happened and local council has allowed the airfield to fall into disrepair and a poor state with extremely poor management, becoming a loss of a wonderful community asset.

I support any efforts to improve katoomba airfield and return it to its former glory as a wonderful place for family and community social events and as a place of training for local fire brigades. I pitty those few that believe they are losing their self entitled claim to the blue mountains.

Katoomba airfield has been active for many many years and i hope to see it continue to prosper.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 11:46 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 _ Katoomba airfield

1. I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.
2. This Crown Land should be transferred to the National park and protected forever.
3. Keep a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

I think that opening Katoomba airstrip to anything other than emergency services is a disaster. The suggestion that the operator's proposed improvements to the airstrip will enable its use by emergency services is a distraction. If the SES or Parks need to they can fix the runway.

The only beneficiaries of this proposal are the operators, a few employees and a few service providers. Blue mountains tourism would take a hit as the peace and tranquility visitors seek up here will be lost. Local businesses will lose custom. The few visitors who come for the sightseeing flights aren't coming up here for the weekend. They will mostly be foreigners on tight schedules, arriving by bus (or helicopter) to terrorise the wildlife and annoy the residents then head off to the next "fabulous" thing. Most won't spend any time up here and therefore no money either.

The park could even lose its world heritage status.

Worst of all is the effect on residents. We, and all the bush critters, will suffer a dreadful loss of amenity. best regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 10:39 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern

I strongly object to Katoomba Airfield being used for commercial purposes. This is public land and should remain in public hands.

I want to see this Crown Land transferred to the National Park to be protected forever. The airfield was excised from Blue Mountains National Park in the 1960's under the condition that it be returned in 1988 after lease expiration. In 2000 the then Department of Land and Water Conservation recommended that the land be returned to the National Park estate. I expect this to happen now.

A working dirt strip on the airfield should be kept for emergency use only.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE LIVE, WORK AND DREAM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 10:14 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba / Medlow Bath airport

Code - LX 602686

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to lodge my protest at the idea of turning over the Katoomba / Medlow Bath airport for private use.

There should be no commercial lease granted for the pleasure of a few in the face of the disruption to many.

The Blue mountains should remain a place where people can enjoy the serenity of nature, some refuge from urban life and a place to live in relative peace.

I wholeheartedly support the notion of incorporating the airfield into the National Park and its continued use in emergencies such as bush fires, rescues etc.

I have lived in the mountains for some thirty six years, more than half my life. Also I have fond memories of family trips as a small child and hiking here in my youth.

As a younger man I worked on construction and repairs to various walking tracks in the mountains.

I am a fine artist and have a close affinity with this place and treasure the remaining natural pleasures of the terrain and the bush.

The Blue Mountains should not become some crass, noisy theme park for a handful of people to exploit and dominate for themselves.

I would urge you to consider this, and to preserve what we still have for once lost it is gone forever.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 6:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I can't agree with the use of this airstrip as a commercial operation. It is bad enough that we will most likely have Badhdrys Creek to contend with but this as well with its proposed flight paths will make the area very noisy indeed

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 11:22 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number 602686 Katoomba airfield

Hi,

I strongly object to a commercial lease of the public land that is the Katoomba airfield. Please see below my objections and suggestions what should be done to the Katoomba airfield.

Objections to the commercial lease of Katoomba airfield:

- Commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield will benefit only a few (less than 100 people) and disadvantage more than 10000 residents and visitors to the national park with noise pollution.
- Commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield will disadvantage on a daily basis more than 10000 residents of the upper Blue Mountains mainly in Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath and visitors/hikers to this area and the surrounding National park with noise pollution from low flying helicopters and fixed wing aircrafts.
- How can a commercial lease be considered of the Katoomba airfield without an environmental impact study and its impact on the surrounding UNESCO heritage listed National park ?
- How is a commercially operated Katoomba airfield possible when its parcel of land is completely surrounded by UNESCO heritage listed National park ? Does the UNESCO heritage status prohibit the impact of daily, excessive noise pollution from low level flights to its wildlife and their habitats ?
- Noise pollution from aircrafts using the Katoomba airfield will deter visitors to the upper Blue Mountains. Tourism and associated businesses will suffer as the quietness once enjoyed in the upper Mountains will be gone.

What should happen to the Katoomba airfield:

- The Katoomba airfield land should be included in the UNESCO heritage listed National park that surrounds it.
- Katoomba airfield should be reserved for emergency use only, e.g. fire fighting, rescue.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 5:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 1. OBJECT to any COMMERCIAL lease for this PUBLIC land

Minister Pavey Minister for Crown Lands

My reasons for no commercial use of Crown Lands are:-

1. **NO COMMERCIAL LEASE now or in the future**

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area.

Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals.

Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again.

Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below.

My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future.

This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors.

WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold?

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site. (BMRM Ecological Surveys - LINK BMCS website)

2. **PUT THIS LAND INTO THE SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARK**

The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park. This is the solution.

A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area

Keep this public land in public hands.

Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency.

They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

3. **MAINTAIN FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY**

Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting!

Management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a firefighting agency. In addition to it's other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.

Kind regards

A redacted signature block consisting of several black rectangular boxes of varying sizes, completely obscuring the name and contact information of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 9:14 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I have recently learned of Australia's first 100%+ carbon offset airfield. 1 tree planted for every flight. What an outstanding initiative and what a win for the environment and the people of The Blue Mountains.

We all need to do our bit for the planet. And we need more organisations like FlyBlue who are committed to sustainability. We can do our bit by supporting this environmentally friendly project. FlyBlue are trying to make a difference, we need to help them make this happen. They have my support.

Thanks!

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:48 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: LX602686 - Submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Glen Bunny,

I am a resident of Blackheath in the Blue Mountains and I would like to submit in the strongest terms my objection of the commercial operation of Katoomba airfield allowing helicopter rides and the like.

Our tranquil world heritage listed Blue Mountains, the place I call home, is one of the most peaceful and beautiful places in the world! We have visitors from all over Australia and the World on a daily basis that love taking part in our wonderful way of life. The Blue Mountains is home to some of the most beautiful scenery and is home to a number of unique and vulnerable species of animals. Tourists love walking our quiet trails in order to observe and to be a part of this beautiful world up here.. We do not need helicopter joy rides above us for a few wealthy few whom are too busy or too lazy to actually get amongst it but would rather observe from above, disgusting! To beat all it's at the detriment to us all! The animals, tourists, our peace is at stake. We are artists, we are residents, we welcome tourists, we love our animals and scenery. We do not want noisy helicopters above!

No to the Katoomba airfields helicopter rides. Let's turn over this Crown Land to the NSW National Parks so it is respected and preserved. The airfield needs to be maintained for emergency use only. Lets do the right thing and preserve the tranquil future of our Blue Mountains for generations to come.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 10:31 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Ref No. 602686

Dear Crown Lands Officer,
Department of Industry (Crown Lands),

I am writing to you to voice my objection to
the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism.

I am a longtime resident of the Blue Mountains and am passionately keen to maintain the natural
environment in as pristine a condition as is possible. This benefits residents, visitors now and in the future

As background, there have been many changes to the Mountains over years of road-widening. This has
involved the destruction of enormous numbers of trees, and to the division of villages along its way. There
has been a huge impact on wildlife habitat and safety. Such destruction of trees also entails a negative
impact on rainfall.

The Western Sydney Airport and its impact on the Mountains will be to bring further loss of flora and
fauna, as well as a massive increase in noise and air pollution.

The commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield would add significant, further stress to the already
threatened safety, peace and beauty of the Blue Mountains.

I ask that the project be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my SAMSUNG Galaxy S6 Edge on the Telstra Mobile Network

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Application 602686 - Objection to proposed lease

This submission is an objection to the proposed Crown Land lease of Katoomba airfield to a commercial tenant.

I believe the noise generated by commercial operations from Katoomba airfield would pose a huge **risk to our local economy**.

Currently over 4 million tourists visit the Blue Mountains every year. The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage states the Blue Mountains National Park has the highest number of visitors of NSW National parks with over 5 million visitors per year. This is many times more than visit the Art Gallery of NSW.

This level of visitation to the region would be threatened should flight numbers and flight altitudes increase in intensity over any of the **World Heritage area** or tourist activity or **accommodation areas** in **both urban and rural zones**.

We would be looking at a **net loss of tourism due to noise impacts**.

Additionally the commercial operation would greatly impact on the amenity of residents, whether they reside in urban or rural zoned areas, for no gain to those residents or the public.

I am resident of a rural zoned area possibly directly under a take-off or landing flight path.

The Department of Industry's "Fact Sheet" indicates it will not permit short cycle/ short-duration joy flights ... and any tenant will need to follow and apply strict environmental controls to prevent excessive noise... created by the airfield's operation.

Definitions for this terminology has not been provided, however noise impacts on amenity are regularly ignored or down-graded by both state and federal planning authorities.

Until aircrafts are as noiseless as modern electric vehicles the application for lease should be denied. Accepting the application for lease by the department would be reckless to our economy.

The airfield should be maintained for emergency operations only.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield LX602686

Item: LX602686

I wish to complain about the use of the Medlow Bath Airfield to be a commercial business for joyflights for tourists. I used to live in North Katoomba and had plans to move back there again. We had the careflight helicopters landing nearby, that you understand is a necessity to save lives. But if there will be helicopters careering about the area on a regular basis just for some people to make a dollar I will consider moving somewhere else. The impact on the peaceful, natural beauty of the area will be very negatively affected by noise and lack of privacy in these secluded areas of the bush. When on a long bushwalk the whole idea is to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. To enjoy nature and all it has to offer in serenity and peace and quiet. Not to be intruded upon by helicopters! There are very few idyllic places left to explore so close to an international airport (which is near enough for helicopters surely to access the national park). The noise of a helicopter landing and taking off is far greater than the noise of one up in the air. It will be terrible for all the residents in Medlow Bath and it's surrounds. And do not forget this is a National Park and is not up for grabs by this government I hope! This noise pollution in a natural National Park will impact on all the birds and wildlife and will drive it away from the area. This in turn could impact the natural balance of the flora and fauna in the area. I am extremely worried about this happening, I feel afraid it will stop a lot of tourists coming to the area. This could have a negative impact on all the established businesses in the area that cater to the peaceful walkers etc. PLEASE make the airport license to be only used for emergency helicopters not for any commercial business. This is a National Park alter all.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 12:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my objection to the NSW Dept of Industry considering a long term lease that will allow commercial operators to use Katoomba Airfield for helicopter tourism. My family have been residents of the lower the Blue Mountains for the past 16 years and the main reason we moved here from the inner city was to escape the noise and to enjoy the peace and quiet that the beautiful Blue Mountains has to offer.

We are also avid bushwalkers in the Blue Mountains, particularly around the middle and upper Blue Mountains and are extremely concerned that the peace and quiet we currently enjoy will be lost if helicopter joy flights are allowed to commence in the Blue Mountains. If you have ever spent any time staying or, in particular, walking in the Blue Mountains you will be familiar with how peaceful it is - being able to hear the sounds of the many birds and the gushing or trickling of water from the numerous waterfalls within the Blue Mountains National Park is a wonderful relaxing luxury that I am worried will be taken away from us.

I am afraid the peace and quiet will be lost if helicopter joy flights are allowed to fly over the National Park. The reason most people come to the Blue Mountains is to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquility the Blue Mountains has to offer. Imagine being on a day walk in the Blue Mountains and hearing the constant noise of helicopters as opposed to the birds and waterfalls or a tourist standing at Echo Point looking out at the beauty and having it disrupted by the sound of helicopters flying overhead and impinging the view that they have come to see.

The Blue Mountains area is acoustically sensitive - I know this because I live in the mountains and can hear the sound of aircraft flying overhead at above 18,000 ft let alone at a much lower altitude. I have also been a witness, on multiple occasions, to the sound of Police Rescue Helicopters trying to rescue someone when I've been on a walk in the Blue Mountains and also when there are bushfires and helicopters need to collect water from the lakes to help put out the fires - I can tell you the sound is incredibly noisy. In saying that I do not object to emergency service helicopters as they are a vital service, but what I do object to is the constant noise of helicopter joy flights as I do not believe they are needed in the Blue Mountains. There are plenty of lookouts for people to go to if they want to enjoy a panoramic view and many of these lookouts are within a short walk from where you park your car, or they can experience the beauty and get a bit of exercise by going on the many wonderful walks (short or long) within the mountains.

I implore you to consider very carefully giving a long term lease of the Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator purely for monetary gain as I believe the decision will impact greatly on the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 5:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Notification of Community Engagement - Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield
- LX 602686

Thank you [REDACTED] but as I have already submitted to The Department, I remain totally against the proposal.

Looking at the applicants' proposal I have specific comments.

There is a proposal to provide a "substantial planting of new trees". The airfield is in the middle of a national Park. New trees are the least of our concerns.

Tourists come to the Blue mountains by car or train. These tourists are literally "fly in-fly out" visitors. At the community consultation meeting I attended a tourism operator supported the proposal. His argument is that he already buses people from the airfield and takes them to the Megalong Tearooms. Of what benefit, other than to the Tearoom owners, are these tourists? The tour operator and his partner were the only people in favour of the proposal. The fact that helicopter tours exist already is irrelevant. These helicopters, which we hear daily in Blackheath, are TOO NOISY. There should be no tourist helicopters in this area. i agree with one person at the Community Consultation meeting that one tourist helicopter was one too many!

The tour operator also argued that, if we are against commercial use of the airport we will be against operational helicopters using the site. This is a ridiculous argument; everyone supports care flight and bush fire helicopters using the site.

Please note my strong objection to any development of the Katoomba airfield.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 11:57 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield opposition

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to announce my opposition to the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield.

I have worked in the aviation industry as an aircraft mechanic for over over 20 years and am well versed in all aspects of aviation operations. Whilst I would love a job in the aviation industry close to home [REDACTED], I value the peace and quite and wilderness experience of the Blue mountains far more.

I spend all of my free time in the bush of the Blue Mountains, participating in activities such as rock climbing, canyoning and hiking. There is nothing the ruins the serenity of being out in nature, more than an over-flying light aircraft. There have been many studies in the healing, soothing and restoring benefits of humans being out in nature. None of these studies involved aircraft of any sort. This is why I completely oppose the commercial use of Katoomba airfield.

The Blue Mountains is best experienced 'on the ground' - peering over the edge of a cliff or smelling the eucalyptus and wild-flowers. Aviation tourism will benefit a very small amount of the community and only the more more wealthy visitors.

I propose the the Katoomba airfield crown land be made part of the National Park system, with provisions in place for the use as a emergency airfield (medical/fire).

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No commercial use of Katoomba Airfield Reference No. 602686

To Whom It may Concern,

We are writing to voice our opposition to the use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes. Katoomba Airfield is on crown land and as such should be transferred immediately to the national park so that it might be protected into the future and remain public land forever. There should be a working strip of the airfield reserved for emergency use only. The Blue Mountains is a heritage listed area and should be protected from commercial use of crown land so that it continues to be a place where people can come to live and to visit for its particular serenity and beauty. Thank you, we trust you will be responsible and ensure to undertake an appropriate duty of care for this heritage listed and unique area.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield opposition

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to announce my opposition to the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield.

I am a Horticulturalist with a love, passion and a huge appreciation of the outdoors. I spend all of my spare time, hiking, climbing, canyoning and exploring the native flora and fauna within the spectacular Blue Mountains. It is a special place filled with serenity and endless freedom. I can't think of anything worse than having the noise of an aircraft flying above whilst immersed in the beauty of the mountains bush.

The Blue Mountains has an excellent network of easily accessible walking trails, lookouts and opportunities for people to experience what it has to offer, without needing to fly tourist around by air.

To truly experience and appreciate the Blue Mountains you need to submerge yourself within it. Smell the sweet fragrance of the wattles and the empowering scent of the eucalyptus, listening in awe to the mimicking sounds of the amazing lyrebird and breath in the clean fresh air, all while casting your eyes over the beauty of the land.

I propose the the Katoomba airfield crown land be made part of the surrounding National Park system, with provisions in place for the use as a emergency airfield (medical/fire).

Warm Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 12:08 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: katoomba airfield submission LX 602686
Attachments: CASA environmental guide.pdf; travel-to-blue-mountains-snapshot-dec-2018.pdf

To Scott Mullen,

I wish to register my dismay that a commercial lease is even being considered for the Katoomba Airfield site. I strongly believe the best outcome for this site is for it to be:

1. Incorporated into the National Park
2. With no commercial activity allowed
3. And used for emergencies only

For the following reasons:

Prior reports have recommended this outcome

Prior to moving to the area I investigated the likely development scenarios for this airfield. All I found were letters, reports and minutes from your own department and the Local Council stating that the preferred outcome is incorporation into the national park.

Failure to comply with these recommendations without due process is a Breach of Trust.

It will have a strong negative effect on the local economy

Our local economy is driven by on the ground eco-tourism. The Blue Mountains has 2.9 million domestic visitors each year. The top activities will all be detrimentally affected by an increase in aircraft noise, these being "sightseeing or looking around" (34.4%) and "bushwalking or rainforest walks" (33%). Total tourist spend is \$350 million in the region (reference attached to submission: travel-to-blue-mountains-snapshot-dec-2018.pdf).

This proposed development has flight paths directly over some of the most popular walks in the Blue Mountains (Blue Gum forest, Grose Valley) and is in full view of all the main lookouts in Blackheath.

Chopper noise reverberates right up and down the valley's, as we all know when there is a rescue going on. They aren't quiet beasts. Tourists don't come here to hear the thump, thump, thumping of helicopters. They come to hear the sounds of nature, which regular chopper flights will totally disrupt.

It will certainly turn off more people than it will bring in. Leading to a net negative affect on our local economy.

There are also numerous businesses directly under the flight paths that will be negatively affected e.g. the Medlow Bath Mediation Centre as well as numerous B&B's. The negative affects on just these few businesses should be more than enough to stop this going ahead.

CASA itself agrees with this. Here are some excerpts from CASA Environmental Implications Guidelines Form 1289 (reference attached to submission: CASA environmental guide.pdf).

NOISE IN NATURE RESERVES AND NATIONAL PARKS *"Noise within the National Park system often interferes with the very reason visitors go to the National Park - for peace and quiet. Aircraft tends to interfere with natural quiet for visitors within National Parks. Another consideration of aircraft overflight over National Parks is the reduction in enjoyment and appreciation of cultural and historical resources within the National Parks and the reduction of the sounds of nature at the park."*

Even if we assume a low end amount of 1% of people being turned off that is still a \$3.5 million hit to our local economy!

We really do risk killing the goose laying our golden eggs!!

It threatens our World Heritage status and a such our economy

One of the main draw cards is our World Heritage Status, it drives international visitation. This development directly threatens that and as such our local economy.

Environmental

There is no question it will have environmental effects on our wildlife. There are numerous species with migratory patterns over the Blue Mountains. As well as numerous rare and threatened species in the local area such as the spotted quoll.

CASA itself agrees with this. Here are some excerpts from CASA Environmental Implications Guidelines Form 1289 (reference attached to submission: CASA environmental guide.pdf).

NOISE IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE Any proposal for airspace change that may cause a ‘noise’ effect on wildlife must be further examined in order to determine the likelihood of long-term effects on this wildlife which may be detrimental to its survival.

Within the 5.5km flight circuit there are numerous species listed under the EPBC Act of 1999 and the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. Listed on the EPBC Act of 1999 as:

- ***critically endangered*** are the Regent Honeyeater, Slaty Leek Orchid and the Monkey Gum/Mountain grey gum.
- ***endangered*** are the Eastern Bristlebird, Spotted-tailed quoll, the Blue Mountains Swamp-Skink, Epacris hamiltonii, Eucalyptus copulans, Dwarf Mountain Pine and Leionema lachnaeoides, Giant Dragonfly.
- ***vulnerable*** are the Broad-Headed Snake, Zieria involucrate, Flockton Wattle, Acrophyllum austral, Acacia bynoeana, Euphrasia bowdeniae and Diuris aequalis, Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Varied Sittella, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Little Lorikeet, Speckled Warbler, Spotted-tailed quoll, Eastern False Pipistrelle, Eastern Pygmy Possum, Flockton Wattle, Acrophyllum austral.
- ***endangered ecological community*** is the Monkey Gum/Mountain grey gum.

Lifestyle

The proposed development has stated it will operate basically between sunup to sundown. This is simply unacceptable noise pollution to the 1000’s of residents who live within earshot of the airfield and its proposed flight paths in North Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Pulpit Hill Rd, Blackheath and Linden.

CASA itself agrees with this. Here are some excerpts from CASA Environmental Implications Guidelines Form 1289 (reference attached to submission: CASA environmental guide.pdf).

LOW LEVEL FLYING Aircraft flying at levels below their normal cruising altitudes may cause levels of noise exposure greater than generally acceptable limits for noise exposure. They may also cause impacts within communities regardless of whether acceptable levels are exceeded or not because of awareness of a change having occurred or of the heightened sensitivities of some people.

It is a substantial change of use and one which previous experience shows has so little community support it will be shut down

Katoomba Airfield is a small country dirt airfield that has seen little use. However, in the early 90’s helicopter scenic flights were run from the airfield and were then shut down due to community concerns. At the time the community was assured this would never be allowed to happen again, yet here we are.

Why are we going through this argument yet again? Surely the smartest thing to do is pass this to the National Park so we don't need to go through this every 15 years or so!

There is no strategic reason for this airfield being commercial

In a letter from Lands dated 23-February 2017 (DOC17/028257, File 08-1364-03) it is made quite clear that emergency services do not wish to take tenure of the land and it is not needed for support of emergency services training and operations. And I quote *“DoI Lands have been advised that the site is not required for support of emergency services training and operations.”*



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 8:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Ref no 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a current resident of [REDACTED], formerly of Katoomba, and I strongly object to the proposal to grant a long-term lease of the Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator.

I moved to the Blue Mountains five years ago. The main reason was to escape the noise, traffic congestion and unsustainable house prices of Sydney. The Blue Mountains have provided me with a beautiful home. My friends and family who visit often comment that it is so quiet and peaceful here compared to Sydney. My genuine fear is that the quiet enjoyment of my home will be adversely affected if a commercial operator starts to run joy-flights to and from the Katoomba airfield.

The proposal to grant a long-term commercial lease will benefit a very small number of people, whilst bringing unwanted noise pollution to our beautiful Blue Mountains. Noise pollution will adversely impact both the residents and the millions of visitors who come to the Blue Mountains each year to experience the peace, tranquility and natural beauty of our World Heritage-listed National Park.

The airfield is public land and should be transferred to the National Park and protected accordingly. A simple airstrip can be maintained for emergency use purposes.

I trust you will listen to the many residents who object to the commercial proposal to operate the airstrip for aviation tourism. Please do what is necessary to protect our World Heritage-listed National Park.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

To whom it may concern

I am writing to outline my complete opposition to the development of the Katoomba Airfield.

1. I object to any sort of commercial lease or activity being undertaken on or around Katoomba Airfield.
2. The optimal solution is for the land to be incorporated in National Park. Blue Mountains National Park surrounds the airfield so would make sense.
3. The Katoomba Airfield needs to be maintained to a condition to be able to be used during emergency situations such as but not limited to bushfires and emergency landing.

I hope you consider this email and those of all the supporters

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:53 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 - Opposed to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield

To the Department of Crown Lands (Planning, Industry and Environment)

I believe that the commercialisation of the airfield should not go ahead.

The Blue Mountains are a treasure not only for those of us who live amongst it but also for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come each year to take it all in. I am aware of the large volume of submissions you will receive (which I can only imagine will be overwhelmingly opposed to Fly Blue's proposal) so I will be concise in my own submission.

This is a World Heritage National Park. None of us have the right to make decisions that will adversely impact upon that. Fly Blue may claim they'll leave a minimal footprint but the bottom line is that a commercial venture such as theirs will have profound, long term, negative effects on our environment, our tranquility and our local tourism economy.

As you are aware the feeling amongst much of the local community at present is laden with mistrust towards the Department. Despite your proclamations of considered community consultation, I believe it is fair to say that this has not been the case. You insist that no decisions have been made in terms of how things will proceed with the airfield but your actions to date do not support this. I understand that you are a Department existing under a Liberal Government whose legacy, sadly, will be the destruction and disregard of our environment. The fact that no Ministers showed up in Parliament for the petition debate on Thursday 1st August is a sorry indication of this Government's priorities. I am hopeful however that amongst those of you who will make the final decision on the airfield, there exists someone with conscience and a heart.

I am aware of how political game playing works. We live in a strong Labor seat in all three tiers of Government so our voices are often ignored. A punishment of sorts, perhaps. This decision however needs to move beyond that. The Blue Mountains face some of the biggest threats in its history right now. Badgerys Creek Airport, the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam wall and the commercialisation of a local airfield - each of these threaten the environmental integrity of this beautiful place. I plead with you to make a decision based on this, not the short-term monetary gains of a handful of people. The argument by those in favour of Fly Blue's proposal, that the Blue Mountains community will benefit immeasurably, is quite simply untrue. Please make your decision based on realistic projections rather than an outmoded and false mindset of economy over environment, particularly when in this case the commercialisation of the airfield stands to be at the detriment of the majority of local businesses.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this submission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 9:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The Future Of Katoomba Airport

Dear Minister Pavey

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park and World Heritage Area.

Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals.

Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again. Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below.

My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future. This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold?

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site. (BMRM Ecological Surveys).

The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park and this is what should happen.

A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area Keep this public land in public hands.

Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency. They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting as management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a firefighting agency. In addition to it's other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 11:37 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Proposal to open up Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern

I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed lease of Crown Land at Medlow Bath, occupied by Katoomba Airfield.

The Blue Mountains are no place for noisy aircraft which will have a negative impact on the World Heritage listed area. I also oppose the monetisation of National Parks which is becoming more common as our greedy NSW Government scrambles to make a dollar out of every natural "resource". Wild places are becoming so rare and to ruin the tranquility of the Blue Mountains is an outrage.

Combined with the raising of Warragamba Dam it amounts to environmental vandalism.

In 2019 in an era of climate change this is unacceptable to favour carbon fuel burning aircraft operations over a wild area, running continuous joy flights in places like the Blue Mountains.

This proposal will result in:

- Loss of local amenity due to noise, visual impact.
- Wildlife will be disturbed.
- Bushwalking will be affected , one of the primary activities already enjoyed by millions.
- Negative economic impacts such as effect on local businesses and property value, houses under the flight paths for example.
- Negative environmental impacts including pollution, flora and fauna impact and world heritage status.
- There will be increased bushfire risk, a precedent set for allowing commercial operations on public land, and it goes against the idea that wild places can remain in pristine condition.

Imagine waking up in the Blue Gum Forest to helicopters buzzing overhead!

I hope you will consider this objection to this terrible proposal for an area so valuable to Sydney and the rest of Australia.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Australia

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 11:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fw: Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 14, 2019 10:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nse.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

Dear Crown Lands Officer,
Department of Industry (Crown Lands),

I'd like to add my voice to those who object to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism.

I've been a resident of the Blue Mountains since 1978 and, like many others, came here to enjoy the natural environment and slower pace of life. In that time the Blue Mountains National Park has received world heritage recognition. That recognition endows us with substantial benefits as a tourist destination, but also requires us to look after the Park and act responsibly in considering any major developments. With the approval of the Western Sydney Airport we are about to experience significant changes to the peace and quiet of our homes and environs. There may also be some threat to our world heritage status. With this in mind it seems to me that this is not the time to expand the traffic in our skies with the consequent noise and damage to flora and fauna. We should at the very least wait until we have seen what the effect of the air traffic is from the new airport.

I ask that you refuse this application and any similar application until at least 3 years after the opening of the Western Sydney Airport.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern

I grew up in Blackheath and frequently visit the Blue Mountains to see family.

I believe this airport will bring unacceptable and unwelcomed 'noise pollution' and disturbance.

I strongly advocate against the approval of it's construction.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - katoomba airfield submission

Dear Submission team,

I'm writing in response to the proposal to develop Katoomba airfield for commercial helicopter operations.

In summary, commercializing the airfield and helicopter operations will benefit very few, and will be detrimental to the very many.

I strongly object to this proposal and believe that this should be resisted as much as possible. The region is truly a gem on the global stage and one that helicopter noise would be substantively negatively impact.

The Sydney basin is a noisy place. Having places that provide respite from the noise of modern life is critical for the wellbeing of the community. Having places that are convenient to access from the greater Sydney area is essential for this to be possible. It is also the reason that I visit the area most weekends.

Helicopter operations in this area are completely against the quiet enjoyment of the region for most people. Having frequent overflights, no matter how distant, would make me seriously reconsider visiting the area, as I'm sure it would for a substantive portion of the current visitors.

Further, unlike many wilderness or spectacular natural areas, access to the key sites in the region is already straightforward for the general population. The argument in other areas that aircraft are the only way to enjoy the natural assets by all but the most fit doesn't even remotely work in this context.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Madam/Sir,

* The proposal to allow commercial flights, including helicopter sight-seeing flights, from the public space of Katoomba Airfield, is a dereliction of our duty to maintain the environment of the surrounding precious area, its habitats and flora and fauna. I am among the many who object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.

***This World Heritage Wilderness Area does not belong to a chosen few. It belongs to Australia and the world, to our children and children's children for generations to come.**

*Approval for frequent helicopter flights will actually be destroying the very conditions that make this a World- Heritage site. Helicopter flights for the wealthy and for the enrichment of a very few owners and operators, will come at enormous cost to the environment and the habitats which sustain our rich, unique and varied wildlife. Birds and other species will be driven away.

*Please don't create a MURRAY DARLING BASIN style disaster here, providing financial gain for a very few at the cost of the environment, the fauna, the tens of thousands of residents and the visitors including an estimated 1.25 million visitors per annum (**Tourism** Research Australia statistics) who physically undertake a bushwalk. You'll be turning tourists away.

*It is important that a basic emergency airstrip be maintained and this should remain a public amenity.

* The Airstrip and its surrounds should become part of the national park and stay under the park's stewardship into the future.

***I'm writing to UNESCO and contacting friends in the media to seek their assistance in defending the peace of this unique place**

Please, if you are intending to support the commercialisation, reconsider.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 2:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Katoomba airfield

Dear Sir,

I have an RPL licence from the [REDACTED] and am working towards PPL. I heard that there is talk of closing Katoomba airfield. Whilst this will not directly affect me, if it is true, I can see a great problem for general aviation in the future as it is the only suitable landing for a very large area. It is a common misconception that private pilot is hobby for the super-rich but I am just a teacher who saves up a lot for the privilege. We should also bear in mind that a large country like Australia needs commercial pilots more than other places and the majority of them start in general aviation with a PPL.

Also, with bushfires, local airfields are essential.

The information I was told may be incorrect but I certainly hope that Leura remains open as an airfield.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Future of Katoomba Airfield. Ref No 602686

Regarding the future of Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath -

I object to this public land being used as a commercial airfield. This proposal has failed to demonstrate what benefits it will bring to the Blue Mountains in return for what it will take. This world heritage area would benefit from protection rather than the exploitation offered by a commercial airfield.

Having a working dirt airstrip for emergency use is vital, particularly in such a high fire prone area as the Blue Mountains. Transferring the Crown Land to National Parks and Wildlife would both preserve and protect the area from exploitation and mismanagement.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 2:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed commercial least for Katoomba Airport

To Whom it May Concern

As a resident of Medlow Bath

- 1 I object to any commercial lease for this public land at Katoomba airfield
- 2 I think this land should become part of the National Park
- 3 I think it is important the airfield should be kept for emergency use only

Helicopter noise in this area is often amplified by the local topography, we as concerned residents have not been informed of the projected number and frequency of flights. A "Fly Neighbourly" policy is self regulated, and does not include flights originating from outside the airfield. The applicants are setting this proposal up as a viable business, therefor it needs to grow in the future. The airfield will need to be serviced by fuel tankers, I suspect there may be in the future some tourist buses travelling out to the airfield, some of the local roads are not made for this sort of traffic. The Blue mountains is a national park within a world heritage area and as such should be a quiet and relaxing place. The grant of a commercial lease would lead to a loss of local amenity and pave the way for future expansion

I am worried about the amplification of aircraft noise.

We have not been information of the expected number of flights per day

I am most concerned that a 'fly neighbourly" policy is self regulated and does not include flights originating from outside the airfield.

If the commercial lease is granted, obviously it will be in the lease holders best interests to maximise their businesses profitability under this lease.

Fuel tankers will be coming down our quiet roads to fill the airport fuel tanks.

Im concerned that tourist buses may start coming into our quiet streets because of airport business.

The Blue mountains is a national park within a world heritage area and therefore should be a quiet and relaxing place. The granting of a commercial lease would lead to a loss of local amenity and pave the way for future expansion, noise from aircraft and increased traffic on our quiet roads.

Medlow Bath is a unique are in the Blue Mountains and is more like a quiet village. We made the decision to live here because of that. We do not want that to change.

Yours faithfully
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 2:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; luemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 objection to commercial airfield in the Blue Mountains World Heritage area

Dear Minister Pavey and MP Trish Doyle

As a Medlow Bath resident, I wish to strongly object to the proposed commercial airfield just up the road from my home. I am saddened that a commercial development is being considered for the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area, and believe that scenic tours and joy flights will have a seriously negative impact on the amenity of this unique landscape. This region is home to an abundance of wildlife including many rare and endangered species. Numerous ecological studies have documented the damage and disruption that helicopter noise causes to various threatened species, not to mention the loss of peace and tranquility for the human users of the park.

This land is public land and was intended to be returned to the National Park. Putting it into private hands risks further damage to this globally unique but vulnerable environment. It should be retained as an airstrip for emergencies and firefighting only, for management by the NPWS which knows how to maintain firefighting facilities.

I look forward to hearing your response.

with best wishes
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 1:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Opposition to the Air Strip in Katoomba

Hi,

I object to the public land being used for commercial purposes. It is clear when talking to people in the community that they are not happy with this going ahead. There has been a lack of communication by the government sector regarding this issue. I suspect because it was known there would be a very strong opposition to it which is a poorly framed political choice of approach. I would remind you that the people are who votes the government in. The government represents the people and its not the other way round. There is no wider beneficiary of the air strip except the company that plans to run the air tours there. There is no reasonable justification for this. It's an outrage and makes all of us wonder why it is being put in the first place.

A majority of local residents absolutely do not want this!!!

The airstrip will create a large amount of noise for residents and for tourists trying to enjoy the tranquil and quietness of this world heritage area. This is not a good idea.

This crown land should be transferred to the National Park.

Regards,
Blue Mountains Resident.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 9:36 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello

I am writing to communicate my disagreement that a commercial airfield be used in the Blue Mountains region.

For many years the sacred mountains has been a place of peace, beauty, and connection with the land, millions of people have come to this place to meditate and become better people (something this world desperately needs).

With commercial helicopters disrupting the serenity of such a healing place, I fear the appeal of coming to such a place will begin to decline.

Thank you

--

Sent from myMail for Android

From: [REDACTED] r
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:16 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi there,

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to express my concern about the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath. I grew up in the Blue Mountains and have recently returned to live in Medlow Bath.

My use of the airfield:

- 1) I walk around the site using service roads on a regular basis (around 1–2 times a week on average) to access views/the start of the Bruce Walk.
- 2) I walk and bike ride past the airfield and into the national park to access Point Pilcher and Grand Canyon Walk via Old Point Pilcher Walking Track (around 1–2 times a month); and
- 3) I regularly ride my bike and walk along the route to YKAT ie along Railway Parade, Rutland Road and Grand Canyon Road.

I fully support the use of the airfield for emergency service use (as it has been for the past 50 years) but have the following concerns around its use by commercial operators:

Safety and environmental issues with the route from Medlow Bath to the airfield.

I am very concerned that the erosion issues on Grand Canyon Road will become even worse with increased traffic to the airfield, making the road unsafe to drive on and more than offsetting any environmental improvements made to the site itself by further damaging endangered hanging swamps in the area (through increased runoff and sedimentation).

I am also extremely concerned about safety on the narrow route to the airfield from the station—bikes, walkers, prams, horse riders and dog walkers all use this route on a regular basis. There are several pinch points where two cars cannot pass each other safely. If you add aircraft fuel tankers and tourist minibuses into the mix, it will put existing road users at risk.

The inability of state government departments and/or other public agencies like CASA to enforce conditions for use of the site

Controlling the number and frequency of flights into and out of the airfield, the potential number of operators that will use the field, and the designated flight paths aircraft will follow (particularly as these will need to be flexible for safety reasons to account for the highly variable weather conditions at and around the site) is essential to protect surrounding residents, and tourists, from invasive noise.

However, if the state government enters the lease it will be relying on the 'good intentions' of a commercial operator (or *operators* if the lease is transferred) to protect the community rather than legislation.

A fly neighbourly agreement is a voluntary code and there are no government bodies (local, state or federal) with the resources and legislative teeth to:

- 1) adequately monitor aircraft movements to ensure they are kept to
- 2) prosecute and/or fine offenders

Despite the arguments put on the FlyBLue website, there is no commercial imperative for the new leaseholders to monitor flight movements either—the more flights into and out of the airfield the higher

the likely profit. This is particularly the case if a 50-year lease is entered into because there is strong potential any new operators (leaseholders) of the site will have no publicly stated intention (or obligation) to protect the amenity of visitors and residents of the Blue Mountains at all.

It would be irresponsible for the government to enter a lease agreement over an environmentally sensitive site on the edge of the Grose Valley wilderness and near upper mountains towns and villages when they have neither the resources nor the legal ability to enforce conditions to control the number of flights into and out of the site.

It should also be noted that if flights are shoehorned onto weekends and/or into sunny days (avoiding foggy and windy conditions), this will impact residents much more severely than the numbers of flights allowed (per week or month) would indicate. I.e if 20 to 30 flights in and out of the airfield are crowded onto one or two days to make up for bad weather or capitalise on tourism potential of weekends the noise impacts will be very severe—particularly for those living near the airfield.

The incompatibility of the proposed leaseholders, community and environmental needs

To get a return on the significant investments being made at the site, the new operators will need to increase the number of flights into and out of the Blue Mountains National Park. Residents of upper Blue Mountains townships are likely to be affected, but so will visitors wanting to get away from the noise of the city and enjoy the sights. The peaceful natural environment is one of the key drivers of tourism to the area—walkers, rock climbers, canyoners and sightseers all contribute significantly to the local economy and are likely to be adversely affected.

In particular, landing tourist helicopters and fixed-winged aircraft with World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the long-term sustainability of the Blue Mountains tourism economy by:

- 1: Impacting the reputation the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
- 2: Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoners
- 3: Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few luxury operators for transport and accommodation (including those currently under investigation for rorting visa schemes and underpaying international workers)
- 4: A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will likely result in fewer visits from those tourists that spend at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or support local culture and events.

The proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield contradicts the NSW Government's own strategic plan for the World Heritage area, which stated aim is that: 'Recreational and tourist overflights do not interfere with the natural quiet, biodiversity and GBMWhA [Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area's] aesthetic values.'

Thanks very much for considering these issues in your determination.

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Katoomba Airfield Submission Ref No LX602686/McMahon
Attachments: PastedGraphic-1.pdf; Untitled attachment 00396.htm; PastedGraphic-2.pdf; Untitled attachment 00399.htm; PastedGraphic-3.pdf; Untitled attachment 00402.htm; PastedGraphic-4.pdf; Untitled attachment 00405.htm; PastedGraphic-5.pdf; Untitled attachment 00408.htm; PastedGraphic-6.pdf; Untitled attachment 00411.htm; PastedGraphic-7.pdf; Untitled attachment 00414.htm; PastedGraphic-8.pdf; Untitled attachment 00417.htm; PastedGraphic-9.pdf; Untitled attachment 00420.htm; PastedGraphic-10.pdf; Untitled attachment 00423.htm; PastedGraphic-11.pdf; Untitled attachment 00426.htm; PastedGraphic-12.pdf; Untitled attachment 00429.htm; PastedGraphic-13.pdf; Untitled attachment 00432.htm; PastedGraphic-14.pdf; Untitled attachment 00435.htm

Date: 4 August 2019

ATTENTION Mr Glenn Bunny

Group Director Estate Management

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

NSW Government.

Dear Mr Bunny,

My wife and I purchased our home in Katoomba in late 2010. As Sydney CBD professionals we were attracted to the area for its unique combination of peace and quiet, clean air, World Heritage/National Park location, and proximity to every amenity. As my wife had just retired we planned to spend our retirement years in the peaceful surrounds of the Blue Mountains.

In 2011 we were able to purchase the adjoining corner property, then an overgrown, noxious weed-infested waste dump and short-cut. The garden property [REDACTED] of The Gully, and our aim was to establish a native garden of species predominantly endemic to the area in harmony with the ongoing regeneration of The Gully. We commenced landscaping works, which are ongoing: we have repaired the street boundary wall, fenced all property boundaries, removed exotic weed, shrubs and trees, and generally improved and landscaped the property. We have done this not just for our own personal enjoyment and (hopefully) that of our neighbours, but to contribute to the overall rehabilitation of the natural amenities of The Gully following the destructive impacts of the Catalina Raceway.

The garden property overlooking The Gully

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 3:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Flag Status: Flagged

Regarding the possible commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield.

My wife and I are long term residents of [REDACTED]h and believe we have a significant interest in the issue of a lease for the use of this airfield for commercial helicopter operations.

We OBJECT in the strongest possible terms to the transfer of this land out of the National Park in which it is situated.

The airfield should be permanently incorporated into the BMNP and used only for emergency landings and firefighting.

We are also most concerned at the lack of meaningful consultation and access to information regarding numbers of flights and their paths which will impact negatively on our already threatened environment and the peace and amenity of our villages and homes. Tourism will suffer so that a very small number of people can make money out of a public asset.

These points have been made by others before but please read them again as they represent a majority community view.

1. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?
2. How can anyone properly engage in community consultation when we don't know the scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation? The state government has steadfastly refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public.
3. Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West. Do we know these flight paths? We do not. This model may also bring in other operators further increasing activity.
4. Why was the community not consulted by the state government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site *before* they released a tender for a licence by direct negotiation (see [Expression of Interest](#)), and awarded it to a high-impact helicopter tourism business, when community groups had also applied?
5. Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I object to the airport being reopened it should be kept as crown land only to be used by the national parks and wildlife also to be kept as a dirt strip for emergency situations only and I strongly abject to it being used as a commercial air strip and upsetting the Tranquility and the environment of the upper blue mountains where do you guys live who are making this decision let's put it in your backyard!dont want it to happen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I submit my objection to the proposed commercial operation of Katoomba airfield to allow for helicopter rides and joy flights by tourists.

I am a resident of nearby Blackheath. I live in Blackheath because it is a place of incredible beauty, tranquillity and natural wonders - part of its charm is that one can walk in bushland and not be bombarded by noise and traffic. There are very few places like it in Australia. In addition to the residents, many of my friends and overseas visitors come to the upper Blue Mountains to enjoy its uniqueness and serenity.

I object to the proposal that this peaceful and beautiful place could become the subject of helicopter and joy flights for wealthy tourists, to the detriment of everyone else who currently loves this place just as it is.

This world heritage area is home to many unique and vulnerable species and they are a tourist attraction in their own right. The disturbance of airspace could lead to changes to their behaviour and possible destruction of habitats.

I ask that the airfield be returned to the National Parks & Wildlife Service to be used for emergencies only.

Please leave the Blue Mountains in peace and without the aerial intrusions of joy flight aircraft. This beautiful place deserves to be fully protected for generations to come. It is best explored on foot to appreciate its unique wilderness, scenic outlooks, flora and fauna and tranquillity.

Please do not jeopardise its future!

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I acknowledge the Dharug & Gundangurra people. It is on their collective ancestral lands that I live. I pay my respects to their elders, past and present.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Ref No 602686

Dear Sir

I am writing to object to the proposal to lease the Katoomba Airfield to a commercial organisation.

I believe that the land should be put into the Blue Mountains National Park and the airfield be used for emergency purposes only.

The use of this airfield for commercial purposes will mean that a visitor's quiet enjoyment of the wonders of the Blue Mountains will be disturbed by noisy sightseeing flights.

I urge you to refuse this proposed lease.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 4:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Sirs,

I wish to state my objection to the proposal for commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield site.

As a resident of Wentworth Falls I could expect that such a proposal would involve aviation tourism which would potentially impact with unwanted noise on my quite residential area.

Additionally as a bushwalker I have experienced first-hand the impact of noise from helicopters over-flying the Capertee- Mt.Airlie SCA and would be most concerned if this could eventuate over parts of the Blue Mountains National Park

I believe the only environmentally sensible course of action is for the airfield to be gifted to National Parks for inclusion in Blue Mountains National Park.

I trust my concern will receive your serious consideration

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 5:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath lease proposal submission

Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it may concern,

Please consider this submission as a part of the community consultation regarding the proposed lease of Medlow Bath Airfield.

It is necessary to ask who will benefit by this proposal? Will it benefit the local Blue Mountains Community?

Taking this as a base question it is clear that it is of no benefit to the Blue Mountains Community, and will only benefit the business owners, so therefore I will register my objection to any commercial use of Medlow Bath airfield.

- * I live within one kilometre of the airfield so will be adversely affected by noise of both helicopters and any fixed wing aircraft.

- * Over recent years there has been a steady increase of aircraft and helicopter flights over Katoomba and their noise is very invasive.

- * The Blue Mountains are a special place where residents live a quiet and community based life, enjoying all that nature has to offer. Many of us volunteer our time in landcare, bushcare and other conservation activities to care for and protect the World Heritage Area. We value this lifestyle and do not want it disturbed.

- * Tourists who stay in the area come here for the clean air and peace and quiet. I have worked in tourism in Katoomba and I heard this comment from visitors to the area frequently, so the commercial flights from Medlow Bath will be bad for local tourism. The accommodation industry in the mountains needs visitors to stay overnight.

- * All across Australia developments are threatening the existence of our native flora and fauna – daily we hear about species extinctions and climate change, these are valid reasons to object to developments.

- * Local Native wildlife will be adversely affected, for example birds, reptiles and mammals.

- * Even supposing the current interested lessees are considerate of local people, any future lessee may not be so minded.

IN conclusion I restate my opposition to any commercialisation of the Medlow Bath Airfield.

I ask that the land be included into Blue Mountains National Park and be kept for emergency uses.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 7:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re Katoomba Airfield; reference number 602686

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I disagree with the use of this airfield for commercial flights now and in the future.

Public land should not be put up for commercial lease. Public land like all other public assets should be kept in the hands of our government on behalf of all Australians.

I object to the plan for commercial flights over the National Park. Having been over flown by RAAF jets as well as helicopters whilst walking in the national park, the noise is terrible. It spoils the nature experience for people using this natural area for recreation. Of even more concern is the effect that this sort of disruption would have on native wildlife. Blue Mountains National Park is one the very small percentage of land set aside in a natural condition in Australia to conserve that sample of our unique environment. All aspects of it should be conserved for our future, not destroyed by commercial flights.

Personally, I also object to more flights over the Blue Mountains because my home appears to be on the flight path from Sydney. The noise from helicopters over my house or neighbourhood is already unpleasant and disturbing. An increase of commercial flights by people flying to and from the mountains would not be acceptable for me.

The land is surrounded by National Park. It should be included in the National Park. Under the care of our excellent National Parks and Wildlife Service, the land could be integrated into the management of the park rather than remain a source of non-native intrusions.

I understand that the airfield has been used for emergency access in the past. I would support continued use for that purpose only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:15 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield - submission

Reference: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield – submission

I object to the issuing of a long term commercial lease over Katoomba Airfield. I support the inclusion of Katoomba Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park, to be managed only as an emergency airfield, with specific funding provided to the NPWS for management.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I think there is already too much aircraft noise overhead from joy flights, and it is rarely policed, so basically it is a free for all to the detriment of the residents of the Blue Mountains and those who visit. The Fly Neighbourly Agreement of 1994 too, was unenforceable and unlikely to be enforceable now. I object to even more unenforced commercial flights being allowed in the area. The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage Park not a playground. Aircraft noise impacts on animals as well as people. The allowance of yet more aircraft will have adverse effects on the environment, flora and fauna, for example on migrating flocks of birds. Tourists on the ground have come to the Mountains for peace and quiet, for a picnic or bushwalking. Why should these people along with residents be subjected to unnecessary aircraft noise for the sake of a handful of tourists who can splash a bit of money around to see it from the air, and operators cashing in on the popularity of the area?

Previous use of the airfield for joy flights was heavily opposed by the community and the same applies now. This is a sensitive and valuable area appreciated by those who live here, and those who enjoy nature activities such as bushwalking. The Department should not be pandering to private operators at the expense of the broader community of the Blue Mountains.

In two previous assessments in 2000 and 2008 it was concluded that the land should not be privately leased but should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and used for emergency and bushfire operations only. This was supported by the Blue Mountains City Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Consultation with the community of the Blue Mountains for this new proposal has been totally inadequate. It appears the department has instead been promoting the proposal, for example supporting the operators' wishy-washy "green" arguments. There is nothing "green" about increased commercial flights over a national park and shame on the department for instituting a process which appears to favour the lease operators. Listen to the people of the Blue Mountains! The parcel of land needs to be considered not in isolation but within the wider area ie the Blue Mountains National Park and beyond.

1. I object to any commercial lease being given for this public land.
2. This land should be part of the national park, cared for by the NPWS.
3. The airfield should be for emergency use only.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 3:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

29 July 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. Last year I had the good fortune to visit Blackheath in the Blue Mountains. I am on a world tour, walking and driving across the world and I had the good fortune to discover this beautiful area and friendly village. It has led me to make lifelong friends there and return for a few months every year.

When I heard about the proposal to run helicopter joy flights I wanted to put pen to paper and object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated near the Blue Mountains National Park at Medlow Bath.

I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I am a Dutch citizen and this area with it's canyons, valleys and beautiful bush is special. Whenever I visit my friends in Blackheath I spend time , bushwalking there. The Grose Valley and Megalong Valleys are beautiful and I love the incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence. I have stayed regularly at airbnbs in the upper mountains in the past and it was a peaceful haven. I feel that helicopter joy flights have a potential to ruin the peace and quiet I enjoy when I visit there. The Blue Mountains is a unique wilderness a stones throw from a major city. The main reason people such as myself visit is the peaceful respite this place offers. It's classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is justified and it's incredible wilderness properties should be guarded.

I feel that the noise of constant helicopter flights all day will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment I will enjoy when I plan my future trips back to Blackheath to visit. It may make me choose an alternative destination if this invasive, noisy proposal goes ahead. I do not want to holiday and relax under the constant noise of helicopters.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life and listen to the overwhelming opposition to this business proposal.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 6:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi,

I would like to submit my comments to stop helicopter overflights in, and over, the World Heritage Area.

My reasons for objecting to the helicopters are:

- The Blue Mountains were lucky enough to be listed as a world heritage area because of its unspoilt beauty, with magical landscapes and dramatic weather conditions that are not to be experienced anywhere else. To have our skies polluted with helicopters flying over some of our most stunning bushwalks and lookouts would detract from the beauty of these areas, not to mention the constant noise overhead, taking away the peaceful nature of our environment.
- As local residents of Blackheath, not only do we enjoy bushwalking, climbing, trekking and camping in our region, but our sustainability in a small town is very reliant on tourists visiting the area and injecting money into our economy. I can see that helicopters flying above our most popular areas (Grose Valley & Hanging Rock, etc) would be a deterrent for tourists visiting our area. Our unspoilt beauty would no longer prevail, and the only ones to benefit here would be the helicopter company.
- I believe the old airstrip should be left for emergency use only.
- The extra traffic for people travelling to and from the Katoomba Airfield would impact on the local wildlife, and the peaceful enjoyment of the residents in Medlow Bath, without any infrastructure improvements to allow for the extra traffic to the area.
- This land should become a part of the National Park, as that way it can be looked after in the way that it should be forever.
- If this company is allowed to operate a helicopter business from the airstrip, there is nothing stopping other companies from opening similar businesses in the area.
- And lastly, who is to say how many flights will be setting off on a daily basis, as these guidelines have not been stipulated. So who's to say that there won't be hundreds of flights a day.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:26 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Dave.Sharma.MP@aph.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Please keep Katoomba airfield undeveloped

Hello

I am lucky enough to live in 2 of the most beautiful places on earth - [REDACTED] in Sydney and [REDACTED] in the Blue Mountains. My partner and I plan to retire to the cool, quiet air where we bushwalk and are building a garden.

Sydney is busy and noisy and exciting, and we expect that. I do not object to the planes which come into Mascot over my house, because this is part and parcel of living in a major city. However, in the quiet air of Blackheath, helicopter noise and single-engine planes can be heard in the airspace for a disturbingly long time as they come and go. Over summer, while bushfires rage, the sound of aircraft fighting the fires is comforting. When someone is lost in bush, too, and the police are out in helicopters searching at all hours, it's a welcome sound. But day in, day out, 5, 10, 20 times a day, ferrying wealthy sightseers around so they can "look but not touch", would be unbearable. And the impact and stress on our wild creatures -- it just isn't worth it!

The Blue Mountains is an important place. It cradles Sydney and is its lungs. People come from all over the world to experience peace, stillness, nature, fresh air and quiet here.

If every person who came here for the peace and serenity was aware of the proposed development, there would be an enormous number of objections. However people don't know and so you're possibly only hearing from the locals, and you might think this is just another "nimby" reaction.

Please do not allow a commercial operator to lease the airfield. No matter how many promises they make, or how many rules the operator is given, allowing a commercial operator to fly fixed-wing and/or helicopter aircraft on a tourism basis out of that airfield *will* create noise pollution all day, every day in all the surrounding areas. This will destroy the quiet which we all love and need for the benefit of a small number of high-fee-paying tourists.

Instead, please make a gift of the land to the Blue Mountains National Park to keep it safe in perpetuity. This could be a lasting legacy of the Berejiklian government. It would be a relatively small decision for one commercial operator that gives an enormous and lasting reward. Unlike so many other unpopular decisions for which there was no simple solution, this one is easy.

This airstrip does play an important role in protecting this vast wilderness. Please keep it an operating airport for emergency use only.

I urge you please not to approve ANY commercial development of the Katoomba airfield.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 9:20 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba airfield

Dear Minister Pavy, Department of Industry, Crown Lands

I am very concerned that allowing commercial flights to and from Katoomba Airfield will disturb the proper usage of the World Heritage- listed National Parks in the Blue Mountains and beyond.

The tourism value of the National Parks depends on undisturbed vistas of peaceful scenery. I have read that the economy of the upper Blue Mountains is largely dependent on tourism, and indeed, the city describes itself as "The City Within a World Heritage National Park." I believe helicopter joy flights would bring only a small number of tourists but would ultimately turn away a much greater number of tourists.

Walkers, climbers, and visitors should not have their "escapes" hounded by the noise and vibrations or air compression waves caused by aircraft such as helicopters. This air compression is felt physically as well as heard. The natural ecology of the area, so vital for the whole Sydney region, depends on the wildlife being undisturbed and not frightened away by noise and vibration of aircraft. Local accommodation businesses, retreat centres and health resorts, etc. market themselves as peaceful getaways. Many restaurants and boutiques depend on the special character of the Blue Mountains. All of this incalculable value will be damaged if everyone has to put up with the noise and vibration of overhead helicopter flights. And of course, residents also value their peace and quiet.

I am a fairly recent local (moving from Sydney's eastern suburbs a few years ago). I am also a bush walker. Furthermore, I often have friends and relatives (some interstate, some from overseas) to stay and enjoy the natural atmosphere of the upper Blue Mountains so I have good reason to be concerned and urge that the local community be heard on this issue.

I join other residents and citizens from further afield to ask that this public land NOT be used for commercial purposes and that the airfield be used for emergencies only. During an emergency, of course, everyone would be willing to put up with any necessary noise and air compression. For good measure, I also agree with the call that this crown land be transferred to the National Park.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 6:29 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Reference: LX 602686

I was just informed the below submission may not be valid without an address. We are residents of [REDACTED] Katoomba. Thank you.

On Sunday, July 7, 2019, [REDACTED] wrote:

(Reference: LX 602686)

To whom it may concern.

Both myself, [REDACTED] and my husband, [REDACTED] are writing to strongly object to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield, keeping the airfield for EMERGENCY USE only.

I have lived in the Blue Mountains for 31 years, and the reason I absolutely disagree with the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield, is the following:

1. There are glossy black cockatoos, listed as VULNERABLE, that are very noise sensitive, as well as other noise sensitive local wildlife who will be adversely effected by the additional noise that the commercialisation of the air field will inevitably bring.
2. Plane and helicopter noise and pollution over both a National Park and a World Heritage area, is not only damaging for highly sensitive ecosystems, but will also deter tourists and hikers who come to the mountains specifically for quiet natural tranquility, away from anthropogenic noise.
3. Peregrine falcons have been regularly seen (I've seen them multiple times) in bushlands surrounding the airfield, and they need to soar uninhibited at great heights in order to find their prey.
4. Community consultation must occur first in an area as unique and as fragile the Blue Mountains. Community consultation should always be first priority, and overwhelmingly, with well over 3000 signatures, the local community is saying no.
5. We do not need additional air pollution over wilderness areas. There are incredibly sensitive flora and fauna and given that these are remote wildernesses, they are World Heritage areas, pollution will adversely affect these remote areas, it is absolutely not worth the risk.
6. Many of us move to the Blue Mountains to escape anthropogenic noise . It is not fair to punish Blue Mountains residents, artists, writers who chose to move here for the peace and quiet.

I love the Blue Mountains so much, and it is very important to me that this environmental disaster does not go ahead. It's not okay to do this in this middle of a beautiful National Park. It should be kept as it is, incorporated into the National Park and left for emergency use only.

Overwhelmingly, the residents of the Blue Mountains have said no to this project, with many signatures already received. I hope you will listen to what locals want, who know this area better than anyone, rather than corporate pockets.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:18 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed lease at Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident of the Blue Mountains, I am writing to object to a commercial airport at Katoomba Airfield and the proposed intrusive helicopter joy flights over the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and its associated wild rivers.

I object to the issuing of such a commercial licence, associated joy flights and other commercial aircraft activity and ask the Legislative Assembly to incorporate the Katoomba Airfield in to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, to be managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as an emergency airfield.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To who it might concern,

I'm a local resident from Wentworth Falls. I object for YKAT (Katoomba Airfield) to be used for commercial purposes. I would like to see this Crown land being added to the National Parks and keeping YKAT for emergency use only.

This development proposal affects me for many reasons but I just wanted to point this out that I moved to the mountains and bought a house in Wentworth Falls for the lifestyle and peaceful surrounding it provides. I'm primarily work from home and spend my free time paragliding from Mt Blackheath. The proposed western aircraft routes from YKAT are crossing over the take off at Mt Blackheath. This location is one of the best paragliding/ hang gliding sites in Australia and very popular with local (greater Sydney) pilots. The increase air traffic proposed by the new leaseholder will significantly affect our operations.

There are many other concerns in relation to increased air traffic in and out of YKAT, however I would like to focus mostly on the impact it will have on recreational aviation at this location.

I hope this submission will be considered and no licence for the operation of commercial airfield will be allowed.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 7:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield [LX 602686]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to register a personal objection to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to a commercial flying operator.

Given the unique nature of the Blue Mountains in the Sydney region, the prospect of overflight by low flying aircraft and possibly helicopters on a regular basis is entirely inappropriate.

The Blue Mountains region is a World Heritage area, not some sort of fun fair or amusement park. Enjoyment of the amenity by the public should be in keeping with its essential character, not in opposition to it. An important part of its quality and attraction is the peaceful tranquillity. It is a very thing in the modern world, so close to a large city.

The airfield no doubt has its local value as a place for emergency landing, firefighting aviation, or other crisis situations.

However, leasing it for general commercial use can only damage the existing amenity of the area.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:40 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference: 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Objection for Katoomba Airfield lease.

As having recently relocated to the [REDACTED], I am distressed to learn that my house is located within a flight path as indicated on plan issued by FlyBlu as part of their proposal for a 50 year lease of the Katoomba Airfield.

I resided near the National Park of Sutherland and was induced by the lure of a natural pristine environment such as [REDACTED] for my [REDACTED]. It is imperative that the airspace be filled with just the sound of birds, not the painful noise of the rotor blades of helicopters.

The Blue Mountains is renown throughout the world for its quiet beauty and it would be most irresponsible if I did not voice my objection to such a proposal that would deter potential visitors.

The value of the brand of Blue Mountains Nature would be destroyed.

The lease for this airfield needs to go to National Parks so that it stays in public hands, not a private developer. It is not acceptable to now be in doubt for my guests and myself the quiet enjoyment of this region.

Thanking you for accepting my objection.
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 1:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I have lived in Katoomba since 1978, we live on the edge of the [REDACTED], and have had to put up with low flying aircraft flying over our house for many years, our house stands at around 3,000 feet altitude, and planes and helicopters from Bankstown frequently fly over our house only 100 or 200 feet above us (according to flight radar online). Previous users of Katoomba Airfield have caused even greater inconvenience, and I have no reason to expect the Larsons will be any different, seeking money from the few, while spoiling the peace and quiet of the many. The terrain of Katoomba should always have been a consideration when flight paths were planned, but the low altitude limit and set flight paths demonstrate that nobody in aviation regulation has considered why Echo Point was so named.

There should be no airfield in Katoomba, and all flights over Katoomba, whether large or small aircraft, should have regulated altitude minimums

- at least 10,000 feet for larger craft, and 6,000' for smaller craft.

The community would be happier still if all aircraft, including commercial passenger flights, were routed around Katoomba instead of flying directly over the town as they have done for as long as I can remember. In light of the money Katoomba and the Blue Mountains brings into the country as a world famous landmark and haven of peace and quiet, all aircraft should be kept clear of our skies.

Imagine standing at Echo Point admiring the Three Sisters for the first time, with amplified low flying aircraft ruining the scene and drowning out all conversation.

Larger, passenger jets flying at around 5,000', cause reverberating noise, bouncing off the many cliffs and rock walls to an unacceptable noise level - unless you see it, it is impossible to tell the direction of the aircraft because of the sound bounces off the rock walls, which greatly amplifies the volume.

This is not the image Australia wishes to create for it's World Heritage national parks. We have thousands of tourists coming here every day of the week, and it is common to hear them complain of the aircraft noise caused by both large commercial jets and low flying planes and helicopters. The noise spoils bushwalks, and picnics are ruined by noise and turbulence from joy flights.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Commercial Lease of Katoomba Airfield Crown Lands

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a long-term local resident in Katoomba and would like to submit my objections to the proposed commercial leasing of the Katoomba Airfield.

My objections to this commercial lease are as follows:

1. The Katoomba airfield is entirely surrounded by World Heritage Listed national park and was originally part of the national park. When the airfield was created and transferred from National Park to Crown land status, it was recommended that it be returned to the National Park in the long term. Many government reports have recommended that the airfield be returned to the National Park in the interests of the integrity of the park.
2. In the 1990's, the airfield was leased to a commercial company which ran tourist joy rides. The impact of the noise on the local community and the ability for people to enjoy the natural environment in the National Park was so great that extended community protests continued until the lease was cancelled by the mid-1990s.
3. The Blue Mountains economy relies very heavily on tourists and the reputation of the mountains as a place of peaceful retreat is so critical to this. Helicopters are very loud, fly much lower than other aircraft and joy-ride flights would be frequent in order to be profitable for the company holding the lease.

It is actually impossible to enjoy sitting by a beautiful waterfall, or in one of our amazing canyons with the sound of a helicopter dominating everything. Most Blue Mountains residents have already experienced this at times when a rescue helicopter flies overhead.
4. The negative impact of the lease would extend to so many businesses working in tourism in the mountains while the benefit is only for a single or very small number of operators. Government is responsible for making decisions that benefit the majority of the public which they have a mandate to serve - not a small number of individuals.
5. The airport needs to stay entirely in public hands for the safety of our residents and infrastructure. The Blue Mountains is an area which is increasingly at risk of fires as the trend seems to be that maximum summer temperatures have been increasing. This has been recognized by the Rural Fire Service in the creation of the new Catastrophic fire conditions rating. We need the airport to be 100% dedicated to use by our Rural Fire Services at all times.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission against the commercial lease of Katoomba Airport.

I sincerely hope that the interests of the majority of businesses, and individuals who live in and who visit the Blue Mountains will have more weight than the benefit to a single operator.

Regards,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:00 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: LX 602686 – submission as an objection to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield
Attachments: Letter to John- Collage_ Jan Melville.jpg

Mr Glen Bunny Department of Industry, Crown Lands PO Box 2155 DANGAR NSW 2309
Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr. Bunny

RE: LX 602686 – submission as an objection to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I am writing to you because I am concerned that my son and I moved to our new home in [REDACTED] NSW in May 2018. We chose this beautiful position because as a sole trader and artist it is peaceful and a perfect position to produce art works. We moved from the Hunter region where we regularly had noisy “fly overs” of helicopters and aeroplanes from Williamtown RAAF base and Newcastle airport. We certainly do not want this kind of air traffic in this fragile region, it is not at all appropriate to living so close to a world heritage listed area as special as this one.

We oppose to this public land in Medlow Bath being used for commercial purposes as well. This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever and the air strip kept as a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

There is clear documentation that government reports have recommended that the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?

Whilst we signed the petition that was sent around and online voted against this action I have been told none of that is valid. This is also why I am writing to you directly.

How can anyone properly engage in community consultation when we don't know the scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation? The state government has steadfastly refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public. This lack of community communication is highly inappropriate.

This region is a World Heritage Area listed bush land setting and it is filled with at risk plant and animal species. When you move here or spend extended time here you become more aware of the areas vulnerability.

The tourism economy within this area has long been fueled by this peaceful environment and the spectacular landscape. Why change this? Our visitors come because of the peaceful environment.

No consultation regarding path ways or flight plans has been factored into the proposal. This includes close by or further afield.

The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West- who is speaking of these flight paths and will there be multiple programs or other operator's further increasing activity.

Why was the community not consulted by the state government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a licence by direct negotiation. Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during firefighting

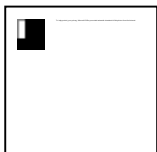
operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

As a community member I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever. We do not object to keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

[Redacted signature]



[Redacted line of text]

[Redacted line of text]

[Redacted line of text]

[Redacted line of text]

[Redacted line of text]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 1:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: (LX 602686)

Submission re Katoomba Airfield
29.7.19

- 1: I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- 2: This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever. The best outcome for the community is to incorporate the airfield into the surrounding national park to be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for emergency use only.
- 3: At the very least keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

The Environment

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native species, including those listed as endangered.

1. The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. It's status may be effected (and threatened further in combination with proposed changes to Warragamba Dam)
2. Damage to rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the tarmacing of the runway
3. The detrimental impact of Helicopters on Blue Mountains Wildlife and other World Heritage Values.

Lifestyle and amenity

The liveability of upper Blue Mountains towns and villages is likely to be impacted by:

1. An increase in helicopters and associated noise—we already have issues with scenic flights over the area conducted by other operators. However, those helicopters do not land in or take off from within the World Heritage Area.
2. Helicopter noise can travel long distances in an acoustically-sensitive environment dominated by cliffs and canyons, potentially affecting parts of North Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath and other areas in earshot of the flight paths.

3. Any Fly Neighbourly Policy is self-regulated. The policy does not, at the admission of the lease applicant, include aircraft that do not originate from Katoomba Airfield, so that would include many arrivals.
4. Increased traffic along the route to the airfield (including fuel tankers and airport runway building equipment) on a narrow local road and walking path. The road is not designed for large vehicles (Station Street, Rutland Road and Grand Canyon Road).

Detrimental effects on the Local Tourism Industry

The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoneers
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Concerns about the bureaucratic process that got us here

1. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?
2. How can anyone properly engage in community consultation when we don't know the scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation? The state government has steadfastly refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public.
3. Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West. Do we know these flight paths? We do not. This model may also bring in other operators further increasing activity.
4. Why was the community not consulted by the state government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a licence by direct negotiation, and awarded it to a high-impact helicopter tourism business, when community groups had also applied?

5. Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re Katoomba Airfield Ref 602686

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Please find this email as another voice strongly opposed to the redevelopment of the Katoomba Airfield.

How can PUBLIC LAND be sold out (leased) to a developer for purely individual and or commercial gain at the cost of the surrounding local residents, their homes, safety and environment.

This area is not only in a major fire zone but also holds our main water supply near by. The existing Airfield should be left as intended, for emergencies uses only.

Why should this land be given over to yet another developer whose only intent is on making a buck for themselves, contributing nothing and taking much.

It will not add to the Tourism Industry - it will destroy it !!. They will take away the very reason people come to the mountains for the Peace and Quiet and stunning views.

Does the Department of Industry seriously think that a Business built on Helicopter joy flights will add more revenue to the area and is a good Industrial decision. It's for a select minority at the cost of the majority. And what about the future, should this company go broke, you have setup a precedence for someone else to move in and setup even bigger and more damaging operations – it's not just the now but what your allowing for the future.

Finally should the application go ahead like so many others taking place at the moment – I fear you will have added another nail in the coffin of the Blue Mountains.

People will not want to visit if it's nothing more than another noisey over developed slum sitting on the edge of what was once a Heritage listed National Park but now views of nothing more than barren mud flats (due to the proposed Dam wall flooding) and skies filled with Helicopter joy flights combined with Aircraft noise from Badgerys creek. The Blue Mountains have enough natural pressures on them, drought – fires – damaging winds without adding more man made.

The land should be transferred to the National Parks and protected for the generations to follow. Some things surely can't be sold in the name of "Industry".

In consideration

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602 686

It would make sense to avoid any more noise above the Blue Mountains. The traffic noise along the Highway is an irritant enough to the residents. The traffic noise is heard kilometres into the bush. Any more noise pollution and it will become unbearable to live in the Mountains.
I only agree that the air field should be used for emergency.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 8:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello,

I am writing this email to express my deepest opposition to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the National Park for emergency use.

I have been a resident of Medlow Bath for 25 years. I have seen ever encroaching urbanisation and development of our beautiful pristine wilderness, and it must stop.

I fear the commercialisation of the airport will lead to further disturbing the surrounding bushland.

I fear so much for the beautiful birds we see around here.

Just last summer there were two pairs of black yellow crested cockatoos living on Grand Canyon Road. Gangangs living on Grand Canyon Road. King Parrots. Yellow crested cockatoos, the eastern rosella, lyre birds. Grey currawongs. ALL these birds live here.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM?

What will happen to these beautiful special birds when helicopters move in to their habitats all because some tourist wants their aerial Instagram photos? There will be nothing left!

This will only be for wealthy tourists. RESIDENTS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM THIS. WE DO NOT WANT THIS.

I remember when we used to see echidnas in our garden!

I remember when we used to see kangaroos all the time in the bush along Rutland. I remember seeing wombats here when I was a child. Not any more, not as the bush becomes more and more disturbed. We must protect the beautiful environment we have here, it is our home. It connects us all.

Some things are more important than tourism companies and property developers. Some things are more important than profit.

How do you put a price on natural beauty?

How do you put a price on living things?

Furthermore, I for one **DO NOT WANT** planes and tourism companies flying over my house all day!!

Please please do not let this happen!

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield

Objection to the Proposed Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield:

The existing airfield is in the middle of pristine bushland at Medlow Bath, in the Blue Mountains.

Many visitors come to the Blue Mountains for a tranquil wilderness experience, and this is provided via a network of walking tracks and spectacular lookouts and viewpoints, especially in the Upper Blue Mountains. In the area of Medlow Bath alone there are tracks and unsealed roads that provide access to Point Pilcher and the Grand Canyon, and thence to the beautiful Grose Valley.

If the Katoomba Airfield were commercialised, the tranquillity and inspiring atmosphere of the whole Grose Valley area would be compromised. In fact, by extension, the further network of valleys and clifftops which give the Blue Mountains their unique beauty and special World Heritage status, would all suffer from the intrusion of commercialised sight-seeing flights. Both the people who live here, and those who visit, respect and appreciate this unique area for its unspoiled beauty.

The peaceful bushland is also home to a wide variety of birds and animals, whose habitats would be constantly disturbed by commercial flights. The unique fauna and flora in the Blue Mountains is what most visitors care about, and what most people want to see preserved and treated with care and respect. In fact, the bushland around the airfield, so close to National Park, would benefit from added to the Park.

The Katoomba Airfield has long been used for emergency purposes, and most people have no problem with that. It is just the plan to introduce the noise and visual pollution of commercial flights, whether plane or helicopter, that points to the desecration of a special and unique place that we all ought to be able to enjoy quietly and mindfully.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield in Katoomba

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing this submission to object to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield.

I object to the public land being used for a commercial purpose.

A dirt strip should be for emergency use only.

It should be national park and protected forever.

The area needs to be protected for the sake of wildlife, and the community who live around the area, and pay rates.

We live here for the silence, the nature and to heal from the noise and chaos of the cities.

The area needs to be treasured, preserved and protected from industry and commercial interests.

There is no logical ethical or environmental reason for this airfield to be created. Our planet needs more preservation. This World Heritage National park is precious.

Let us be carers of our land. Respect our land. And make decisions that we can be proud of in years to come.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 4:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re The Future of Katoomba Airfield

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing to add my voice to others that have been raised in serious objection to the proposal that Katoomba Airfield may become a busy commercial enterprise, tainting the serenity of the World Heritage Blue Mountains "hot spots" with invasive noise pollution from helicopters and aircraft. These activities would significantly detract, in my view, from the treasured values of this one of a kind natural area of national and international significance. If this operation was allowed to go ahead, the momentary enjoyment of the passing few would impact on the quality of life of all in our community. The serenity and peace of the Blue Mountains, and its importance to tourism, biodiversity, quality of life of residents and visitors cannot be underestimated.

Many years ago I remember another commercial operation of joy flights in the Grose Valley with great distress. Quiet walks in the Grand Canyon and along the Grose cliff edges were disturbed by the sound of choppers reverberating across the cliff walls as they flew below the cliff line. The noise was dreadful. I believe that operation was halted through public protest and am greatly disturbed that we are fighting the same fight again, when the world is more in need of nature and the serenity that natural areas provide than ever. Such areas should be utterly cherished as they diminish, as they are finite and irreplaceable.

How can the profit of the few be justified when their benefit brings very little to the local community, and in fact detracts significantly from enjoyment of the national park and townships by residents and land based visitors? In terms of Cost Benefit Analysis, it makes no sense. The few who can afford to experience from the area via helicopter will negatively impact on the significant number who access the 100s of kilometres of walking trails, taking it slow, staying in our townships - all drawn by the very real feeling of wilderness that our national park surrounds provides. There are case studies of this value diminishment from of natural areas around the world, where commercial operations of helicopters are having a harsh and negative impact of the quality of experience for land based visitors, and a permanent loss of peace for residents. I strongly wish it not to happen here.

So, in harmony with others that also hold this unique and peaceful place very precious, I wish to express that:

1. I vehemently object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
2. I would wish for this crown land should be kept for the benefit of the majority, not for the profit of a few, by transferring it to national park and protecting it from commercial interest forever
3. Keep a working dirt strip for emergency use only, with the understanding that fire fighting and emergency helicopters do not require the same standard of strip as a commercial fixed wing operation.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 3:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

26 June 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated near the Blue Mountains National Park at Medlow Bath.

I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I am an Australian citizen, living in Adelaide. However I have visited the Blue Mountains , Blackheath and I regularly spend time, visiting friends and bushwalking there. The Grose Valley and Megalong Valleys are amongst my favourite areas and I love the incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence. I have stayed regularly at Blackheath and Medlow Bath in the upper mountains in the past and it has been a peaceful haven from my busy life. I feel that helicopter joy flights would ruin the quiet ambience and the peace and quiet I enjoy, when I visit there. The Blue Mountains is a unique wilderness a stones throw from a Sydney. The main reason people such as myself visit is the peaceful respite this place offers. It's classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is so justified.

I feel that the noise of constant helicopter flights all day will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment I will enjoy when and I plan my future trips back to visit. It may make me choose an alternative destination if this invasive, noisy business goes ahead. I do not want to holiday and relax under the constant noise of helicopters.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life and listen to the overwhelming opposition to this proposition.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 8:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reference to the proposal to use the old airfield at Medlow Bath. I strongly object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. I believe this should be kept as a working dirt strip for emergencies only.

I don't believe the surrounding villages would benefit financially as people would be flown in and out and the commercial transporters would be the beneficiary. It is not going to enhance the lives of the local residents. People choose to live in this area because of the national parks, and the quiet peaceful life. This crown land should be transferred to national park and protected forever.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from Lynne's iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: LX 602686 - submission as an objection to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Attention: Mr Glen Bunny, Department of Industry, Crown Lands.

Dear Mr Bunny,

I am a local resident of the Blue Mountains and wish to express my concern regarding the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield. I object to the approval of any commercial lease on the parcel of Crown land containing Katoomba Airfield. Furthermore, I propose that this land be added to the Blue Mountains National Park, which surrounds it on all sides, and hence be incorporated into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The airfield should be limited to emergency use only.

My concerns are related to the detrimental effects on the Local Tourism Industry, the environment and the lifestyle and amenity of the Blue Mountains

People who live in the Blue Mountains, and also people visiting the Blue Mountains, particularly those from other countries, as well as hikers, bushwalkers, climbers and canyoners, come here to experience the pristine and quiet wilderness environment. This exquisite and rare environment will be jeopardised by increased noise caused by the higher numbers of planes and helicopters flying over the area. The type of tourism offered will attract wealthy and high-end tourists who have the necessary funds required to pay for flights and accommodation and not those who have limited funds.

The World Heritage Status of the Blue Mountains National Park could be jeopardised if increased flights, causing noise and visual pollution over the Mountains are permitted. Additionally, damage will result to rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and sealing of the runway.

Safety issues are paramount and need to be considered, with provision made for the airfield to continue being used by emergency services at no cost.

I urge you to consider this matter with great care and consideration, being particularly mindful of the consequences of inappropriate development in our spectacular Blue Mountains.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 3:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To Whom It may concern

I am a long term resident of [REDACTED]. I have lived and worked in the mountains for the last 28 years (I run my own business) I have witnessed a lot of changes in this time .While some have been very positive ,ie more young families in the area .We have also experienced a huge increase in traffic to the area ,especially the weekends .Again this can mean more revenue for us up here but it also means a lot more traffic congestion on the roads ,and pervasive traffic noise for most of us ,a big impact on the peacefulness that has always characterised up here .

I am deeply concerned about the prospect of helicopters flying over head for sight seeing flights from the mellow airfield...the noise of a helicopter carries more than any other aircraft and can be extremely invasive .I was recently in Nepal ,in the Everest region ...joy flight helicopters were a consistent over head noise ,completely obliterating the amazing impact of the scenery and experience .

For just a few in the helicopter above ,it ruined the experience for the many below in the scenery ..I would NOT go back for this reason .

This could easily be the scenario here ..

Please don't throw away the main reason visitors come here ,to experience the peace and quiet of the world heritage region ,for a few to benefit from ... Think of the future please and what we want to preserve ..

Warm regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 3:01 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Further information Katoomba Airfield lease LX 602686

I would like to submit concerning the YKAT airfield lease proposal. I have read 'facts' and FAQ and from that sparse info I can tell very Little.

In particular I want to know About alternatives considered, such as perhaps a modern emergency Heliport in Katoomba with sealed surfaces and runoff / contaminant Management.

Also how circuit flying is to be managed bearing in mind airspace is uncontrolled and not the subject of a Crown lands lease, how Commercial flying is somehow not permitted while joyflights and Training obviously are Commercial and exactly what Rehabilitation is to occur.

I do not want runways managed by NPWS, who have already shown scant regard for safety by excavating a trench.

What does short cycle mean? Joyflights of how Long?

Since the proposed lease is not offered for comment a copy of said lease is requested.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:23 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; skeszler@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath Airfield Submission Ref LX 602686

I am strongly opposed to the Medlow Bath Airfield being used for commercial purposes through Sky Blue.

I live in the direct line of the proposed helicopter flight path. This would be disruptive, noisy and an intrusion on privacy with helicopters flying directly over my home. I do not want to live with this invasive noise numerous times a day, every day, which would be a likely scenario if Sky Blue gains permission to lease the airfield.

We live in a World Heritage National Park. People live here to enjoy its natural beauty. Visitors and National Park user's come to the area to experience a natural, peaceful, unspoilt environment. The airstrip and surrounding bushland of the World Heritage National Park are sensitive areas.

The airstrip is situated in close vicinity to our water catchment and drinking water supply. The lease of the airstrip by Sky Blue could potentially be a threat to polluting Lake Medlow and Cascade. I am unaware of any environmental impact study being conducted to assess the impact on the World Heritage National Park and it's wildlife and ecology in relation to the use of the airstrip by Sky Blue.

I think the airstrip would be better managed by National Parks or Blue Mountains Council and could be used for Emergency helicopter services only. This option would significantly decrease the cost of maintenance but still allow emergency use which would be acceptable and beneficial to the the public by assisting in protection of properties and the community.

I am concerned that the presence of aircraft activities will greatly degrade the ambience, and natural beauty of our World Heritage National Park and do not support Sky Blue operating from the airfield in any capacity.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I OBJECT TO KATOOMBA AIRFIELD
BEING GIVEN THROUGH A COMMERCIAL LEASE
TO ANY PRIVATE ORGANISATION

The first thing is the mental health of the 80K people who live here!
How many thousands is it benefiting? Or is it that just a few at the expense of thousands?

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.

This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever

Not sure how helicopter and light aircraft noise and fumes is going to provide “environmental benefits”...can you let us know what those “benefits” are please?

YOU SAY TO Qs:

Q1. Will the public still be able to use the site?

Yes. Historically, public access to and use of Katoomba Airfield for anything other than aviation was prevented by the terms of the previous lease. The lease applicant is proposing to 'open up' areas of the site to encourage greater visitation and community use of the site by offering new and improved facilities.

I SAY:

Does Opening up mean:

- Public Toilets
- Fire places barbeque?
- Look outs
- paths
- camping

If visitors to National Parks are encouraged to make “supporting donations” or “entry donations”, many would gladly drop coins/notes into the NPW coffers. All available for a gold coin donation and/or register at NPW.gov.nsw.au and make a donation – month/year/once off/\$10...\$20...

Then, the NPW could collect money!

2. Why is this being considered?

Katoomba Airfield is Crown land and the lease has expired.

The grant of a lease to a tenant provides for the responsible management of the 36Ha site in accordance with applicable laws and the objects and principles of Crown land management. A lease provides financial, environmental and social benefits to the people of NSW.

I SAY

Environmental benefits?

Please tell me what the environmental benefits are with this proposal?

Social benefits? Financial benefits?

Noise pollution will drive city visitors away and lower property prices if local owners.

Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

Needs to be available for catastrophic fire events.

National Parks & Wildlife / NPW should be given the lease, ie the land should be signed back into the World Heritage Listed National Park as it was meant to be done decades ago.

3. How did this proposed lease come about?

The previous lease ended late in 2017. The same year, following consultation with commonwealth, state and local government agencies, expressions of interest were invited from the public to identify interest in managing and / or further developing the site on behalf of the department.

I SAY

How come the community were not consulted BEFORE any lease was offered?

Following this process in February 2018, a licence was granted to Derek and Floyd Larsen for Aerodrome and Land Management on the site. In January 2019 a lease application was lodged with the department by Mr and Mrs Larsen. The lease application is in the name of FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd, to satisfy the department's requirements for the registration of any leaseholder as a legal entity.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 2:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath for aviation tourism.

I am not a resident (though I would dearly love to be), but a frequent visitor and lover of our beautiful and precious Blue Mountains.

I believe the area is Crown land, and as such should be protected and included in the National Park. The Blue Mountains are in danger of being loved to death because of its close proximity to Sydney. The Highways are improving making access so easy for visitors and for residents. The population is increasing rapidly making the preservation of the Blue Mountains even more precious.

When the airport at Badgery's Creek is operating, there will be more stress on the Blue Mountains. The increasing Sydney population is creeping closer and denser to the Mountains every year. Every attempt should be made to protect as much of the Blue Mountains as possible. Even an airstrip.

The proposal will only benefit the organisation providing the service and the rich tourists. In summer there are plenty of helicopters in the mountains area checking for bushfires. They are a necessity to protect our beautiful bushland. Maybe the airstrip should be retained for emergency use only. But , a commercial use of the area would degrade/cheapen our Blue Mountains. Too much commercialism will spoil the Blue Mountains.

Please look after and preserve our beautiful Blue Mountains so our grandchildren can enjoy them .

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To: The Department of Industry, NSW

RE: Proposed commercial development Katoomba Airstrip.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains, I am writing to voice my strong objections to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield, and in particular, the granting of permission for scenic helicopter flights in the area.

Given that there are already some 90,000 tourists to the area each year, and that what attracts them is not only the spectacular scenery, but the ability to walk in such a peaceful and ecologically diverse area in tranquility and to observe native fauna, it is hard to accept that the constant noise of helicopters ferrying only the richest of visitors to the region can in any way enhance that experience.

Offering of scenic flights is surely redundant in an area where the natural beauty is already so accessible, in addition to compromising the status of the National Park as a World Heritage area.

As a resident I am always very aware of the sound of a helicopter overhead as it certainly shatters the tranquillity of the area, but it raises the alarm that someone is missing or injured, or that there is a bushfire or other emergency. A few years ago, helicopters flew at a low level across many suburbs over an entire weekend. Police Command in Katoomba received so many hundreds of calls that they were forced to issue public announcements to explain an electricity company was checking the state of its poles and wires through several townships. Imagine living with this level of intense noise through every daylight hour, let alone the damage it will cause to local wildlife.

Of course the Airfield has been there for a long time, of course there is a need for a landing strip to be maintained for emergency services. But could this airstrip not be assimilated into the nearby National Park, to be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) thereby still providing emergency services but protected from unnecessary development which in the long term is going to severely harm the environment which attracts visitors to the area already?

In recent years the Blue Mountains has made great strides as an arts business precinct, with the Cultural Centre and Scenic World featuring exhibitions and sales of well-known local artists and artisans, new ventures in the performing arts, and most notably, the boost to the local economy through film production: *My Favourite Dinosaur*; *Book Week*, *Acute Misfortune* and *Smoke Between Trees* are just four recent examples that have all been shot entirely in the Blue Mountains and have played in cinema release and/or at International Film Festivals. The presence of an airfield with constant helicopter noise overhead or nearby will severely limit the attraction of the Blue Mountains as a filmmaking location. Other institutions such as Varuna, the Writers' House, this year hosting an international Writers Festival in addition to its main aim of providing a quiet and beautiful location for selected writers to complete their work, would surely find their main purpose and function severely compromised.

I do hope you can take the above points into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to raise my concerns over the future of Katoomba Airfield (YKAT). It has come to my attention that the government is considering closing the facility completely, in response to the actions of a very small but very hostile group of local residents.

As an [REDACTED] for the last 23 years, I have conducted many fieldcraft training activities on the YKAT facility and the surrounding bushland every year. The site offers a unique combination of terrains, with an operational airfield, with relatively easy access to hospital and other emergency services, as well as good mobile phone coverage. This allows us to facilitate valuable fieldcraft training in the safest possible environment, within reasonable transport range of our bases in Sydney. We have always respected the natural environment and hope that it will remain unchanged for many years to come. We hope to be able to continue to conduct fieldcraft and leadership training on the site.

The current Managers of the site have done an outstanding job, at considerable expense, of improving the site – both in terms of cleaning up the abandoned materials on the site and improving the infrastructure for the aviation community – all done in a responsible and sustainable way.

It is vital that the Airfield remain available as an operational facility, albeit with limitations of traffic, for the safety of the local community. I remember the great role it played a few years ago, when the aircraft being used for firefighting were being refilled with fire retardant foam on the site, saving valuable time that otherwise would have lost flying to more distant sites.

It is imperative that the safety of the broader local community should be considered above the short-sighted, “not-in-my-back-yard” interests of a small group of individuals. The utility value of this public asset is much greater than the perceived increase in the “peace and quiet” value to those individuals. Moreover, we must recognise that, once lost, it is extremely unlikely that this asset will ever be recovered.

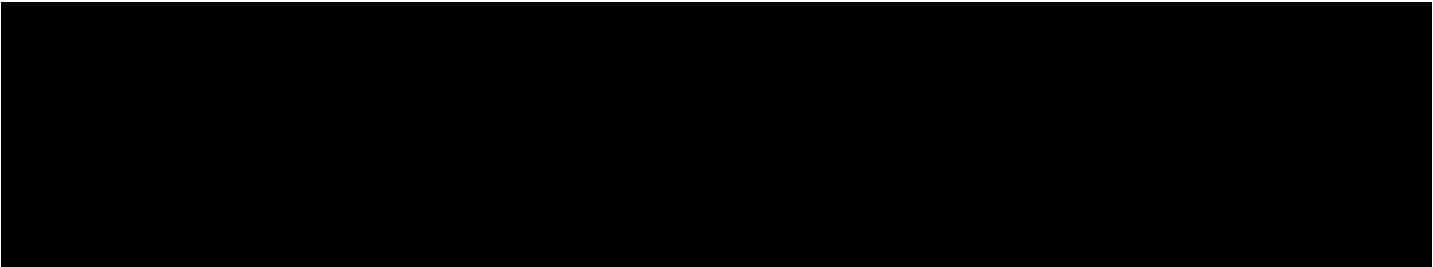
Of course, the facility will need to be made available to the aviation community to be sustainable in the long term, but the level of potential traffic is never likely to be a significant inconvenience to anyone other than the small group of people who allow the hysteria of environmental protest to tunnel their vision.

I pledge my support, on behalf of the Australian Air Force Cadets, to assist in any way possible to keep this valuable asset in operation. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of any assistance.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 5:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: NO aviation tourism from the old Medlow Bath airfield Ref No 602686

I am a Blue Mountains resident.

I cannot think of anything designed to be more intrusive in this World Heritage area than aviation tourism.

Someone's 'bright idea' to entertain tourists will be a monstrous migraine for all of us who actually live here, and love living here.

Please do not try to reassure us that it won't be a nightmare. We know the arguments for and against it. Those 'for' serve only a special interest group, as we know, not the residents who, daily, love living here and love caring for the Blue Mountains.

PLEASE DO NOT GRANT A LEASE OF ANY KIND LET ALONE A LONG TERM LEASE FOR AVIATION TOURISM - UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

PUBLIC LAND MEANS PUBLIC LAND. IF YOU WANT TO LEASE IT TO PRIVATE INTERESTS THEN PLEASE GIVE THE PUBLIC WHO OWN IT A VOTE FIRST TO DECIDE THE MATTER

I THINK THIS CROWN LAND SHOULD BE PROTECTED IN PERPETUITY BY GIVING ITS CUSTODIANSHIP TO THE NATIONAL PARKS

A NATURAL DIRT AIRSTRIP FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY WOULD BE AN EMINENTLY SENSIBLE IDEA & WOULD NOT DETRIMENTALLY IMPACT THE WORLD HERITAGE NATIONAL PARK.

PLEASE LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN & LOVE THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 2:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I am writing in support of the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to the applicant, who I understand is operating at the airfield under a short-term licence.

I had intended to attend an information session conducted by the Department of Industry at Katoomba recently, but was turned away by a large agitated group of people protesting against the proposed lease. Over the past few months, I have been approached several times by people requesting I sign a petition “opposing the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield” – outside polling booths at both elections, on the street and inside shopping malls. There have been numerous letter-box drops and full-colour newspaper advertisements. It appears to be a remarkably well-organised and well-funded campaign, which I think is partly a carry-over from frustration at the failure of the campaign opposing the airport at Badgerys Creek.

I am a resident of Blackheath. In my younger, bushwalking days, I spent some time exploring the Grose, Cox and Kanangra Rivers, and fully appreciate the majesty and wonder of those wild areas. The Blue Mountains National Park is itself surrounded by areas of great interest- such as the Wolgan and Capertee Valleys – which are difficult for the day tourist to access but which can be readily appreciated by air.

Over the past several months, I have noticed helicopters “dropping in” to the Megalong Valley Tea-rooms without raising complaints from patrons and neighbours, and without disturbing stock grazing nearby. I understand that, as a condition of the lease, constraints will be placed on the lessee which will ensure minimal disturbance to both neighbours and tourists.

Opponents of the proposed lease are demanding that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park and maintained by NPWS for emergency use only. The Katoomba Airfield is accessed by the NPWS-maintained road to Point Pilcher – a road which has deteriorated very badly over the past few years. I doubt whether the NPWS has the will and the funding to maintain the airfield safely.

I strongly believe that Katoomba Airfield should remain as Crown Land, leased to a commercial operator under strict conditions.

[REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re: LX 602686

I am concerned about the proposal to lease this parcel of public (Crown) land to a private company for use as a commercial aerodrome and heliport. Please, please, please do not do this.

Can it be handed over to the National Park instead – wouldn't this be the obvious and wisest choice to be made for this parcel of land?

Little by little this amazing National Park is being eroded – we can't afford to be this destructive.

This proposal is not compatible with the area.

This is a proposal that will benefit very few people but negatively impact on so many more. Neither is it worth the negative impact it will create within the park. It will create noise pollution at best and loss of habitat at worse. It is not what this area is about.

We DON'T NEED a commercial airstrip in the Blue Mountains World Heritage Listed National Park but we DO NEED to protect our national park spaces.

The Blue Mountains is a very special place for locals and visitors alike—as much enjoyed for its' peaceful serenity as for the beautiful views, rare plants and animals. It is a peaceful untouched place to explore, learn and exercise.

This proposal will serve very few people and no doubt any profits will go offshore. The park is for everyone to enjoy and in particular it is so important to protect the park and all that live and grow in it. There is a place for everything, even air strips, but our heritage national park is not one of them.

Please seriously reflect on the decision being made. This is a wonderful opportunity to make the right choice for an incredibly beautiful pristine part of the nation.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:10 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you because I strongly object to the idea of re-purposing the old airfield at Medlow Bath for commercial use. This is public land and should remain public. Any commercial purposes for this land are totally inappropriate. What's more, the idea of using the land for aviation tourism is preposterous.

People come to the Blue Mountains not just for the amazing landscape but also for the atmosphere, the feeling of remoteness and uninterrupted expanse. The Blue Mountains affords invaluable peace and quiet to people that live here and visit here while only a stone's throw from Western Sydney. This atmosphere will be completely disrupted and destroyed by scenic flights, instead imposing a noisy theme-park atmosphere to the Blue Mountains.

This is just not fair - destroying what the Blue Mountains stands for for the benefit of a few joyflight participants and operators - and it is highly undemocratic. Any commercial use of this land should be disregarded for the same reason: it is public land and should remain for public use only.

I call on you to keep this crown land public by transferring it to the national park and maintaining it. I think the land will be of huge public benefit to locals and tourists alike if it were available for emergency use. It would prove an invaluable facility in bushfire season and at other times as well, which any commercial operation would get in the way of.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:36 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference number 602686

I strongly object to the public land of Katoomba airfield being exploited by a commercial interest. The airfield needs to be protected by being included in the National Park and be used for emergency use only.

I live in Katoomba South and occasionally a helicopter hovers over. The noise is very distracting and not conducive to the quiet beauty of the area.

A commercial use of the airport would only be financially viable if there were to be a large number of helicopter flights, this is totally unacceptable. The area already has a large number of tourists that contribute to the area, the extra benefits to the area from the proposed flights would be very limited and detract from the area.

Regards [REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Over the last few months, given the uproar surrounding the proposal to reopen the airfield at "Katoomba", and as a local business owner, and resident of the upper Blue Mountains for the best part of 40 years, I have taken the issue very seriously, and have researched both sides of the argument, quite heavily.

First I found it alarming, very alarming, that the negative campaign is relying almost exclusively on incorrect and misleading information, such as stating it is FACT that National Parks own the airfield, and that they operate several other airfields inside national parks.. This is a point blank lie, National parks do not operate any airfields, they simply do not have the funding to do so. In fact, if you use the airspace rules for the region, and try to contact National Parks to request approval to fly over national parks in the region, either no one answers the phone, or the people answering have no idea of the protocol to follow! The same pattern turns up with the various other claims being made by the negative campaign, including overflight of towns being requested, land clearing (planting is to be carried out).

In my research, my mind has been changed, and I've gone from being worried about noise, to, upon seeing the declared air corridors in and out of the airfield, the hours of operation, etc. to being a strong supporter of the proposal as it stands.

I have found no facts to support the negative campaign, Quite the reverse is true, their statements are made using incorrect information at best.

The airfield was designated such before the establishment of the National Park, it was never carved out of an existing Park, for example.

Sorry for getting sidetracked, but the approach of the group campaigning against the airfield has been highly unprofessional, misleading, and forceful, I have been physically blocked from passing a protester, being told I had to sign a petition to " save the mountains", there was no mention of it being a petition against the airfield, MANY PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION NOT KNOWING WHAT THEY HAVE SIGNED, as its been misrepresented what is being asked to be signed.

This airfield is important for the Blue Mountains, for many reasons, especially its primary availability for emergency operations, such as airlifting people out to hospital, or bringing firefighters and equipment in to fight fires. On that point, in the 1994 bushfires, the house I was renting in Blackheath had its back fence burn down, as did many down that end of Govetts Leap road, but the houses were saved, in part, by fire fighters flown into Katoomba Airfield

In order to avoid dragging on, I think I should just say, This airfield is a huge bonus for the Mountains, not just for tourism, and a potential increase in business for many service industries, but its a vital link for emergency services for the region.

Please feel free to contact me

[REDACTED]

Thank you

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:20 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Blue Mountains Airfield Privatisation

Hi,

Please don't spoil our peaceful quiet wilderness area, please don't jeopardise our World Heritage status, please don't drive the tourists away.

I believe the vast majority of tourists who visit the upper Blue Mountains come here to savour the delights of the peaceful, quite natural environment.

They are here to find peace and quiet away from the whirring, buzzing engines of the city environment. To find a quiet spot away from the hustle and bustle.

It's the very reason for the large number of visitors to one of Australia's most popular National Parks. Peace and Quiet. It's certainly why the residents have chosen it as a place to live.

To begin operating 'joy flights' through this area will create experiences and dollars for a select few, whilst the residents and nature seeking seeking tourists deal with the airborne commotion from the lookouts, bush walks, hotels and houses from the ground. Peaceful weekends will become a thing of the past.

It's not hard to imagine those planning a quiet weekend away from the city will look elsewhere when their wilderness experience shapes to be one of regular overhead noise from

helicopter engines. Those who run businesses and other tourist dependant operations will suffer. The option for a peaceful national park getaway will no longer be the Blue Mountains.

Don't annoy the residents, don't drive the tourists away. Don't operate helicopter flights in our relaxing environs.

Why should the greed of a few, impact so negatively upon the peace of tens of thousands of residents and visitors?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 10:52 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No: 602686

Dear Sir/ Madam,

On behalf of my family, myself and three adult voting children and five grandchildren, who are all residents of the Blue Mountains, I wish to register our objection to the old Airfield at Medlow Bath being used other than as an emergency airfield.

My family has been a rate payer to Blue Mountains City Council since April 1971, living as we do in [REDACTED]

We object to the idea of this public land being used for commercial purposes in the future.

This crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever.

A working dirt strip at the airfield could be maintained for emergency use only.

This country has destroyed much of its natural habitat and lost too many native species.

We claim to be civilized, yet we continually destroy beautiful areas so that tourists can visit, to gape at what is left, drop a few fag ends, discard a few drink cans and scatter food wrappers around these areas almost as proof that they have been there.

It's nice to have some tourism, but does the Blue Mountains really need tourists at the expense of the native flora and fauna?

Pease do not destroy what we have in an effort to gain more money for the area.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

This is to voice my protest to the proposed tourist helicopter flights from Katoomba airfield.

The area is World Heritage, as you know, and a major destination for everyday Australians and tourists to come bushwalking, climbing and enjoy the scarce peace of nature.
I know from my own time living and walking in the area that even the current commercial flight path planes high up are very noticeable.
When the emergency Police/Medivac/RFS helicopters are around and needed the sound and disturbance is vast but bearable as intermittent and live saving.
Not something that would be appreciated every minute potentially - or hourly even.
Flights will be for the privileged few flying in and flying out, with marginal to none employment boost for locals.
Is it all about money at the end of the day anyway?...May peace and good sense prevail in our mad world.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Department of Industry, Crown Lands,

RE: Ref No 602686

I am writing to object strenuously to the commercial lease proposed for the Katoomba airfield. This is totally inappropriate for the area. The airfield should be part of the National Park, and used solely for emergency flights. Please don't lease it out for commercial operators! It is horrifying there was no prior consultation on this proposal. The community of the Blue Mountains, and more broadly of the entire area needs to have input.

Thank you for your attention.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 20602686

Why is this public land being considered for commercial purposes

Given where it is, and the sensitive location, how come this Crown land has not already been transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved.

Let's be practical and keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

My main concern is how to protect what is special about the mountains, the beauty, piece and quiet

Increase of surrounding noise pollution is to be prevented whenever possible.

The trucks and coal trains test us and the tourists who visit us already.

The whole Mountains economy is influenced by tourism and the perception of our location

Look what happened to the local economy when word got out about bushfires.

We don't want word to be "the Mountains, it used to be good 20 years ago, now we go to new Zealand and Tasmania"

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Why is this public land being considered for commercial purposes

Given where it is, and the sensitive location, how come this Crown land has no been transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved

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The whole mountains economy is influenced by tourism.

Look what happened to the local economy when word got out about bushfires.

We don't want word to be- the Mountains, it used to be good 20 years ago, now we go to new Zealand and Tasmania.

Thanks

[Redacted signature block]

--

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au;
katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Mr Glen Bunny
Department of Industry and Crown Lands

Dear Mr Bunny

RE: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

This is to submit my strong objection to the proposed commercial operation of Katoomba Airfield.

Landing and flying tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area would be an environmental disaster.

A commercial airfield would increase traffic, run-off and erosion, be an intrusion via air space and cause constant noise pollution to unacceptable levels. It would irreparably damage this unique region's international reputation as pristine wilderness which protects many vulnerable and endangered animal and plant species.

Any commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield would also damage the lifestyle and amenity not only of Blue Mountains residents like myself but also that of visiting day trippers, tourists, bush walkers, climbers and canyoneers who all come to enjoy the unspoilt beauty, peace and quiet of the Blue Mountains. Any decrease in tourism as a result would impact on many local businesses and the local economy in general.

This Crown land must be transferred to the National Park and preserved for future generations. Please return the airfield to National Parks so it can be used as a working dirt strip for emergencies only. Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 6:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX602686

Dear Sirs,

please allow me to send you my concerns regarding the planned Airfield extension in the Blue Mountains National Park.

I subject to the plan since it is not in the best interests of the environment, the community or the World Heritage site tourism.

It's not sustainable and exploits a huge area for the pleasure of a few.

1. The desire to seek financial returns via rental agreements from commercial operators is only one small consideration, it should be weighed against the incalculable value to future generations of appropriately extending the Blue Mountains National Park. Because of its special location and value, I believe this public land should remain under the management of a public institution, not leased to a private company to develop for their personal gain. I would like to see Lot 550 DP 751657, Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath gazetted as an extension of our Blue Mountains National Park.

2. Your fact sheet on the proposal states that the department will not permit short-cycle/short-duration joy flights or circuit training. The financial investment proposed by FlyBlue would seem only sensible if they imagine a considerable traffic of recreational aviation, so their business model must anticipate a large flying club, or maybe frequent passing air traffic (perhaps a helicoptered elite from the Walgan Valley dropping in for some sight-seeing?) This is inappropriate use of the land and should not be allowed.

3. The users would only represent a minority of the millions of visitors enjoying the Blue Mountains every year. And yet all visitors would be negatively affected by the increased noise pollution and the loss of wildlife in surrounding bush.

4. I would hope that future use of the existing airfield by RFS and other emergency services will continue and perhaps be enhanced by dedicating the existing facilities to these organisations for training and operational purposes. This is compatible with the land being within the National Park and having the surrounding bush managed by NPWS. This could improve the provision of vital fire-fighting facilities in the Blue Mountains, without the need to pave a runway, or have aircraft low-flying daily over pristine bush and nearby villages. I request that the existing airfield be kept for Emergency Use Only.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 7:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern

Ref no 602686

There is a commercial venture to fly helicopter over the Blackheath area (Blue Mountains) and is quite loud!,it was very quite area or suburbs and that is the many reason that people move up to the area.

In Blackheath is the well known Vipassana meditation center , and if one is meditating and you have a helicopter flying over it is quite disturbing and just for the center but for the whole the residential area.

Bellow is a youtube sample of the noise:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luZAwimLoGo&feature=youtu.be>

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Submission against the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield

Submission against the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield

To Mark Maloney

I live at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] away from the airfield. I have experienced helicopters flying low directly over my home and business sometimes for rescues and fire, sometimes for commercial flights. The noise is always incredibly loud and alarming. I accept this when there is genuine need, as in fire and rescue but not for any other reason. We run a small accomodation business on the property. We focus on the pristine environment and the tranquility of the bush. A private company making financial gain from my and my customers discomfort is insulting, inappropriate and wrong. 60% of our 29 acres is conservation zoned because of rare and endangered plants and animals that live here. The affect of the helicopter noise on the endangered species on our property needs serious consideration. To date no environmental impact studies have been done and this fact alarms me. The noise of a low flying helicopter is considerable, I cannot stress this enough. The idea that the helicopters could fly low over our house and property multiple times throughout the day is unthinkable. It will directly affect our business and the animals on our land. And It will negatively affect Mountain tourism in general. We want to promote tourism that has a gentle footstep, in tune with the environment. This commercial proposal is the wrong type of tourism. We do not need it. It allows a few people an exclusive experience that negatively affects the majority. I cannot see any logic in allowing this proposal to go forward. I strongly object to any commercial lease for this public land and I fully support giving the land over to the National Park to manage and keep the airfield for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 9:19 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission in relation to proposed airfield at Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to express my opposition to the proposed revitalisation of the airfield as a hub for recreational aviation.

The recreational aircraft necessarily come with noise. This, together with air and visual pollution will act to undermine the attraction of the “pristine” natural beauty of the Blue Mountains.

Who wants to go bush walking under a flight path?

This area is already facing increasing threat of losing its natural beauty and biodiversity through the planned Badgerys Creek Airport and the proposal to raise the dam wall.

This will not support tourism, but rather undermine the reason people want to visit.

I believe we need to promote and support the natural beauty of this region, to support our biodiversity, to create spaces where people can escape the rat race and be restored by nature.

Please enter my name amongst those in opposition to the opening of the airfield to recreational aviation.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 12:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield-reference number 602686

I object to the future use of Katoomba Airfield being used for commercial purposes as it destroys the environment

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 3:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref no 602686

Dear OIC, Crown Lands,

Presently, I live at [REDACTED] but over the last almost 20 years, I have lived at Blackheath and Little Hartley. I am very familiar with the Upper Mountains, including the site of Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath.

For many years, the airfield has had little use, has been viewed an emergency strip only and as a logical addition to the National Park and World Heritage Area that surrounds it. The idea that the airfield could now be quietly appropriated for commercial use is abhorrent. And that this could be facilitated by the government agency which charged with the care of Crown lands and without any community consultation is quite frankly unbelievable.

The airfield must be transferred to the national parks estate and be kept as a working dirt strip for emergency only.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Dept of Crown Land NSW,

I am writing to voice objection to the proposed use of the Katoomba Airfield for commercial helicopter use.

I live in the [REDACTED] with my family and a beef cattle grazing enterprise, moving in 3 years ago to a quiet rural setting. We already have helicopters pass overhead on occasions and are loud and invasive. To have targeted joy flights from Medlow Bath will blast any peaceful rural setting out of existence. For any commercial helicopter service to be economically viable, there must be many flights, not just occasional ones.

Since the lease holder apparent has stated they won't fly over the 3 Sisters (so Jamison Valley side), and won't fly over the Grose Valley, that leaves the flights to go over Narrow Neck and the Southern Blue Mountains (probably the least spoilt part of the Blue Mountains), or over Megalong Valley. We will be buzzed out of existence if the joy flight business is successful.

Please consider the plight of the people who actually live in the mountains, not just the commercial opportunity for one or two individuals, and reject any redevelopment of the air field.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com; susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: Re: Lx602686

To Whom It May Concern,

May I register my strong objections to the proposed plan for the Katoomba airfield.

- I object to crown land being used for commercial, individual profit.
- I request that the crown land in question be given to the national park to administer.
- I propose that a working dirt airstrip be maintained for emergency use.

Furthermore, I cannot understand, in this era of climate crisis, why a business burning fossil fuel for senseless, non-productive recreation is being given a licence to operate. And this in a world heritage site where people come for peace and quiet!

Why was the decision to licence this operator made before public consultation was conducted? The "public consultation" was nothing more than a presentation of a fait accompli..... mère window dressing. It smacks of nepotism!

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 8:17 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield.

Dear Sir/Ma'am

My name is [REDACTED] and I am currently a student pilot. General aviation in Australia is dying. My flight school is at Bankstown Airfield, the only airfield open for general aviation in Sydney. The only other strip in the greater Sydney area is Camden. Had I been flying 30yrs ago I would have had the option to fly from airfields at Schofield and Hoxston Park. Airfields are shutting down and the ones left are becoming more restricted. At the moment there are no registered airfields between Bankstown and Bathurst, a distance of 135km. The only Helicopter Landing Sites are at Lithgow Hospital, Blackheath NPWS, Blue Mountains Hospital, Glenbrook NPWS and RAAF Glenbrook. None of these are open for general aviation. Allowing FlyBlue to take up a commercial lease at Katoomba Airfield will fill this gap. Not only will it be open for general and recreational aviation, having it in operation will mean it is in good condition when needed for emergency services. At the moment it is in such poor condition it is closed for fixed wing operations. Allowing scenic and charter flights to operate from Katoomba to the surrounding area will not suddenly bring aircraft into the area, multiple companies operating out of Sydney and Bankstown already offer scenic flights to the Blue Mountains, having them fly out of Katoomba will simply bring that industry and revenue to the local area. General and recreational aviation is a great passion of mine and the news Katoomba Airfield was reopening really excited me. I believe it can and will have a real positive impact on the community.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:38 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

The idea of encouraging more “joy flights” in the upper Blue Mountains with a new heliport is in the interests of neither the local community nor the tourism industry.

One helicopter with a couple of sightseers can destroy the peaceful experience of hundreds, possibly thousands of visitors, walkers and residents.

Local residents are more concerned and motivated to fight this issue than any other I have known in more than a decade living in the area.

This is not some knee-jerk anti development reflex, it is about preserving a significant tourist draw card and world heritage listed area for the use and recreation of the many, not the privileged few who like their nature viewed briefly from altitude with as much noise and air pollution as possible.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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-

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:21 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) I respectfully request that you do not grant a long term lease for the purpose of aviation tourism at the old airfield at Medlow Bath. This is public land. It should be included in the surrounding National Park and not be used for commercial gain. The increase in light aircraft traffic across Blackheath has been substantial in recent months. I do not wish this to increase, nor do I wish joyriding helicopters to be added. I am already in the flight path for NPWS helicopters and I accept these plus emergency services flights are a necessary part of life. The biological prosperity of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area will best be served by restricting aircraft flights to emergency services only.

Than you.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

to whom it may concern

I disagree with this public land being used for commercial purposes, it was never intended for that and I am particularly concerned for the environment and that this is in a very delicate ecosystem very close to the National park, where water travels from Blackheath through the rock layers to areas such as Towoon and Bateau Bay on the Central Coast. I am also concerned as a resident about the noise that a commercial airfeild would proliferate.

I believe this Crown land should be transferred to the National Park and that it is preserved for the future as National Park

I fell it is fair to keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

I look forward to your reply

thank you
regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I write to voice my concerns, and the concerns of every member of my community who has discussed this issue with me, regarding the commercial use of Katoomba airfield.

Like most local residents and others familiar with the Mountains and the national park, I tried to keep an open mind about this proposal, and did not rush into a position before doing my best to become informed over the past months during the debate over its future impact. In fact, I am writing now only hours before the close of submissions. But I believe the impacts are clear, and overwhelmingly negative to the residential areas as well as the national park, even if the proposal does stick to the limits it claims to respect. Projects to mitigate impacts of noise on residents and wildlife by 'planting a tree for every flight' appear nothing more than a pointless sop in a protected World Heritage wilderness such as this.

It is an established fact that noise pollution is damaging to wildlife for which, in large part, this place was created. Some people persist in drawing a line between environmental protection and economic viability, as though the two factors are in conflict with one another. Surprising as it sometimes seems to be to these people, that is often far from the truth. Economic viability exists in the Blue Mountains hand in hand with the ongoing protection of what people come here to experience. Millions come from around the world to enjoy its wilderness, its views and its peace and quiet. Millions more come from Australia's towns and cities, for the same reasons, as they have for generations.

Peace and quiet may be difficult to quantify economically. But we ought to do it more often. The objections of Mountains residents to this proposal are too obvious to mention here. However, the attractions for tourists who sustain every aspect of the Mountains economy can best be expressed by the tourists themselves. How many stand in wonder at Echo Point or Govett's Leap or the lookouts of Narrow Neck and Ruined Castle, enjoying the treasured and vanishing luxury of silence and the sounds of birdlife generally denied them? It is exceedingly rare - but it is not priceless. Most of us here make our living from it.

Today you can walk into the Grose Valley and find an environment basically unchanged since long before the arrival of the first European explorers set eyes on it two centuries ago. The Blue Gum Forest there is known as the Cradle of Conservation because the movement to save this landscape - against a litany of selfish and damaging schemes - was begun there in earnest. This proposal would fill the great escarpments with the sound of washplates and rotor engines, gradually eroding its values and everything it has come to stand for.

I have seen the flight paths of this proposal, heard out their ideas and listened to the pitch, and none of that has convinced me that it is anything but a commercialisation of our wilderness areas for the economic gain of a few, at the expense of the many. Countless millions have enjoyed the Blue Mountains National Park without requiring a helicopter, and they will continue to do so for generations to come.

Blue Mountains National Park has long been an Australian icon, a reserve for all Australians, and through its World Heritage status everyone else as well. I urge you to keep this airfield limited to emergency services and strictly regulated use - preferably under the control of our NSW Parks and Wildlife Service - and reject any proposal for commercial sightseeing flights over our homes and this precious wilderness.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
NSW

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 10:02 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield REF no 602686

We emphatically object to the Katoomba Airfield being used as a commercial joy flight business.

The area in question is visited by tourists and locals alike for the tranquility and beauty. Noise pollution is a big NO. Not only for human beings and bushwalkers escaping the noise of cities but that fuel discharge will have an adverse affect on flare and fauna.

IT IS A WORLD HERITAGE NATIONAL PARK.

1. Our objection is it is public land and MUST not be used for commercial enterprise.
2. This Crown Land should be transferred to national Parks and protected for time immemorial.
3. It is suggested a working dirt strip at the airfield could be used for emergency use only.

The Blue Mountains National Park is a gift to people who live and work there as well as the many tourists who visit each year.

Bushwalkers enjoying the tranquility away from city life cannot have the same = enjoyment of the landscape and its many moods if commercial helicopters and aircraft disturb their tranquility and that of local residents.

NO COMMERCIAL AIRFIELD AT BLACKHEATH.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield Lease

From [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Reference Number LX 602686

To whom it may concern,
I have been a resident of [REDACTED] for 35 years and also a landowner in the Megalong Valley for that time so I have a deep interest in the lease of the airfield. I considered I had a responsibility to inform myself of the details as well as possible, not only for me personally but my fellow residents of the Upper Mountains. Apart from thoroughly studying the FlyBlue website, I have attended 2 public meetings held by Crown lands, a meeting of the Megalong Community Association and two Blackheath Rotary meetings where the subject was discussed, one addressed by the prospective lessees Derek and Floyd Larsen and the second by Di Shanks from the Blue Mountains Conservation Society and Chris Howden, the convenor of the Community Alliance against the lease.

There would appear to be 2 aspects to the proposal, the details of the business activities of the lessees and the maintenance of the site

1. **Business and Aviation activities** : The type of aviation activity, flight paths and altitudes seem to be well described on the website and appear to be well away from and above residential areas. The frequency of flights is not revealed, or even approximated – when questioned on this, the Larsens said it is difficult to predict and I understand that but I feel a minimum for the proposal to be viable could have been suggested. A maximum number of flights per month could possibly be included in the lease, subject to review. I am generally satisfied with the answers to the “frequently asked questions “ on the Department website.
2. **Maintenance** : To have the site well maintained by private enterprise rather than from the public purse is economic good sense. Again, it’s important that the lease include strict and enforceable conditions so that the airfield is always available for emergency use and that the environmental damage caused by neglect over the years is corrected. Opponents to the lease proposal have suggested that the airfield be maintained by National Parks - while this organisation carries out some admirable work, my enquiries and my experience as a landholder adjacent to the National Park would indicate that they are not equipped for the task, have no specific experience in airfields and so to go down this path with respect to maintaining the site for emergency use would be at least suspect and possibly dangerous.

Overall, I found the Larsen’s proposal on the website and in person to be well developed and inclusive of community concerns. While many community members have justifiable questions, I found that the majority of opponents at public meetings were ill-informed and emotional. Many still talked about “joy flights”, “circling iconic sights” and “swooping low over residential areas”, indicating they hadn’t even read the proposal. Many were just against any private enterprise on public land, an unrealistic and economically unsustainable view in this case. I am in favour of the proposal as long as the lease conditions are strict on altitudes, flight paths, flying hours and airfield maintenance. The lease must also be monitored for compliance with an unambiguous and enforceable avenue of action if it is not adhered to.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 9:02 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I've looked at the proposals for the commercial use of the airport at Medlow Bath I have decided I am in favour of it.

Having a maintained runway will be of benefit to our local community and I trust that the commercial operators plan to NOT DO JOY FLIGHTS will be legally binding in the 50yr lease.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 10:10 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercialisation Of Medlow Airfield

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I request that you do not allow the commercialisation of Medlow Bath Airfield.

I was born & have lived in the Upper Blue Mountains for the whole of my [REDACTED].

I love the calmness, wonders & serenity of our special 'World Heritage' Blue Mountains National Park.

Most of us now live in a modern world of continual noise. The escape of a wander in the bush with only nature's white-noise in the background, is something to be enjoyed, cherished - AND PROTECTED.

The commercialisation of the airfield at Medlow Bath will destroy the beauty of our special place.

For the last few months, a group of us have been at Govetts Leap Blackheath each Friday, before dawn - to survey & document the daily winter altitudinal migration of Satin Bowerbirds, Red Wattlebirds, King Parrots & other native birds. On one morning, National Parks were using a hired helicopter for work. The thud-thud-thud throughout the Grose Valley was exceptionally loud - echoing of all walls - way before we even spotted the chopper. When it flew practically straight over our heads - the noise was deafening. Can you imagine having this happening day in, day out ? It will destroy our Blue Mountains (A City Within A National Park) - World Heritage lifestyle & value.

Please - I request that you do not allow the commercialisation of Medlow Bath Airfield.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 0
Ph : [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield: Ref No 602686

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on NSW Department of Industry's potential issuing of a long-term lease on Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator.

I write as a long term Blue Mountains resident (25 years) and a regular walker in the Blue Mountains National Park (around 20 times a year). I moved to the mountains with a young family, and feel very lucky to have raised four children in such a beautiful environment, subsequently recognised with World Heritage listing.

I am very concerned that the proposal is not in the best interests of our community.

We owe it to future generations to protect our national park, and to resist encroachments on it. The airfield was originally excised from national park. I support the NPWS's approach of looking to incorporate into national parks any privately owned or leased land surrounded by national park when that land becomes available.

It is not appropriate to grant a long term lease for the commercial development and operation of an airfield on land which is wholly within the Blue Mountains National Park. However, I fully support continued use of the airfield for emergency purposes if required, as such a use clearly would be in our community's interests.

Any upgrading of the airfield for commercial purposes will impact on the residents, and on the tourist trade on which the community is heavily economically dependent. People live in the Blue Mountains and visit the area for its natural beauty, wildlife and the peacefulness of the bush setting. All will be detrimentally impacted by noise pollution from low flying aircraft and helicopters.

I am not comforted by the lease applicant's comments about sustainably managing the site, and commitment to community access. The operator will have a commercial imperative to do whatever it takes to make a return on its investment. Their assurances, whilst perhaps well-intentioned, carry no weight and can easily be jettisoned. The community will bear the costs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:52 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield
Reference 602686
Crown Lands
NSW Department of Industry

I would you to note my objection to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to commercial enterprise. I believe that the Katoomba Airfield is a public asset that should be maintained for non-profit and emergency use only.

I propose that the lease application of Derek and Floyd Larsen and Flyblue be rejected and that the airfield be transferred, as previously proposed, to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park, and further that the airfield be maintained with Federal and or NSW funding such as under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program or Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Funding Brigade Mitigation Support Programme.

I suspect the nature of a commercial operation is such that it would be economically incentivised to increase helicopter traffic and have a detrimental impact on our community. The Significant increase Noise Pollution would impact in the following ways:

- Noise pollution affects both health and behaviour, sound noise would be detrimental to the peaceful nature of the valley.
- Noise can have a detrimental effect on animals, increasing the risk of death by changing the delicate balance in predator or prey detection and avoidance, and interfering the use of the sounds in communication, especially in relation to reproduction and in navigation.
- Noise pollution would create safety concerns for community members such as horse riders, working with animals in our valley.
- Increased air traffic in our valley would undermine our natural privacy
- Increased air traffic will undermine property values and the local economy by countering the very reasons that attract people to our valley to live or to visit either as tourists or for other activities such as horse riding

We believe that if a lease is granted on the Katoomba Airfield for a commercial operation, there will be limited to no recourse for the community to prevent a future escalation of Katoomba Airfield related aircraft traffic.

Warm Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Please refrain from destroying the tranquility of the Blue Mountains with helicopter joy flights. It is a World Heritage listed site harbouring many endangered species such as the Regent Honeyeater which is down to less than 100 breeding pairs.

This is not wanted and is environmentally corrupt.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

As a member of the Blue Mountains community, I wholeheartedly object to the use of this public land for commercial processes. It seems as though the interest of the national park, doesn't lie within the national park itself, but within Money.

This Crown land should be transferred to the national park, and forever protected. What makes the blue mountains so special is how peaceful it is. It is a place of healing. leave it be.

The airstrip should be used solely for emergencies.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:58 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Objection to commercial lease LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern and objection to the proposal for the Katoomba airfield to be leased for a commercial tourist flight venture.

I moved to [REDACTED] 3 years ago for the peaceful lifestyle offered in comparison to the city, and the amazing outdoor activities and connectedness to nature and wilderness. I feel the proposed venture would compromise this, and would provide no benefit to outweigh the negatives. While the proposal is for the commercial lease of the Katoomba airstrip, the negative impacts of granting this lease would be far reaching, with flight paths proposed throughout the Blue Mountains, close to towns and directly over wilderness areas.

Most of the area affected by this proposal is National Parks. National parks were created for the people and for the protection of these precious wilderness areas. People go to these places for natural beauty, serenity and peace and quiet. We need these places for the health of the population. People need opportunities for be amongst nature, to get away from civilisation and continual hum of technology. Allowing that hum to occur directly over the park, at low altitude (below the cliff line on some flight paths) will destroy the experience of the park for many users. Granting this lease will enable a business opportunity that will enhance the experience of a select few park users at the detriment of MOST other park users. This is not a fair and equitable commercial use of a public facility. It is robbing a public resource for commercial, class dividing interest, externalising the utility of most park users.

The environment would also be externalised by this venture. While sadly the environment pays a hidden cost for nearly everything humans do on this earth, the one place I would think it would actually factor in a decision making process is in the very place is it supposed to be protected. I am not opposed the helicopters flying over the national park on occasion – to drop off track building supplies, or rescue a lost hiker, but releasing emissions over the national park, for the sake of a commercial venture that is detrimental to the experience of nearly all other park users, is not equitable or just. In fact, I estimated that around 40kg of Green-House Gas emissions will be released over the Gross Wilderness area *per flight* (based on an efficiency assumption of 1.47km/L and 3kg of GHG emissions / L of Jet A fuel). The current proposal is to schedule helicopter flights from dawn until dusk. Assuming each flight is about half an hour, on a fully booked day, nearly 1 tonne of GHG emissions would be realised...per day! The applicant's proposal to plant new trees wouldn't be necessary if they weren't proposing to pollute the air right over one of the most important Carbon Sinks in NSW.

Many people who move to Blackheath and other Blue Mountains towns, do so for its tranquillity, proximity to wilderness, and the sporting and outdoor recreational pursuits offered by the park, such as trail running, paragliding, rock climbing and hiking. These people are our community's nurses, doctors, physios, fire fighters, teachers, engineers, artists, small business owners, and carpenters (to name the few that I know personally). If the very reason they moved here is compromised, then our diverse community and our skilled workforce will be compromised. Paragliding for example, stands to be banned by the proposal due to airspace restrictions, and hiking, climbing and trail running will become so unpleasant with the constant overhead buz, that people will seek other, helicopter free, locations. The lifestyle of anyone who moved to Blackheath seeking peace, tranquillity, and views offered by the eastern ends of Govetts Leap Rd and Hat Hill Rd will be compromised. The benefit of a few tourists buying lunch in town on the weekends surely does not outweigh what the paragliders, runners, hikers, climbers and general community members contribute to this community daily.

The applicant's claim the this is an investment that will help the local economy is completely unfounded and questionable. Many tourists of all socio-economic backgrounds, from all over the world, come to visit the Blue Mountains. I find it very hard to imagine that more would come specifically due to a helicopter flight service

offering, but rather that it is something people who are visiting the area anyway, may decide to do while they are here. Therefore the economic benefit to the wider community would be very little to nil, or even negative. The only benefit would be to a private company making money from tourists who would have visited the area anyway, and in fact most likely spent their money on other local services instead of a helicopter flight.

Furthermore, any economic benefit that could be attributed to the venture, would have to be outweighed by damage to the economy caused ruining the amenity (via noise pollution) of many popular walking areas and existing tourist attractions. The applicant's claim that leasing the site for recreational and tourist flight operations would somehow open up more opportunities for bushwalkers is absurd, when numerous established and famous walking tracks, already popular with bushwalkers, will become far less attractive. There are already existing walking trails near the airstrip, such as the one linking to the 'grand canyon'. The claim that these trails and the experience of bushwalkers will somehow be enhanced by having helicopters fly over head is a joke.

With no logical argument for how this venture would be of benefit to anyone of anything apart from themselves, and many arguments for how it would be damaging to the environment, community, lifestyle and other forms of tourism, I urge decision makers to re-consider the use of the airstrip, and incorporate it into National Parks for emergency use only.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 2:54 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

Dear Department of Industry,

I am a resident of Leura, neighbouring Katoomba.

I would like to register my protest against the development of the Medlow Bath airfield into a commercially operated airfield.

I say NO to the commercial lease

I say YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Submission against the current proposal of commercial use of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this submission as an objection to the proposal for commercial use of the Katoomba Airfield. As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains, the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield will be detrimental to the environment and economy of the Blue Mountains as follows:

Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation and less on local businesses, thereby hurting the local economy. The amount of flights to make this a viable proposition would result in increasing noise and reducing amenity for the vast majority of visitors - day tourists from Sydney and those who experience the bush from the ground - hikers, climbers and canyoners. There would be a decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' which will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. Its status may be effected, again affecting the area's reputation with the probable drop in numbers, again affecting the local economy.

Increased aircraft noise will adversely impact the liveability of upper Blue Mountains towns and villages, with the proposed business profiting a few but will adversely affect thousands.

Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?

Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. From what I understand there is potential for this to expand, causing further reduction in liveability and knock on adverse effects to the local economy.

Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

Since it is public land, returning the airfield to the National Park and maintaining the airfield as a vital location for emergency services is the best option for the environment and for the local economy.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write in support of the proposed plans for the restoration, upgrade, protection and enhancement of the Katoomba Airfield site. As residents and land owners within the Blue Mountains we feel the redevelopment of Katoomba Airport is vital to the growth and safety of all residents and visitors to the Blue Mountains region. From an aviation perspective it is important to have a serviceable airport within this location, not just to accept tourists and visitors but also to ensure the safety of commuting aircraft in the event of an emergency particularly within such a geographically isolated area.

The history of the Katoomba Airfield as an aviation asset is over 50 years strong, the airport has been used in times of emergency by NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service, Air Ambulance, NSW State Emergency Services and National Parks and Wildlife; whether that be bushfires or accidents requiring people to be airlifted.

We are confident the proposal from FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd has been thoroughly researched and prepared to address all concerns relevant to ensuring the sustainable management of the surrounding Blue Mountains National Parks and residential areas. As tourism is increasing from year to year it seems logical to have a functioning and maintained airfield within the Blue Mountains.

Please accept this submission in support of the proposed leasing of crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

Hi;

I strongly object to the proposal to grant a long term lease allowing the commercial use of the airfield at Medlow Bath for aviation tourism. Public land and especially this land that is located in a World Heritage-listed National Park, should not be used for commercial purposes and any use should be limited to ensure that it is compatible with the use of the surrounding land.

An intensification of the use that would result if the commercial use is granted, is likely to lead to unacceptable impacts on the flora and fauna of the area. It is also likely to lead to ancillary works to provide the amenities and fuel storage that tourism operators would expect. The proposed land use is not compatible with the surrounding area. A far better option would be to incorporate the airfield in the National Park. It could still operate as an airfield in emergencies as these are occasional events that deliver community benefits from public land that was never intended to serve private business interests.

A thorough consideration of the impact of the proposal raises many objections to the use that clearly render it unacceptable for this location. The proposal should therefore be rejected.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Subject: Katoomba Airfield - reference no. 602686 PROPOSED LEASE OPPOSED

Dear sir/ madam,

As a resident in Medlow Bath i strenuously oppose the leasing of the Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator.

This is an area where people from all walks of life come to enjoy the peace, beauty & tranquility of nature at its best while within 2 hours of of our major metropolis of Sydney.

A National Heritage Area, where people come to bushwalk & sightsee which in turn rejuvenates the soul while immersing & surrounding themselves in nature.

That the government thinks it ok in its quest to profit from the sale of the lease to the detriment of the local community & all those who visit this area is appalling as is the lack of transparency of the Air Operators Certificate who could ultimately be operating out of this airfield. Essentially a lease to an operator catering to high end users from Australia & overseas at the expense of the local communities & normal visitors who will be impacted by the noise & visual intrusion in the area of the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage area. This would never meet the liveability programs of a modern society.

I totally oppose the Katoomba Airfield lease proposal and request that my opposition is tabled and taken into account when Parliament debates the proposal on 1 August 2019.

Yours faithfully ,

[REDACTED] 0

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 1:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area.

Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals.

Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again.

Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below.

My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future.

This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold?

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site.

2. PUT THIS LAND INTO THE SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARK

The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park. This is the solution.

A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area

Keep this public land in public hands.

Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency.

They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

3. MAINTAIN FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY

Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting!

Management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a firefighting agency. In addition to its other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.

I look forward to hearing your response

Your sincerely,



Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission of concerns Ref. 602686

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

I do not object to the principle of a proposal for a lease. My main concerns are.

1/ Is this the thin edge of a wedge, to bigger development! . . . to be later justified by a viability study for the operations. A business must be profitable . . . and a strong case presented to an Authority that we are already struggling to trust, could create a situation where there are no winners.

2/ The lease can be on-sold, to a local or foreign entity. We (the community) need a lot more detail here; the scenarios are many, the questions are many, again our trust is challenged.

3/ The value of a National Park will always have a higher value than that of any commercial enterprise, for the community.

I believe that when the business plan can satisfy the above concerns, then trust can be established, and business could proceed with greater certainty.

Thank you

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 7:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Keep Katoomba Airfield Open

To Whom It May Concern.

I write to you regarding the potential closure of the airfield located at Medlow Bath. I support the long term lease and commercialisation of the field. This represents the opportunity to expand tourism for the Blue Mountains. Supporting operations would encourage more operators to transfer tourists to the area. Likewise it would allow operators to take locals and tourists for scenic trips and commute. Scenic flight operations over and through the Blue Mountains will exist regardless, why not embrace this opportunity to showcase the Mountains and share more widely.

At [REDACTED], I live under the flight path for commercial, emergency and leisure aircraft. The noise is not so intrusive as to spoil an afternoons BBQ or the peace and quiet for extended periods. I suggest that with the positioning of the runways, approaches and departures, the noise to the local community would be minimal.

Furthermore, young aviators need a training base. At present they need to travel to Bankstown, Camden or Bathurst. The cost and inconvenience to travel discourages young flyers and in some cases makes it impossible for them to realise their dreams. There is a shortage of qualified pilots in Australia and this could get some more new people into the industry.

Likewise, small regional airfields are becoming centers for social aviation networking through leisure aviation. A quick search on YouTube will show how the aviation community have regular fly-ins to new or favorite locations. They inject money into the local economy, respect the areas they fly to by keeping them clean and tidy, support the local communities in times of need and create a social focal point.

Finally, we need a well maintained air field, not just a dirt strip, for emergency and fire fighting purposes. I appreciate we live in a World Heritage-listed National Park, but please use this as an opportunity to share the Blue Mountains with everyone and not seal it off.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 10:14 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 No lease on Airport at Medlowbath

I am writing to voice my concerns about the future of Katoomba Airport. I strongly object to this site being leased to a private operator

I moved to Blackheath to get away from some of the noise and pollution of the Sydney region and enjoy the peace, serenity and clean air that the mountains offers. In the time I have been here we see and hear more and more aircraft adding to pollution and noise and it will increase with the opening of Western Sydney airport.

By allowing a private operator to open up this airport for commercial purposes should not be allowed. Stating that opening this airstrip will increase tourism is hard to believe it will not benefit the communities of Katoomba, Mellow Bath or Katoomba or the lower socio-economic community. What and how will it offer them?

This airstrip is surrounded by National Park which is protecting the flora and fauna adding more pollutions and noise overtime will severely affect this. Like myself I enjoy the peace and quiet when walking through these regions. People who walk in the mountains do not want the quiet destroyed or their privacy invaded by planes or helicopters flying overhead all hours of the day. Helicopters flying around the lookouts will also not encourage people to visit these places it can be seen as invasive and noisy.

The road to this airport is also not suitable increased traffic.

This land is Crown land and once it is leased to a private operator could allow further overdevelopment development in the area this area should be incorporated into the National Parks.

It should be maintained for emergency use only and left to the National Park to maintain for this reason.

In the current environment Governments and councils should be looking to preserve our heritage for the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Commercial lease for the Blue Mountains

29 July 2019

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Australia To Whom it May Concern, I am writing as a concerned citizen to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated near the Blue Mountains National Park at Medlow Bath. I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. I now live in [REDACTED], however spent more than 9 years in Blackheath in the Blue Mountains, and I regularly spent time, bushwalking and immersing myself in the pristine environment. Evans Lookout was my favourite spot and I love this incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence that I always enjoyed. It was a respite from my busy working life, firstly in inner Sydney, later from my home office. This area of the upper Blue Mountains is very special an a unique place and it's classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is so justified.

I was very aware of the occasional helicopter or small aircraft passing overhead and linked these flights to emergency and rescue events. They were a great intrusion into this beauty and peace and a real relief when they and the associated noise went away.

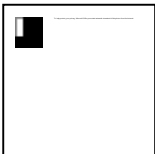
From what I see, this plan for a commercial licence for the nearby airstrip at Medlow Bath is counter intuitive as it would be destructive of the very ambience that attracts so many tourists to this area from across Australia and overseas. I strongly feel that the noise of numerous helicopter flights from sun up to sunset will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment that is the whole point of unspoiled bushland and escarpments.

The upper Blue Mountains is a place of healing and celebration sacred to the First Nations people who had custodianship for millennia, a place to be celebrated and respected. To impose noise and air pollution on such a scale as contemplated would be a gross injury to their culture, beyond what has already occurred through inappropriate commercial and domestic development.

I therefore respectfully ask you to value and preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life. Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

"(All) truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident." *Arthur Schopenhauer*



I wish to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Bega Valley Shire - the people of the Yuin nation - and pay my respect to elders past, present and emerging.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 4:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: My opinion regarding the proposed Airfield at Katoomba

Dear Scott Mullen,

I was recently made aware that Katoomba Airfield may possibly be granted a commercial licence. It was good meeting you, and thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the proposal.

While I support the use of Katoomba Airfield as an emergency airstrip, I wish to protest the proposal of a commercial licence in the strongest possible terms.

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains I am well aware of the noise and disruption caused by helicopters. Every fire season and bushfire helicopters make themselves useful - this is appropriate in that it is **a direct benefit to the residents.**

A commercial licence is in-appropriate for the following reasons:-

1. If 'Joy Flights' were permitted, the residents of Katoomba (population 7,964) and surrounding area would be subjected to between 6 and 8 hours of continuous noise **for each helicopter operating.** I live 7 km from the airstrip and, due to the topographical formations of this Heritage, I can still hear aircraft operating from the airstrip.
2. The only people benefiting from the granting of this licence would be the helicopter and fixed wing operators, the licence owner (I have been told this is two people?) and the passengers. There will be of no benefit to the locals. **7,964 to 2 seems like a very unfair ratio to me.**
3. The promise of a Joy-Flight may be appealing to day tourists, but it is unlikely to create an increase the number of 'bums on beds' being booked in the Katoomba area. The best way to see the Blue Mountains Park has always been by 'Shanks' Pony'. One of the major tourist contributors to the Blue Mountains are those who travel up here to experience the walks through this beautiful place. Helicopter noise will destroy their peace and quiet as well. **And these people do contribute to putting 'bums on beds'**
4. **Local wildlife will be adversely affected** by the noise, pressure from the rotor cavitations and pollution. Also, it is unknown what affect commercial use will have on other local environmental matters (ie: Hanging swamps, weed intrusion, groundwater contamination, etc. – For example, The area around the airfield is a regular home to roosting Black Cockatoos.)
5. **What damage will be caused by fuel exhaust?** Anyone living under the flight paths at Sydney Airport will already be aware of the black, greasy,

residue, caused by aircraft exhaust, on horizontal surface around their homes. While I understand that the scale of operations is different, what will happen to the gum trees and other vegetation when exposed to fuel dumps and exhaust fumes over an extended (long term) period of the lease?

6. All of the residents I have spoken to migrated to the Blue Mountains to get away from the stink of petrol fumes, car noise, and the rush and turmoil of the city. They came here for solitude, and peace and quiet and to enjoy the clean air. Are we seriously going to let two petrol-heads, (who I am told don't even live in the Blue Mountains) destroy all that for the sake of greed?

The people of the Blue Mountains have worked long and hard to keep the area pristine and clear. We have said 'No!' to organisation like McDonalds from opening up fast-food outlets, and have instead encouraged and promoted Slo-Food, - why should this proposal, which is really only about 'money', be handled any differently.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 12:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - no commercial lease

Good afternoon,

I live in Sydney but have been a frequent bush walker in the Blue Mountains for some twenty five years and am most familiar with the area around the Katoomba airfield which is part of the National Park. Because that area is so pristine and beautiful and such a superb manifestation of nature, I am strongly opposed to any commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield. I support the comments that have been made by others opposed to a commercial lease and I have added below my views on this matter.

NO COMMERCIAL LEASE now or in the future of Katoomba Airfield

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area. Once development occurs the superb natural environment is gone forever.

Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals.

Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise and should not start again.

Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below.

My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future.

This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold?

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna; in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site.

ADD THIS LAND INTO THE SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARK

The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park. This is the solution and is what must happen.

A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area

Keep this public land in public hands.

Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency.

They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

MAINTAIN FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY

Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting.

Management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a fire fighting agency. In addition to its other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital fire fighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.

If the recommendations above are implemented it will please numerous people who love the natural environment and want it preserved for the future and that also means it should still be there down the track for others to enjoy it as well. If some-one is given a commercial lease only a few people will benefit and that is financially, whilst numerous people will miss out on their love of the natural environment. How can a lease of the Katoomba Airfield make any sense?

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Phone [Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 11:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern

I am writing to voice my strong disagreement to the proposal of the airfield at Katoomba being leased for commercial purposes, in particular, the possibility of aviation tourism.

The land on which the lease is proposed is public land, and should not be used for commercial purposes - especially considering the physical location - surrounded by World Heritage listed national park.

I am very concerned about the effect of resulting air and noise pollution for the national park itself, the local residents, and the negative economic effect on tourism. Tourists come to the Blue Mountains to experience the pristine environment, including the aural environment. The money made from the very small percentage of tourists who would be in a position to undertake aviation tourism would be more than offset by the loss of enjoyment for the majority of people who come here. Please don't ruin the beautiful quiet environment for the sake of a very few wealthy tourists. There are plenty of other ways to enjoy the mountains in a more immersive and less damaging way - look-outs and bushwalks, indigenous cultural tours and adventure tourism are all ways that the Mountains can be appreciated without disturbing the natural environment, local residents and people who come here to experience its beauty.

We have something very special here and need to protect it.

The airfield could still be maintained and used for emergency purposes in a non-damaging way.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ph: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

Dear Department of Industry,

I am writing regarding my concerns about this public land being used for commercial purposes.

My hope is that instead that this Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever, and that a working dirt strip at the sites kept for emergency use only.

The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year (I am regularly one of them).

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyons
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

For me though the biggest concern is on the larger environment:

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native species, including those listed as endangered.

Given that:

1. The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. It's status may be effected (and threatened further in combination with proposed changes to Warragamba Dam)
2. Damage to rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the tarmacing of the runway
3. The potential impact of Helicopters on Blue Mountains Wildlife and other World Heritage Values.

Thank you for your time and consideration for the greater environment of this beautiful, world heritage space.

[REDACTED]

- - -

Sent on the move

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission in relation to commercial use of Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

I am a part time Sydney and Blue Mountains resident. When in the Blue Mountains I reside in the vicinity of Katoomba Airfield and am a regular user of the Blue Mountains National Park.

I object strongly to the proposed use of Katoomba Airfield for private commercial gain.

The proposed development is totally inappropriate in an area of World Heritage significance and if allowed to go ahead will significantly diminish the wilderness experience intended through the creation of the National Park as well as the amenity of residents in the Blue Mountains.

I and many other local residents spend many hours each year working to maintain the National Park on a voluntary basis through Bushcare activities. The proposal to allow this land which is owned by the public and in such a sensitive area, to be used for private commercial gain is an affront to those of us who give our services voluntarily because we truly value the park and the peaceful wilderness experience it provides and seek to leave the park in a pristine state for future generations to enjoy.

If allowed to proceed this proposal will diminish the experience of park users and degrade the World Heritage value of the Blue Mountains National Park. It represents the crass commercialisation of a public asset for private exploitation and shows a contemptuous disregard for the value of the wilderness experience which National Parks should afford and for the welfare and the protection of native animals which inhabit the park.

Katoomba Airfield should be placed within the National Park which surrounds it. I support its use for emergency purposes only as required, managed by the NPWS.

I am aware the NPWS currently seeks to prevent the use of drones in the park so that people can enjoy the park in a peaceful and private way. Helicopter joyflights over the park would make a mockery of this endeavour.

The Blue Mountains National Park has been recognised as of World Heritage importance. Other world class National Parks have legislation protecting the "natural quiet and experience of the park" and Blue Mountains National Park should be protected in the same way.

Crownland NSW must act in the interests of local citizens and the broader NSW community who have supported the creation and protection of the Blue Mountains National Park and achieved its World Heritage recognition.

Crownland NSW must not allow the Park to be exploited for private commercial gain which will degrade the Park and impact the amenity of local residents.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 10:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686

Department of Industry, Crown Lands

The Katoomba Airfield should only be use for emergency use and should not be leased out for commercial purposes. This Crown Land should be annexed to the National Park and protected forever.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 9:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - REF No: 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Department of Industry Friends,

Hi my name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED] Katoomba NSW.

I am writing to you with concerns regarding the use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath - the possibility of granting a long term lease for aviation tourism.

Katoomba Airfield - REF No: 602686

My first concern is the impact of this lease on the surrounding wilderness? As we are in a World Heritage Listed National Park, will the long term lease have a negative impact on the surrounding wilderness?

Will the new airfield clear land?

Destroy trees?

Destroy animal habitats?

Disrupt the flora and fauna found within the National Park?

I also object to the use of public land being used for commercial purposes - would it be better to transfer this land to the National Park?

My last concern is noise? How will this new aviation tourism impact the residents within the Blue Mountains? One of the reasons I live here in Katoomba is to escape the noise and the fresh air.

Thank you for your time.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 9:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I was deeply concerned to hear that there are plans for a commercial airfield at Medlow Bath. The existing airstrip should be kept for emergencies only. The idea of many helicopter and/ small plane flights buzzing around a world heritage area renowned for its peace and tranquility is just crazy. A crazy pandering to the type of tourist who wants to 'do' the Blue Mountains in 5 mins then get back on the cruise ship. These people don't spend a lot of money in the mountains As they travel by coach for the day or half day.

Crown land in this area should be given to National Parks as its surrounded by it anyway.

Hoping you won't bow to pressure , and keep the precious integrity of the mountains.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: cl.enquiries@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Online submission: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield - [REDACTED]

Dealing/activity

Name of dealing/activity: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield
Reference : 602686

Your details

First name: [REDACTED]
Last name: [REDACTED]
Organisation:
Postal address:
Suburb: [REDACTED]
State: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Email:

Your feedback

How do you currently use or enjoy the site that may be impacted by the dealing or activity? : I am a born and bred Blue Mountains resident. The airfield has always been in use as a commercial interest over my 44 years of age (with the exception of the last few years). I am a member of the RFS and the airfield has been used by the service for the entire period of my membership. I

Describe how the proposed dealing or activity have an impact (either positive or negative) on the ways you currently use or enjoy the site? : A commercial lease will ensure the airfield is properly and adequately maintained, and therefore available for use by all, including emergency services. Those complaining about supposed noise pollution and other nonsensical complaints need to understand the airfield was there long before they - they choose to locate to the area knowing an airfield was nearby. The airfield will simply be used for the purpose to was created.

Is the site important to you for any other reasons you have not mentioned?:

Do you have any other comments?: This is a fantastic proposal, and will support our tourism economy in addition to providing a safe place for air support needed by emergency services. Please don't let the wowsers and over zealous greenies keep the Blue Mountains in the 1940's

Privacy & confidentiality

Publication of your details:

I would like my submission to be treated as confidential:

No, publish my submission

I would like my contact details to be treated as confidential:

Yes, remove my contact details before my submission is published

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:08 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission Ref: 602686 Katoomba Airfield lease

NSW Department of Industry

REF: 602686

Submission: proposed commercial lease: Katoomba airfield: Lot 550, DP 751627, Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath

We write to un-equivocally state our opposition to the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield (crown land) currently under consideration by the NSW Department of Industry.

We submit that proposed lease is not just an 'everyday' commercial matter for Department resolution, but represents a fundamental challenge to all the outstanding local national and international values that make the Blue Mountains unique and of 'universal value' at the World scale. Such a lease (if issued) would not be in the broader interests of the state of NSW, and would certainly be of ongoing detriment to Blue Mountain residents and visitors with negative impacts upon the tourism visitation, economy, and enjoyment of a way of life. We submit that a **commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield should not be issued.**



1 World Heritage & national heritage,

The Greater Blue Mountains Area (GBMA) is 1.03 million hectares of mostly wilderness land across seven National Parks, designated as of outstanding World Heritage value from 2 December 2000. The area was added to the National Heritage List in 2007...

We note that "The GBMA is protected and managed under legislation of both the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of New South Wales. All World Heritage properties in Australia are 'matters of national environmental significance' protected and managed under national legislation, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This Act is the statutory instrument for implementing Australia's obligations under a number of multilateral environmental agreements including the World Heritage Convention. By law, any action that has, will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a World Heritage property must be referred to the responsible Minister for consideration. Substantial penalties apply for taking such an action without approval."

A requirement of the Act has been Management Plans, which set out the significant heritage aspects of the place and how the values of the site will be managed. Of relevance here is the identification of the second (of six) major challenges, being "**.. inappropriate recreation and tourism activities, including the development of tourism infrastructure, due to increasing Australian and overseas visitor pressure and commercial ventures..**" (<https://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/world/blue-mountains>)

2 Tourism and economic impacts

The Blue Mountains economy relies upon the nearly 3 million visitors annually – and growing. The tourism attraction is primarily World Heritage wilderness – and the qualities of awe and wonderment at nature - with

natural quiet that should accompany this. Especially when one moves away from the most popular tourism lookouts, one can truly appreciate the unique qualities that are increasingly rare in a busy world. Qualities such as contemplating the sublime; (relatively) un-spoilt nature; vastness; ecosystems; sunlight moving across escarpment /valley; the drip of water; bird-calls; wildlife; eucalypt forest swaying in the breeze; clean air ... silence and solitude. Such qualities are increasingly rare on a world scale – and that’s why since time immemorial visitors have come to the Blue Mountains. Maintaining (enhancing) **visitor experience** is a fundamental necessity for the tourism industry and the Mountains economy. Commercial /frequent helicopter over-flying is not compatible with any of these qualities – and in fact is highly detrimental to them – affecting the commercial viability of tourism visitation to the Mountains more broadly. It comes down to expensive joy flights for a few .. at the expense of residents, visitors more generally, and the Mountains economy.

3 Previous Blue Mountains over-flying experience

Nigel Bell had a Churchill Fellowship (1994) which included looking at design/planning/management of World heritage areas, including the Grand Canyon (USA). This followed on from participation on the Blue Mountains World Heritage Committee and personal experience of the helicopter noise burden from helicopter over-flying and dipping down into the Grose Gorge when out bushwalking and camping. In the early 1990’s commercial helicopter joy-flights occurred from around 10am till 5pm, with three helicopters in quick rotation taking off from Katoomba airfield and flying (highly-paying) tourists in a northerly loop across and into the valley. This destroyed the wilderness experience for those at the lookouts, those rock-climbing, those bushwalking, and more. I recall the Letter to the Editor (1993/94) of the quiet escarpment wedding ceremony destroyed as a helicopter decided to drop low and hover to see what was happening(!). The helicopter noise issue was especially poignant as it reverberates off the escarpment and across/into the valley, giving a wall of repeated noise of broad detriment for locals visitors and fauna – unacceptably – and against World Heritage values.

We have a copy of the *Report by the Blue Mountains Aircraft Working Party, To the Minister for the Environment (August 1995)*. This arose from the broad concern and public opposition, and lead to a three-month trial ‘Fly Neighbourly Advice’ (FNA) policy which was then extended – requiring aircraft/helicopters to maintain a minimum 2000’ altitude above ground level (AGL). Of note from the audible noise study... (Attachment E):

- *Aircraft are the most commonly heard noise in the National Park and also the main source of annoyance.*
- *Aircraft are heard in 75% of cases.*
- *Where aircraft are heard, it is a helicopter in about 60% of cases.*
- *If aircraft were seen, reaction was weighted towards annoyed and very annoyed.*
- *National Park visitors are the most sensitive to aircraft noise.*

4 ‘Natural quiet’

When discussing the tourism planning and management issues for the Grand Canyon, we obtained a copy of the July 1992 ‘*Report to Congress: Potential Impacts of Aircraft Overflights of National Forest System Wilderness*’ – and forwarded a copy to the ‘BM Working Party’ above. This comprehensive research study on visitor enjoyment established that ‘natural quiet’ was a fundamental value – and a key reason why people visited US National Parks. Their acoustic measurements noted the especially invasive noise produced by helicopter rotor blades compared to small fixed-wing aeroplanes. Studies on noise reaction upon native animals/wildlife at that time were sparse and deemed inconclusive. Studies of human visitor reaction in wilderness areas confirmed ‘noise-induced annoyance..’ where aircraft were low, especially helicopters.

5 Conclusions

For the above reasons and more, we are totally against the re-introduction of commercial aeroplane/helicopter flights as a result of the *NSW Department of Industry* proposed leasing of Katoomba Airfield. The losses locally, nationally and internationally are considerable - whilst the commercial gains are extremely limited.

We urge the department to refuse the application – reserving usage of Katoomba airfield for emergency services only.

Yours sincerely



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 1:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airstrip - Reference LX602686

Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of the commercial operation of Katoomba airstrip.

Tourism is the major industry in the Blue Mountains and I believe the operation of the airstrip will have significant advantages for tourism in the area.

It will also grow local employment and be a boost for established local businesses.

In 1968 BMCC documented in the Minutes that the Katoomba airstrip would encourage tourists and visitors to fly to the Blue Mountains either for a day or more and then take local tours of the area.
(See attached)

I do hope that consideration will be given to the positives that the commercial airstrip will have on the Blue Mountains and what it will add to our community.

I believe it is an exciting addition to the area.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Mobile: [REDACTED]

Item 8. REPORT BY PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER. 29/10/68.

67/462/10581.
Katoomba Airport.

The Katoomba Airport situated north of Medlow Bath on the Point Pilcher road started operations on Sunday, 5th October, 1968. Charter operation should begin within the next ten weeks. There are still a number of hangars and other equipment to be installed plus a public telephone.

Katoomba Air Services has been established to encourage tourists and visitors to fly to the Blue Mountains either for a day or more and then take local tours of the area. Joy flights are scheduled every Sunday at a cost of \$3 per flight.

This matter has been reported for information and the Council's Public Relations Department will include these features in future advertising of the area.

MINUTE NO. 1534

RESOLVED on the motion of Aldermen Lloyd and James that the report by the Public Relations Officer be received and that Council's congratulations be conveyed to Katoomba Air Services.

RESOLVED on the motion of Aldermen James and Lloyd that the City Engineer prepare a report for the 1969 Estimates Meeting regarding the sealing of the road to the airport together with the cost of reticulating water and electricity services.

End of last Minute on Page

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Grant

To whom it may concern,

I have become aware of the future plans for the Katoomba Airfield and am incredibly disappointed with not only the decision regarding this land but also the lack of community consultation to reach this decision. This decision will result in the destruction of the serenity and beauty that all who visit and live in the Blue Mountains enjoy for the pleasure of a few. In allowing helicopters and planes to frequent the airspace above the Blue Mountains, it will ruin the tranquility and peace which makes visiting and living in the Blue Mountains so desirable for all those that do.

This land would be best added to the National Park and World Heritage area which it is surrounded by and the airstrip maintained for emergency purposes.

I hope that this decision is changed for the benefit of all those that live in the Blue Mountains and a large majority who visit.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 2:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield submissions close early August

To Crown Lands Department and Trish Doyle

The City of the Blue Mountains and the neighbouring City of Lithgow, also in the Blue Mountains are indeed in a unique situation. Two cities are relatively close together in a very large environmentally sensitive, scenic wilderness.

The Blue Mountains has a permanent population of about 77,000 and Lithgow about 22,000 distributed over 27 towns. The Blue Mountains is a linear city connected by one single road about 70 km long and it takes about an hour and twenty minutes to cross from east to west by road or train. The urban development is mostly on the ridges overlooking the valleys where great views are to be had, The cities are old and well established with appropriate infrastructure except for one deficiency and that is a viable airstrip. The one and only airstrip at Medlow Bath was established many years ago by a private operator for his own use and operation of a scenic tour flight business. It has been used effectively as an emergency airfield for the evacuation of people to hospitals and during bushfire emergencies. The strip has been used by many private plane owners as well. It is again proposed to establish a helicopter tour flight operation using the airfield.

The Blue Mountains is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Australia and is as important as the Barrier Reef, Ularu and Sydney with its Harbour, Opera House. Bridge and beaches. Its special environment is certainly its attraction and must be respected however there is no reason why a tourist initiative like scenic flights can't coexist.

I find it unreasonable that its use is now questioned by environmental groups. A city of this size not only needs an airstrip for emergencies but can do with the economic benefits and jobs that tourists can bring, with scenic flights as an added attraction. It could be suitable for a small air transport terminal for those wanting a quick visit.

Helicopters make noise. The flight paths can be restricted to the valleys where the views are and the noise will, therefore, be minimised to urban areas.

There is no environmental damage or noise pollution and the city(s) will have a proper emergency airstrip.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 6:46 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Airport submission Blue Mountains

Dear Sir Madam

I would like to outline to you some serious concerns regarding proposed lease for an aviation tourism business at the old airfield in the Blue Mountains at Mellow Bath.

1. Past experience in the mid 90's of helicopter flights operating from this old airfield was not good, low altitude flights combined with noise and exhaust and aviation fuel pollution was appalling. Far from enhancing tourism these flights will have a negative impact on tourists as the uniqueness of walking in a peaceful quiet environment will be totally lost.
2. The sub-leasing or selling of the lease to the airfield in the future is also a major concern. There appears to be no official mechanism to monitor ongoing compliance of all operators using this proposed site now and into the future. It should not be up to the local community to monitor compliance especially flight paths, altitude adherence and number of flight arrivals and departures per day.
3. The proposal to "improve" the airfield amenity will likely involve the clearing of established vegetation. If the facility was to offer refuelling options for aircraft we would see fuel storage in the middle of a high risk bushfire zone. Currently there is no town water connection, how will this facility protect its assets, both fuel and buildings with just water tanks, will the leaseholder clear even more vegetation to provide a fire buffer and meet strident BAL requirements.

The public land known as the Katoomba Airfield should not be used for a commercial purpose that will so negatively impacts both bluemountains residents and tourists. This crown land should be transferred to the national park and a dirt airstrip be maintained for emergency use only.

Concerned local resident

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 9:14 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Blue mountains, on the importance of immersion

To whom it may concern,

The Blue Mountains are more than a home to me, this wilderness is my nourishment and inspiration. A wellspring of natural beauty, so close to the noise and frenetic energy of Australia's largest city, this undulating expanse fills me with awe, wonder and humbles me with its scale. I am certain the benefit of this feeling is only fully obtained through immersion, through walking the trails, gazing up in awe at the miraculously tall trees, and down at the dizzying drops.

As an artist, moving to the mountains has had profound impacts on my practise, leading me into creation of work interconnected with nature, place, and the unique landscape.

The stillness and isolation of the mountains allows me to perform transformative ritualistic musical explorations; moments that allow us to transcend our ordinary understanding and perception and see and understand aspects of the world differently.

I create intimate music performances in natural shelters. With thanks to the silence, I'm able to use samples of the mountains, entwined with eerie otherworldly electronics, to create an immersive science fiction soundtrack, enabling us to view the world as strangers, perceiving all as new rather than understood and taken for granted.

Moments that are small to the world, but large in us, as we are able to focus on a single point, and breathe.

The ability to create this kind of art will be dramatically reduced by allowing further air traffic over this space.

The mountains are world heritage listed for a reason, we need to encourage people to immerse themselves in this land and connect with the glorious world, not to consume it from a distant window, like one more channel on tv.

Video:

<https://youtu.be/EpXTAi3c848>

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 10:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Department of Industry, Crown Lands,

I write in support of KACG that objects to public land being used for commercial purposes. Further, I support their objection that any air strip be used for tourism and support their assertion that a working airstrip ought only be used in cases of emergency in order to preserve the land and protect national parks.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message and I hope you listen to the people's wishes and think of the land before thinking of commercialisation.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: I OBJECT TO HELICOPTERS AND THEIR EXTREME NOISE DISTRUPING PEOPLES LIVES

I OBJECT TO KATOOMBA AIRFIELD
BEING GIVEN THROUGH A COMMERCIAL LEASE
TO ANY PRIVATE ORGANISATION

The first thing is the mental health of the 80K people who live here in the Blue Mountains, the harsh sound of helicopters is also going to upset wildlife, the sound is simply too loud. How many thousands are benefiting? Or is that just a few at the expense of thousands?

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.

This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever

Not sure how helicopter and light aircraft noise and fumes is going to provide "environmental benefits"...can you let us know what those "benefits" are please?

YOU SAY TO Qs:

Q1. Will the public still be able to use the site?

Yes. Historically, public access to and use of Katoomba Airfield for anything other than aviation was prevented by the terms of the previous lease. The lease applicant is proposing to 'open up' areas of the site to encourage greater visitation and community use of the site by offering new and improved facilities.

I SAY:

Does Opening up mean:

- Public Toilets
- Fire places barbeque?
- Look outs
- paths
- camping

If visitors to National Parks are encouraged to make "supporting donations" or "entry donations", many would gladly drop coins/notes into the NPW coffers. All available for a gold coin donation and/or register at NPW.gov.nsw.au

and make a donation – month/year/once off/\$10...\$20...

Then, the NPW could collect money!

2. Why is this being considered?

Katoomba Airfield is Crown land and the lease has expired.

The grant of a lease to a tenant provides for the responsible management of the 36Ha site in accordance with applicable laws and the objects and principles of Crown land management. A lease provides financial, environmental and social benefits to the people of NSW.

I SAY

Environmental benefits?

Please tell me what the environmental benefits are with this proposal?

Social benefits? Financial benefits?

Noise pollution will drive city visitors away and lower property prices if local owners.

Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

Needs to be available for catastrophic fire events.

National Parks & Wildlife / NPW should be given the lease, ie the land should be signed back into the World Heritage Listed National Park as it was meant to be done decades ago.

3. How did this proposed lease come about?

The previous lease ended late in 2017. The same year, following consultation with commonwealth, state and local government agencies, expressions of interest were invited from the public to identify interest in managing and / or further developing the site on behalf of the department.

I SAY

How come the community were not consulted BEFORE any lease was offered?

Following this process in February 2018, a licence was granted to Derek and Floyd Larsen for Aerodrome and Land Management on the site. In January 2019 a lease application was lodged with the department by Mr and Mrs Larsen. The lease application is in the name of FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd, to satisfy the department's requirements for the registration of any leaseholder as a legal entity.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To whom it my concern,

I'm writing this submission to oppose the opening of the Katoomba airfield. It would be an extremely irresponsible decision to allow this airfield to be reopened considering all of the hazards, pollution and risks associated with the airfield throughout its past history. This area has been deemed by the Blue Mountains city council as a zone too risky for human occupation and no longer allow the building of homes etc in and around that immediate area. This decision was made due to the fire hazard (high flame zone) and limited access risks. The council also announced to the local community that this area posed an unacceptable risk to emergency services if they were to have to attempt to save buildings in this zone.

On top of this, the noise and fuel pollution and disturbance to the native fauna would also be unacceptable. This is not the kind of development that should be considered for the area as it is adjoining a World Heritage National Park.

Please show respect to this land and environment and be a leading example in responsible decision making. We all should feel proud and thankful to still have this incredible wilderness of the Blue Mountains and do all we possibly can to protect it.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 11:25 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference LX 602686
Attachments: Katoomba Airfield Propaganda.pdf

RE – Katoomba Airfield.

Good morning.

I am not sure if you are aware, but there is a push from a very small minority in the upper Blue Mountains community to rally ill-informed residents to oppose the current, and future operations at Katoomba Airfield.

(I have attached a flyer that has been circulated in the upper mountains for your reference.)

This is a definitely a misguided approach by persons that do not understand the local area, local environment hazards, and regulations regarding aircraft use and management.

As a third generation resident of Blackheath, a 30 year member of local emergency fire services, a pilot, and a concerned resident, I would therefore like to support the use of Katoomba Airfield, and encourage any approved development of this facility.

As Katoomba Airfield is the only Authorised Landing Area (ALA) between Bathurst in the West, and Bankstown in the East, a distance of approximately 75 nautical miles, it is essential that Katoomba airfield be maintained, if not upgraded, into the future.

As you are aware, Katoomba Airfield currently serves as an Emergency Airport to the local area, with and a handful of private aircraft, and the odd commercial helicopter operator using this rough facility.

The Blue Mountains experience major bushfires every few years, and this airfield not only serves as an emergency helicopter base for fire fighting aircraft, but is also used by fixed wing fire fighting aircraft, as well as fire spotting fixed wing aircraft, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service Cessna 206 fixed wing aircraft.

To my knowledge, not one cent has ever been provided by government or the local council to go towards the upkeep, let alone upgrade, of this facility.

This Airfield should remain under the jurisdiction of the Crownlands department, and never be incorporated into the National Park.

The noisy minority say they don't want this facility, especially in the off fire season when community interest is low, as they think there will be an influx of commercial helicopter operators ?

The reality is, CASA (Civil Aviation Regulator) have Regulations and Blue Mountains Fly Neighbourly agreements in place, with which any aircraft operator must comply.

These regulations and agreements are in place to ensure noise conditions are adhered to by all aircraft operators, all of the time.

The silent majority of local residents, especially the long term residents that have all seen mountain bushfire and other local disasters before, will support the continued use, and welcome any upgrade (such as sealing the runway) of Katoomba Airfield.

As usual, there are a lot more of the silent majority out there, that will be outraged should this important local area facility be degraded, closed, or handed over to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To Whom it concerns,

I wish to contribute to this submission by expressing the following:

- a) Due to the sensitive location of this public land I object to it being used for commercial purposes.
- b) To protect this important public asset I urge your department to recommend its transfer and incorporated airfield into the existing national park, with the intention it will remain a public asset.
- c) From the information that I have received I believe that airstrip should be kept as a 'working dirt strip' at the site for emergency use only.

I don't want a commercial helicopter business operating from this site for the reasons below:

- d) Negative effect on the existing local tourism industry.
- e) Environmental impact on an already pressured area of natural beauty.
- f) Effect of having a heliport on the immediate and surrounding communities, noise, increased road traffic.
- g) denigration of bush land and effects on surrounding natural habitats.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 2:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Opposed to granting of Lease

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to lodge my objection to the proposed lease. I suggest that this is NOT granted.

As a recreational Paragliding (non-powered) pilot, I believe this approval will significantly increase the potential for injury or death due to aircraft collision.

The proposal would see powered aircraft flying across the launch/landing/operating areas of paragliders and Hang-gliders in the Blackheath areas.

Mt Blackheath has been an established hang gliding/paragliding site since the 1970's, being one of the most popular sites in NSW, it has recently been supported by Blue Mountains City Council with significant repair and restoration investment.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 10:36 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield YKAT support

Dear Crown Lands,

I am writing in support of the proposed FLYBLUE plans for Katoomba Airstrip YKAT.

I have been a commercial helicopter pilot for 18 years; a vast majority of that time being in the Greater Sydney Basin. I have used YKAT more times than I can remember, in both an aerial firefighting role, and for charter and airwork roles.

I can't imagine the Blue Mountains being without an airstrip, given the very limited landing options for both rotary and fixed wing aircraft. An airfield in the Blue Mountains is a necessity, not a luxury.

Since the passing of Rod Hay in 2016, there has been concern amongst some aviators about YKAT closing permanently to all aircraft, despite the obvious benefit to not only aviators, but Blue Mountains residents and visitors as well.

Earlier this year, during a helicopter charter flight to YKAT, I had the pleasure of meeting Derek & Floyd Larsen. Derek told me a bit about himself and about his aviation background, and then about FLYBLUE's plans for the future. In a climate where General Aviation is really struggling, mainly due to increased costs, to find someone who is willing to invest their own money into GA is a godsend! One of the first things Derek did, in the interests of Aviation Safety, was install two weather cameras and a weather station at YKAT, making the images and weather data available to anyone for free. Given this area is a critical location in terms of terrain and notoriously bad weather, this is something the federal government should have done a decade or two ago. Derek did it as a matter of priority. There has also been a significant clean up of waste materials and dilapidated structures.

FLYBLUE have a passion for General Aviation, with aviation safety being at the top of the list. For FLYBLUE to be proposing further upgrades to YKAT and promoting a growth in General Aviation and offering improved safety, services and facilities in the Blue Mountains for aviators, it should be welcomed with open arms, and I'll say this again - for someone to be investing their own money into GA for the safety and benefit of others, is about as rare as hen's teeth. I wish there were more of it.

I give Derek and Floyd and FLYBLUE my full support for their plans for YKAT.

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Katoomba Airfield Submission

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my strongest objection to the proposed use of crown land at Mellow Bath/Katoomba for commercial aviation purposes.

Local residents have for years been advocating the return of this crown land to the National Park. The existing dirt airstrip is surrounded by National Park and as such is unsuitable for any commercial development. It needs to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The proposed commercial development of the airfield will have detrimental effects on the local tourism industry. The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year. Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within the World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience for tourists who come here for peace and quiet.

The proposed commercial development of the airfield will also adversely affect residents' lifestyle and amenity. Residents in eastern Medlow Bath will bear the brunt of noise pollution from the proposed helicopter operations. However, from past experience of "joy flights" from this location, the noise readily spreads to residents in Evans Lookout Road, Blackheath and North Katoomba which are both less than 2km from the airfield and which will, no doubt, experience fly overs despite the unenforceable fly neighbourly policy.

For the reasons listed above the lease of crown land at Mellow Bath for commercial aviation purposes must not proceed.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:19 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield Submission

Good morning,

We are writing to express our objections to the proposed leasing of Crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield.

We would like to see the Crown land transferred to NSW National Parks so it is preserved, and strongly believe the airfield should be used for emergencies only.

The Blue Mountains are a drawcard for visitors from around the world for the natural beauty, serenity, bushwalks, amazing flora and fauna and the cultural heritage. Constant aircraft and joyflights for the elite few who can afford to see the Blue Mountains from the air, will destroy the peace, beauty, vista and enjoyment for the many as well as ruin the essential essence of the mountains.

Please don't destroy our Blue Mountains by granting this lease. Some times, money should not speak and some areas should be preserved.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:17 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Commercial Lease Proposal

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Re: Ref No 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Commercial Lease Proposal

I am writing to object - both as a resident and as a regular contractor to the local aviation industry - to any proposal for commercial lease of the former Katoomba Airfield.

This includes the ridiculous proposal for a 50-year commercial lease of the land by Flyblue Management Pty Ltd.

This runway was only established for incidental use and later for fire-fighting purposes. For decades (since at least 1988 to my knowledge) was earmarked for return to the National Parks estate for continued use for emergency purposes only.

The 1980s were dark times for the industry, with scenic flights becoming a focus of conflict with residents and tourism operators whose businesses were badly affected. Until now it seemed we had moved past the 'bad old days' of low-altitude scenic flights in the Blue Mountains. Now a single operator is set to destroy all the hard work the industry has put into resolving these conflicts.

The Fly Neighbourly agreement may permit operations from the land at Katoomba but the intent of the agreement was to put an end to the use of low-altitude joy flights over the wild areas of the Blue Mountains which are the backbone of our community and of our local economy.

There is no justification whatsoever for this or any other commercial lease of the space. For the sake of the industry and for the sake of our community I call for this ridiculous proposal to be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the proposal to allow for the lease of the Katoomba Airfield for commercial joyflights.

I strongly oppose any move to allow for a lease permitting commercial joyflights over Katoomba and the Blue Mountains National Park.

My opposition to the proposal is for the following reasons:

1. The Katoomba area is traditionally a quiet residential area with a mixture of young families, tradespeople and retirees. The proposal would directly and negatively impact on the serenity and tranquility of the Katoomba area.
2. There are already numerous viewing lookouts to enjoy the lovely views and clean mountain air. It is unnecessary to permit joyflights which will detract from others' enjoyment of the views of the vallies and bushwalking.
3. Residents have very real concerns about noise pollution from joyflights. The negative impact of joyflights is demonstrated by joyflights over the Gold Coast which have destroyed residents' peace and quiet. People in the Blue Mountains have a reasonable expectation that we can continue to enjoy peace and quiet in our community.
4. Residents also have concerns about pollution from helicopters, potentially affecting air quality.
5. I hold concerns that joyflights or helicopter flights will negatively impact the animals that live in the Blue Mountains including with more pollution and noise.
6. This proposal will also negatively impact on residents' property prices. We have the right to protect our investment, particularly when we moved to the Blue Mountains and specifically Katoomba for its relative quietness and serenity. Joyflights will destroy our quietitude and negatively impact the price of our property.

I may be contacted on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Thank you for considering my submission opposing the proposal.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 9:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello, I'd like to protest the plans to enable aircraft to fly unrestricted in parts of the Blue Mountains. I'd hope this air space is made only available for energy aircraft only. My major concerns about the project is the potential to disturb and effect the natural inhabitants and people seeking solitude and silence.

Please reconsider

Thank you

Kind Regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 6:03 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number: LX 602686

To Whom It May Concern

I have held my helicopter pilot licence since 2000. Based out of Bankstown airport, with many flights over Sydney metropolitan area and Blue Mountains, the possibility of a new airport in Katoomba is welcome news.

I would like to offer my support to the YKAT proposed development with strong consideration to be given to the following points:

- YKAT plays a vital role for emergency service and defence aircraft during events such as bushfires and it is therefore not only in the interests of aviation that it remains open but it is also in the interest of public safety.
- The airfield is an important "safety ramp" in a geographically isolated area for general aviation. It is the only viable and safe landing area on the Blue Mountains between Bathurst and Sydney for all General Aviation aircraft when traversing inhospitable terrain.
- I understand that the YKAT Fly Neighbourly policy includes appropriate flight paths not affecting residential areas with a proactive focus on green sustainability with a reduced carbon offset program to offer a tree planted for every flight departure.

If you need to contact me for any further information, I am readily available to assist.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Katoomba in the Blue Mountains I want to express my feelings about the proposal to allow helicopter flights for sightseeing over the towns and the national park. Like many of my friends, I think this is just to make money for a business and will spoil what makes the park great for everyone. Occasionally we have helicopters pass over us here when there are bushfires or someone is missing perhaps. To think that this could become normal is hard to imagine. I have worked at one of the large hotels here for ten years now and the people I serve come to enjoy the village and bushland in peace. Myself, I like to walk into the park, along with overseas visitors and people who come up from Sydney. Why would we want to do that if there are helicopters flying over the valleys?

Please leave the airfield for official purposes.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo7 Mail. [Get the app](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield - Crown Land in NSW.

As an avid bush walker and someone who came to live in the Blue Mountains for the peace and tranquility it offers, helicopter and aircraft noise will bring unacceptable and unwelcomed 'noise pollution' and disturbance. Most tourists visiting the Blue Mountains come for the peace and tranquility, and to experience nature in its pristine state. They come to experience a 'World Heritage National Park' - a place that is considered such a significant slice of the earth that it is protected and venerated. Protected now and for future generations.

Another element of high concern is the location of the airfield, as it is surrounded by bushland, surely zoned for 'Bushland Conservation' and located within 'Flame Zones'. We have had fires through that area on many occasions and people I know lost their house to a bushfire on a property near the airfield. When [REDACTED] put in an application to council to rebuild they were declined permission based on the area being considered too high bushfire risk. They were told that council could not approve development in such areas as it would put emergency services at too great a risk to protect property in that area. They were forced to sell their property at a significant financial loss as the land could only be considered a bush block for recreation purposes.

A development in this high fire risk area should not be considered as it would place a huge drain on community fire fighting resources and would knowingly put individual people's lives at risk to protect the property.

Now, more than ever is the time when people in positions of responsibility and power must make 'environmentally aware' decisions. The community, children of this world and future inhabitants look to you to protect and preserve. I appeal to you to please show sensitivity and awareness as you assess this submission. These are very important and impacting decisions. They impact far beyond the immediate submission at hand. This decision can either offer youth and community, HOPE in our future, or it can show that the commercial benefit and joy-riding of a few is more important. Supporting this airfield application shows that our leaders are prepared to sacrifice the protection of our World Heritage Area (protecting it from noise pollution) and that providing sanctuaries of natural and pristine wilderness is NOT IMPORTANT. Please! we don't have many of these pristine wilderness places left. We must do what we can to protect them. We must also protect the rights of our local community to experience quiet undisturbed airspace over villages and adjoining wilderness areas.

Community emergency services are able to easily operate out of the existing helicopter pads. Larger emergency response aircraft can easily operate out of the nearby Richmond airport. Emergency air response has never been an issue for the Blue Mountains.

I hope that I have demonstrated that there are absolutely no grounds on which it would be a responsible decision making to approve the development of the proposed Katoomba airfield.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 11:41 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Noise Pollution Threat

I am a resident in Leura.

The proposed reopening of Katoomba airfield for helicopter and light plane flights over the upper Blue Mountains is of great concern.

We are of course accustomed to helicopters used by emergency services conducting hazard reduction, rescues and firefighting. They are very noisy. However these are essential to preserving human and animal lives and the environment.

Low level recreational and tourist flights over and adjacent to the towns of our World Heritage Listed area detract from one of the very reasons people live here and come to enjoy the serenity and beauty of a unique environment. Civil Aviation Regulation 1988- REG157 is not effective in protecting resident peace and quiet along the escarpment and ridges as helicopters and light aircraft can fly very close to the developed areas at above the regulation minimum of 500 feet.

For example such aircraft could fly quite close to the world renowned Echo Point lookout disrupting visitor peaceful enjoyment of the iconic 3 Sisters and Jamison Valley view. Similarly they would damage enjoyment Wentworth Falls, Govett's Leap, Lincoln's Rock, Elysian Rock, Olympian Rock, Tarpian Rock, Gordon Falls, Katoomba Falls and so many others where residents and tourists take in the views, picnic and enjoy the sounds of the bush and the birdlife.

There are very few tourist flights over the Blue Mountains at present as the distance from Sydney airports is uneconomic. A local airfield would be a completely different proposition.

I trust Crown Lands will have full regard to this environmental threat to our World Heritage environment and the residents in deciding on the submission.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au; bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern at Crown Lands (cc: Trish Doyle and Susan Templeman),
I am writing to express my strong objections to any proposal to use the Katoomba airfield for private commercial use. As an 11+ year resident of Blackheath I am already disappointed with the amount of low-flying air traffic we experience compared to when we first moved to the area in 2008. The main attraction of the Blue Mountains for my husband and I is the peace and quiet it affords and the abundant natural beauty and tranquility of a World Heritage area.

Please return the Katoomba Airfield to National Parks to be properly managed for community benefit in keeping with its World Heritage status and, as an airfield, for emergency use only.

My objections exist on several grounds:

1. **Significant noise impact** on hundreds of thousands of people who live in, and travel to, the Blue Mountains for the peace and quiet. It's quite obscene to suggest a for-profit scenic flight enterprise be allowed to operate over World Heritage land so that a handful of people with money be allowed an experience that interferes with not just the enjoyment of the area but the very reason people come here.
2. **Lack of appropriate consultation and consideration of community views.** While I appreciate this opportunity to have my view heard, there have been repeated recommendations for the airfield to be returned to National Parks in the past. Why has this not happened? And why was an Expression of Interest for use of the field sought before the community had been consulted or any environmental impact statement considered?
3. **Environmental concerns** including the impact on air quality, waterways, soil quality, and the diverse birdlife and flora and fauna. There is significant conflict between use of the airfield for commercial air traffic and the nature of the surround World Heritage area. Indeed the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan recognises that 'inappropriate recreation and tourism activities, including the development of tourism infrastructure, under the increasing visitor pressure from Australian, overseas and commercial ventures' as one of six key threats to the area.

Please return this Crown Land to National Parks.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686

Submission to the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield

We live in Medlow Bath, and we object leasing public land for recreational and commercial flight hub development. The reason why us, and many others choose to live and visit Blue Mountains, is its pristine nature and peaceful lifestyle. Promoting/allowing investment to noisy and polluting additional air traffic in the age, when climate change and sustainability should be the most important factors at least when deciding about the use of public lands, is not to be supported in our opinion, and it is hard to think of a place less suitable for such activities than in the midst of the Blue Mountains national park.

We agree with the goals of Katoomba airfield community group and would like to state that:

- 1: We object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- 2: This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
- 3: Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 1:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

The Department of Industry, Crown Lands:

I am writing to oppose any short or long term, commercial leasing of Katoomba Airfield, Ref No 602686.

This airfield is surrounded by our World Heritage-listed National Park and as such should be protected. We fought hard to have this Blue Mountains World Heritage listing and don't want to see this status overthrown for narrow commercial gains that do not take account of the whole environmental and cultural concerns of our area.

THE BIG PICTURE:

As a long-term resident of the Upper Blue Mountains (32 years) I have noticed the increased use of flyovers by helicopters, the large amounts of rubbish left in our bushland and public toilets by tourists, and the seeming disregard for our environment and habitat. So many people I know spend their walks picking up after them. Many residents have told me of human faeces and tissues smack bang in the middle of e.g. the walking paths from Echo Point all the way along Cliff Walk to the Scenic World site. A powerful symbolic act which shows the blatant disregard of our heritage site. This is a regular occurrence which we, the people of The Blue Mountains, have to clean up on our walks. And this all close by the iconic Three Sisters and Echo Point.

I cannot tell you how many times I have been stuck in my car in Leura Mall, brought to a standstill, while a group of about 10-20 tourists have stood in the street for 5 to 10 mins taking selfies. They have no awareness that they are standing on a busy public road holding up traffic and I have had to resist placing my hand on the horn to move them on. Many residents tell me they don't resist. They honk, swear and are fed up. It is a huge concern for the shopkeepers and locals and has become worse each year. Employees tell me they sometimes hate their work because of the treatment by, and entitled attitude of, tourists.

I think there needs to be a mandatory information program set up at the bottom of the mountain (Glenbrook?) to brief visitors and tourists on how to act within our protected area and communities. The residents' rights seem to be counting for less and less now as the money from the tourism dollar is chased without due consideration for the culture and respect of our land.

Many visitors to our Blue Mountains already remark on being surprised with the amount of air traffic currently occurring. They come here for the unspoiled World Heritage National Park experience. More air traffic would deter their visits which would defeat the purpose of seeking out the tourist dollar and eventually leave our place trashed and very unattractive indeed.

SPECIFIC POINTS RELATING DIRECTLY TO THE PROPOSED AIRPORT PLANS FOR A COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER ENTERPRISE:

I attended the local Public Meetings put on by the The Department of Industry about this matter and heard many peoples' concerns which included:

- 1) Noise Pollution. It's bad enough already and would profoundly alter the nature and essence of the environment for which the Blue Mountains is famous. i.e. it would negatively impact and erode our environment and culture. The World Heritage National Park Listing, local businesses and lifestyles would suffer.
- 2) The destruction of habitats for animals and some threatened species would be significant. Another loss for The Blue Mountains.
- 3) The devaluing of our real estate. It's hard enough for small businesses up here, without the prospect of our houses and businesses losing value because of the cultural destruction of everything for which The Blue Mountains is famous.

The majority of residents at the meeting agreed that the best use of this airport is for it to be put in the hands of the National Park and protected forever for the benefit of all. This makes sense.

And everyone at the meeting voiced the need to keep the airport maintained so that it can always be used in emergencies. We need it for our high bushfire prone area. And pilots need it for emergency landings as I heard from one seasoned pilot that it was the only safe place to land over the Mountains.

The increased helicopter traffic would bring increased safety concerns. The last owner of the lease crashed his plane when overrunning the airport. With the very real danger of bushfires in The Blue Mountains, more air traffic would only increase safety issues and bushfire risks.

For all of the above reasons I strongly oppose any inappropriate leasing of Katoomba Airport and suggest it is put under management of the National Parks and Wildlife.

Yours Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:00 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: [REDACTED] 602686

Good evening,

I am writing to you to express my concerns with the leasing of Katoomba airfield to private companies for the purpose of providing helicopter joy flights over the Blue Mountains rather than returning that land to the World Heritage-listed National Park that surrounds it.

I strongly disagree with this land being used for commercial purposes for a few main reasons:

1. In November 2000 the Department of Land and Water stated in an assessment of the area that upon the ending of the lease the land would be returned to the National Park. However, the relevant facilities and equipment would be kept at the airfield for emergencies, bushfire surveillance and firefighting. In 2008 another assessment was made of the airfield by the Department of Lands and stated that the site should only be used for emergencies and returned to the National Park.
2. In the past the airfield has been used for commercial joy flights which was met with heavy opposition from residents in Medlow Bath, Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls. In 1994, aircraft operators and the community came to the agreement to stop these joy flights after the impact that they had on the community in the Blue Mountains Fly Neighbourly Agreement (BMFNA).
3. The environmental impact that these joy flights would have on the National Park's ecosystem would be astonishing. Not only would the dumping of fuel over bushland have a significant impact on the flora and fauna in the area but the constant sound of helicopters during the day would destroy the area's acoustic signature which is vital for animal communication.
4. Finally, the economic impact of the commercialisation of Katoomba airfield would not in any way help the Blue Mountains. It will not add a significant amount of job opportunities to the area, nor will it generate a significant amount of revenue as helicopter flights are extraordinarily expensive, especially for backpackers visiting the area.

The NSW Government and Crownland should take these points into consideration and take steps to gather an understanding of the current ecosystems existing in the Blue Mountains and the environmental and financial impact the airfield will have. It should also honour agreements made in the past. Not only because those agreements and decisions were made for a reason but also for crownland's own reputation as this blatant disregard for previous decisions just shows crownland and the government to be greedy liars, looking to make some cash rather than meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

Thank you for hearing my opinion.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

I am writing to object to the proposal to award a Commercial over the Crown Land which contains Katoomba airfield for the following reasons.

As a bushwalker and native plant enthusiast, I appreciate and understand the important natural values of the area and believe they should be maintained as the highest priority for the fauna and for people.

1. I OBJECT to any COMMERCIAL lease for this PUBLIC land

Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals.

It is not right that a small number of people who would enjoy the benefits of the airstrip could ruin the area for the many more people who enjoy the bush from the ground including residents, visitors and bushwalkers. The enjoyment of most people would be adversely affected by the noise generated by just a few people. The shape of the valleys would also amplify any noise created.

Commercial development in the middle of a national park, and a World Heritage Area recognised for its natural values, is completely inappropriate and unnecessary.

2. I support previous recommendations to transfer this land to the Blue Mountains National Park.

I ask that this land be put into the national park to preserve and protect its environmental values. Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated by the industry and not enforced by any government agency. They have not protected the national park in the past and cannot in the future. They are not a solution.

3. I ask to keep the airfield for EMERGENCY USE ONLY

I ask that the dirt airstrip be kept for emergency landings and firefighting only, not for commercial uses. This is the only way to protect the environmental values of the area.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 12:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield Lease submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter, so important to the Blue Mountains community and environment.

I ask that no lease be granted to a commercial operator, rather that the airfield be added to the Blue Mountains National Park and be managed by the NPWS for emergency and bush fire-fighting purposes only.

The airfield is completely surrounded by the Blue Mountains National Park (part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area). World Heritage values need to be respected and protected. Several previous land assessments by NSW government agencies have recommended the airfield be added to the Park.

I see so many dangers with a commercial lease and flights over the park and adjoining residential areas:

- Disturbance of fauna, in particular birds, by helicopter noise that will cause frequent alarm and behaviour changes. The area is home to threatened species (Gang Gang Cockatoo and Scarlet Robin) and is part of the area that honeyeaters use in their annual autumn migration. The GBMWhA was declared a Key Biodiversity Area by Birdlife International in 2017.
- Soil erosion and groundwater contamination to surrounding bushland, in particular the examples of Blue Mountains Swamps on the site, a threatened ecological community.
- Noise for park visitors, particularly in the Grose Wilderness and Grand Canyon. Helicopter tourism for a few will detract from the sounds of nature and the tranquility that most people are seeking within a national park.
- Noise for residents of Medlow Bath, Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls.
- The community has been given little information about the proposed lessees' intentions, or what future development or extension of activities that may be possible. 'Fly Neighbourly' policies are not enforceable by CASA.

Of course it will be necessary to ensure that the RFS and other emergency services have access to the airfield. If the airfield is added to the National Park, it could be managed by the NPWS, as they do for airfields in Mutawintji and Sturt National Parks. Funding for its upkeep could be made available by Treasury through the Bushfire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Program.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 6:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: your ref: LX602686

Dear Scott Mullens and Mark Maloney,

I am writing to voice my strongest possible objections to the proposal to allow the commercial use of the Katoomba Airfield for the purpose of tourist joy rides over the Blue Mountains National Park.

I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED], close to the Govetts Leap Lookout, and have been astonished to learn that this proposal is even being given serious consideration. Previous generations have fought hard to keep this area pristine and in safe hands for future generations to enjoy in peace and quiet. I not only object to the loss of peaceful enjoyment of this area for residents and the many visitors who walk the Grose Valley tracks but also to the harmful impacts it will have on the innumerable species other than our own who have found safe homes here and also on migratory birds who rely on this area as a corridor for their annual journeys.

We already pollute the earth far, far more than we ever should and unnecessary air travel of this kind is to be condemned.

Please deny this proposal to benefit an individual's financial profits and put your support where it belongs in the care and protection of our precious national heritage.

You will be earning the gratitude of the thoughtful majority if you do.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:51 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Mellow Bath Airfield DOC 19/088419

re DOC 19/088419

I wish to submit a submission regarding this project.

As a bushwalker who walks in the proposed area, I have concerns about the intrusion of helicopters on my walking experience.

I live under a helicopter flightpath at Lithgow which is necessary for medical purposes, not for entertainment or tourism, so must be accepted.

I do not consider it necessary to accept the proposed licensing of the Mellow Bath airport for helicopter use except for emergencies such as bush fires.

One of my concerns relates to birds suffering from trauma as a result of the helicopters. Research indicates that birds do indeed suffer trauma as a result of sudden, unexpected noise, such as a helicopter ascent or descent.

Since there is no number of flights mentioned, how will this be regulated? I have noted that there has already been a broken experience with regard to the Wolgan One and Only Resort in this matter. a monetary fine does not remove damage already incurred on the natural environment.

If there is need to transfer the license to some person, I would rather that the area be given to the National Parks and Wildlife Service which currently adjoins the proposed area.

Rare plants, animals and birds may well suffer from the pollution of fuel from the helicopters and increased road traffic associated with any air traffic.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Lease

To who it may concern,

I am writing to you about the proposed commercial leasing for 50 years of Katoomba Airstrip currently being considered by your department Ref No 602686, the granting of which will cause **UNTOLD INTRUSIONS FROM THE UNHEALTHY AND UNWANTED NOISE OF HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT**.

Firstly, I think it an absurdity to consider any type of commercial lease, let alone one of this length (50 years – seriously?), in an area famous for its peacefulness and quiet beauty because **HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT ARE INCREDIBLY INTRUSIVE BECAUSE THEY MAKE HEAPS AND HEAPS OF REALLY HORRIBLE NOISE**.

Secondly, I consider the applicants to be of completely unfit character to hold a commercial lease of anything that will have such damaging impacts on almost everything cherished by those that hold the Blue Mountains dear. Have I mentioned that **HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT ARE OVERBEARINGLY INTRUSIVE BECAUSE THEY MAKE A HELL OF A LOT OF BLOODY NOISE**.

- These people are on the record as saying that they will not be flying over the Grose Valley and yet their advertised flight paths go directly over it.
- They initially presented themselves to the unsuspecting Blue Mountains community as Cattle Breeders/Philanthropists from the Capertee Valley (nothing to see here folks, you just move right along now) when in fact they have extensive high-level links within the aviation industry, have recently been employed by the very department issuing the license and lease, appear to be on very friendly terms with several high ranking government officials and as for any real philanthropic activity - well that turned out to be just an extremely highly paid job.
- They have categorically stated they will not be on-selling the lease. **INTERESTING**. As they both appear to be middle aged and childless does this mean that they propose to be actively responsible for the running of Katoomba Airfield when they are in their 80's, 90's...100's?
- They've already broken their word, what else are they going to go back on? (They say they'll plant some trees to offset the **INCREDIBLY OFFENSIVE NOISE POLLUTION THAT THEIR HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT WILL GENERATE** oh really??)

It is my opinion that it would constitute very poor judgement by the Department of Industry and Crown Lands to support anyone, let alone these particular lease applicants the opportunity to destroy the lifestyles and livelihoods of the very many for the benefit of the very few by allowing them to **IMPOSE THE CACOPHONY OF HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT MAKING A HECK OF A LOT OF UNWELCOME NOISE**.

I feel very strongly that the parcel of crown land in question should be protected for the quiet enjoyment of the people for all time; it should not be handed over to individuals wishing to use it for **NOISY** commercial purposes (that will be of benefit only to themselves). This land needs to be transferred to the Greater Blue Mountains National Park. It should not be given over to any individual, consortium, company, partnership, trust fund or entity whose proposed **EXTREMELY NOISY**, commercial activities will prohibit the general public from setting foot on it except as paying customers.

To allow the commercialisation of Katoomba Airstrip by granting a 50 year lease will impose the **ABHORRENT NOISE OF HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT** upon all who live, work and visit the Blue Mountains. Keep the land as a working airstrip for emergency use only.

Finally, **HELICOPTERS AND AIRCRAFT ARE EXTREMELY INTRUSIVE BECAUSE THEY MAKE EAR SPLITTING AMOUNTS OF NOISE THAT THOSE ON THE GROUND HAVE NO CONTROL OVER AND ARE FORCED TO ENDURE**.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:04 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Future of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Crown Lands,

I was alarmed to hear that commercialisation of this airfield has again been mooted, after previous controversies and promises from various NSW government sources to add this public land to the national park. Community opposition of scenic flights has, if anything, substantially increased since then.

Such commercial use for the airfield must inevitably rely on local scenic flights for financial viability. This would have numerous negative impacts, including on the vital local tourism industry and its 'peaceful' image, on local residents and on fauna impacted by the noise. There is NO benign route from this site for scenic flights, which must overfly either residential/tourist precincts AND/OR quiet national park areas. The declared Grose Wilderness could be impacted. No 'fly neighbourly' policy can prevent these impacts, and such a 'policy' is unenforceable under current legislation anyway.

A long-term lease poses additional threats. It would be a marketable commodity and there can be no guarantee that new lessees (or the original lessees) would not seek expansion of the operation as initially approved. Whatever the intentions of the initial lease and the lessee, once an operation becomes established no government is likely to reject expansion if requested for commercial reasons (eg. to ensure survival of the business).

Further, the land is almost surrounded by the world-heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, and hence has substantial impacts on the management of the adjacent national park for conservation and compatible recreation.

The arguments against this proposal are many, and relate to widespread impacts on numerous people and the environment. The arguments for it are few and any benefits accrue mainly to the lessee and Crown Lands only, plus a very small number of visitors. I am confident that any proper cost-benefit analysis would find this proposal untenable.

For all these reasons, and in summary:

- **I object to any commercial lease for the airfield site.**
- **I support the addition of the site to the surrounding national park.**
- **I support the ongoing use of the airfield for emergency operations ONLY.**

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 12:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Make Katoomba Airfield part of National Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the proposal of handing over a new long-term lease to a commercial profiteering operator.

As a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains, I value the wildness, peace and quiet, particularly while walking in the Katoomba area.

Please consider preserving this area for the benefit of flora, fauna and ultimately humans. I would welcome any proposal to make this airfield part of the National Park.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 6:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Hello

I wish to express my total support for the expansion of operations at the Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath, as a pilot it is obvious that this airfield offers significant operational and safety options for all General Aviation aircraft crossing the Blue Mountains and offers fantastic tourism opportunity for tourists and residents alike.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 8:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crownlands.nsw.gov.au
Subject: objection to Katoomba airfield development LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my objection to the granting of a commercial lease to develop the small Katoomba airfield. This airport should be left as it currently is and available for emergency use. I support the public land being absorbed into the Blue Mountains National Park which is a far more sensible option as this aligns with the vision of the Blue Mountains world Heritage area. A significant commercial airport development would harm regional tourism and the by destroying the intrinsic values of peace and quiet. No longer would people be able to enjoy bushwalking and the serenity of the region, as this would be destroyed. Many residents live in the area for its peaceful and serene ambience and the airport development will destroy the lifestyle of many for the financial gain of a few people. On balance it will damage the regional economy by harming the tourism industry. I for one would look elsewhere to stay for a weekend away from the city.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 7:28 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear All

I am writing to you in relation to the future use of a piece of crown land near Medlow Bath (currently under consideration). The issue is the possibility of granting a long term lease to allow the use of this world heritage listed land for aviation tourism.

I object that this public land being used for commercial purposes. The result of such an action would be the privatisation of all profits in the hands of very few whilst socialising all the loses (cleaning the area, noise impact on locals, direct attack on clean air, fuel dump etc)associated with this commercial venture

I support this crown land to be protected forever and not be used other than for emergency services if need be

I also commute for work on a daily basis to Botany. I choose to live in the Blue Mountains for the tranquility of the place and the superior standard of living the area offers: clean air, less noise, proximity of facilities. This commercial enterprise is a direct attack on locals and all the benefits an extraordinary area such as the Blue Mountains offers to everyone.

Hope you consider the above and decide to protect the locals.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 2:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX602686

Dear Sir

**Katoomba Airfield
LX602686**

I object to the development of Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes.

I am a frequent bushwalker in the Blue Mountains and I value the peace and quiet, as well as the scenic and ecological values. The development of this airfield will damage all these values.

As I feel this way, I presume many other tourists will feel the same – the values they visit the mountains for will be damaged and the Blue Mountains will become a less attractive tourist destination for a huge number of tourist. The economic impact may be substantial.

The area should be included in the Blue Mountains National Park and hence included in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It has far more community value as a World Heritage Area than as an airfield

The specific environmental values include the diverse flora and fauna of the surrounds and the presence of Blue Mountain Swamps – a vulnerable ecological community.

I also frequently stay overnight in accommodation in the area from Katoomba to Blackheath. I do not want to be listening to the sound of helicopters taking off and landing nearby.

An emergency airfield is all that is needed. I have watched one extraordinary helicopter rescue in the Grose Valley and was stunned by the skill of all concerned. Fortunately I have not needed one myself.

In summary, I am opposed to the commercialisation of the airfield and believe it should be included in to the National Park and the airfield should be kept for emergency use only.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

26/7/2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 10:40 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: New Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Reference 602686

Crown Land in NSW Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

I object to the proposed development because it is within a World Heritage Area National park and would degrade both the natural attributes of the park and the experience of visitors and locals alike. I draw attention to the following:

Noise

The Blue Mountains National Park is a quiet place. Millions of people come each year to experience this, and to appreciate the beauty of the area.

Helicopters are noisy machines which, if allowed, will intrude into the peaceful and low impact experience of park visitors. This is particularly true of areas such as the Grand Canyon walk which begins two kilometres from the airfield and winds its way closer to the airfield. The proposed flight paths will impact on this area and landing and take-off will be particularly intrusive. Visitors using this track come for the quiet and low impact experience not for the intrusion of helicopters

Other areas within the National Park are similarly affected. These include Evans Lookout, Govett's Leap, Pulpit Rock and Braeside Walk. People who walk such tracks or visit lookouts regularly comment that it is the quiet and peaceful nature of these places that attracts them.

I live in Blackheath ([REDACTED]) which is 3.4 kilometres in a straight line from the airfield. When it is in use for fire fighting and other emergency service operations loud noise is apparent but is accepted because such operations are necessary to save lives and prevent fire damage. I don't accept that commercial helicopter flights which will intrude continually on my everyday life are similar either conceptually or in terms of frequency.

Natural Habitat

Noise impacts upon the fauna of the area. Birds and animals are frightened by noise and their existence become threatened. Australia is already a world leader in species extinction - the proposal, if approved, is likely to help keep Australia at the top of this unhappy leader board. Likewise fuel combustion pollution caused by further flights can have only negative impacts upon both flora and fauna.

Tourism Economics

The proposer of the development claims that it will be of economic benefit. Given that helicopters have small passenger capacity it is very unlikely that the operation will bring much economic gain to the area.

For a positive economic impact the number of flights would need to be great - destroying even more the low impact visitor experience for which the Blue Mountains is rightly famous.

Many tourism operations in this area are low impact in nature. Visitors who use such services would have second thoughts if their prized and contemplative experience was destroyed by helicopter flights and the noise which accompanies them. Other small businesses such as cafes would similarly be negatively affected. Larger accommodation operations could also find their customer base diminishing - why come and stay if the reason for coming is no longer there?

Individual Profit Versus Community Needs

The development proposal will obviously need to make a profit. That profit will perhaps be a good thing for the developer but not for the Blue Mountains community. There is strong opposition within this community members of which fear that their needs are in danger of being ignored in favour of personal profit based upon an unknown number of helicopter flights which will destroy the very thing that the flights are designed to capitalise upon.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:18 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I object to the commercialisation of Katoomba airfield. I believe the airfield land should be included in the Blue Mountains National Park and the working dirt strip should only be maintained for emergency and fire fighting use.

I lived in the Blue Mountains for a number of years with my family, and we came to the Mountains for the peace and quiet and quality of the lifestyle. I believe this will be disrupted if a commercial lease is granted and the current lease runs regular flights.

I have also been a professional artist for 35 years, and currently teach and work from my [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The proposed flight paths will pass just north of my property. I believe the noise pollution, emissions and loss of privacy from regular commercial helicopter flights will negatively impact on my working practice. I believe this aspect of my business will suffer if the commercialisation of the airfield is approved and helicopter and other aircraft flights increase.

There is also a lake on my property which is a home to a large number of birds. I am concerned that helicopters noise will disrupt their breeding. The displayed flight paths, which are voluntary and non binding, pass just to the north of this lake. I am concerned the helicopters will divert to over the lake to see the large number of birds scattering.

I also run regular art workshops from my studio, with students often travelling from outside the Mountains to participate. Part of the attraction for students is to learn in a peaceful bushland location. I do not offer accommodation, but refer people to local bed and breakfasts, and local restaurants. If the workshops are interrupted by regular helicopter flights, I believe I will lose repeat customers. I also believe other tourism providers will be disadvantaged by the noise and emissions.

I also agree with the Civil Aviation Authority, Office of Airspace Regulation own environmental guidelines which clearly state

“Noise within the National Park system often interferes with the very reason visitors go to the National Park- for peace and quiet. Aircraft tends to interfere with natural quiet for visitors within National Parks. Another consideration of aircraft overflight over National Parks is the reduction in enjoyment and appreciation of cultural and historical resources within the National Parks and the reduction of the sounds of nature at the park.”

My partner also regularly works from home, using teleconferencing to her city office. The noise of regular helicopter flights will disrupt this work.

I do not understand why the airfield leasee's business is given preference over our businesses or those of the other tourism operators. Loss of local economic activity will lead to less taxation revenue, more people needing to commute from the mountains for employment and loss of young people from the area. I believe that any economic benefit from the rent on the lease and the small amount of employment from the flights will be far outweighed by the economic loss of other Mountains businesses, as well as the loss of amenity by residents.

The "Fly Neighbourly" guidelines are voluntary. The operator has stated he intends to follow these guidelines at this stage. If a 50 year lease is granted, his priorities may change or he may onsell the lease to another operator who may not follow these guidelines. He also has no control over flights by other users taking off and landing at the airfield.

Although there is a minimum height limit, there does not seem to be any oversight of the disruption caused by the flights. It will be up to community members to document and object to breaches of flying height limits and it is not clear what action can be taken against pilots breaking these height limits.

There are occasion helicopter overflights by helicopters near our home eg landing at Katoomba hospital, the NPWS or electricity providers checking power lines. I have no objection to these occasional and important flights, but the noise level is certainly very high. If commercial scenic flights became regular events, it would be very disruptive.

The proposal to offset the carbon dioxide emissions from the flights by planting trees at the site, will only make for a tiny proportion of the carbon emissions from a helicopter flight. I don't believe much significance should be given to this voluntary undertaking. The emissions from fixed wing flights or helicopters will vastly exceed emissions from visitors to the mountains arriving by train, bus or car.

I also believe the community consultation process was flawed. The meeting I attended was overcrowded, and information about the proposal was limited. There should be another consultation after the operator has produced a full business plan, and before a lease is signed.

I urge the NSW government to reject the application to lease the Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator, and allow the airfield to be used for emergency use only. The land should be incorporated in the Blue Mountains National Park and managed by NPWS.

Sincerely



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) No to commercial airfield in the Blue Mountains.

I am writing to you to say that I object to the proposal to grant a commercial lease at Katoomba Airfield.

I have been a long time climber and hiker in the Blue Mountains and have moved to Mt Victoria in the last month.

One of the major reasons I have come to love the Blue Mountains is the quiet and solitude that can be experienced here.

I have worked in the tourism industry in Sydney for the last 14 years. Many of the visitors I have guided in that time have expressed their wonder and delight at the unique wilderness that we have here in the Blue Mountains. A common theme has been how lucky we are to have such a beautiful natural environment so close where we can get away from the hustle and bustle of Sydney.

I would also suspect that a ride in a joy flight over the Blue Mountains would be difficult for many people to afford leaving this experience accessible for only a small number of people. The benefits from this sort of tourist activity would be slight as it wouldn't employ many people.

Needless to say, the noise from a commercial airfield would have negative effects on the peace, quiet and solitude that makes the Blue Mountains so appealing for residents and visitors alike. It could also be counter productive for tourism as the increased noise levels impact on the qualities that many visitors come for in the first place!

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is a very special place, a commercial airfield is completely out of character with this protected area. I feel this Crown land should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park so it can be protected for future generations.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 1:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I strongly object to the Medlow Bath airstrip being used for any purpose at all except for emergencies. The current, seemingly unrestricted, fly-overs of sight-seeing aircraft, including helicopters, is noisy, unpleasant, and inappropriate over an area which hopes to maintain its World Heritage listing in spite of the new western Sydney airport.

I wish to see an end to the presence of these aircraft and the restoration of the peace which is such an important aspect of this beautiful area.

Not only must a lease not be granted, but the current flights must be stopped.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Department of Industry
Crown Lands
PO Box 2155
Dangar NSW 2309

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the use of public land for the commercial use of Katoomba airfield. I have a number of concerns;

1. Threat to the world heritage UNESCO listed Greater Blue Mountains Area (Ref 917).
<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/917>.
2. Volatile liquids and toxic chemicals stored on site. I have the following concerns;
 - a. Escape of liquids (EOL) during transfer into the environment. Contamination of bushland and a hazard to wildlife.
 - b. Storage of fuel in a bushfire prone area. The airfield is located in a high risk zone and would pose a bushfire risk to people and property in the Blue Mountains.
 - c. Transport of fuel and chemicals to the airfield present a danger to local residents. There is no local traffic management plan for these liquids.
3. Noise pollution.
 - a. The proposed flight path is very close to my property. I will not be able to enjoy the quiet comfort of my residence.
 - b. Noise created by helicopters is injurious to one's health. Current research show prolonged exposure to helicopter noise has significant impact on children's health in areas such as learning and sleep deprivation.
 - c. Helicopter noise is particularly harmful because you not only hear it, but feel it because of the low-frequency blade-slap vibration produced. This noise can have physiological impacts. A study needs to be done on this impact particularly for the vulnerable like the elderly and small children. This study should also extend to the local fauna.
4. Air pollution.
 - a. Elevated levels of air pollution. Danger to the fragile ecosystem of the Blue Mountains.
 - b. Cancer causing toxic emissions. Health concerns for local residents and those over the flight path.
5. Devaluation of property.

- a. Many people have moved to the Blue Mountains for the peace, serenity and beauty of the area along with the clean air. This attraction will be degraded with the proposed introduction of commercial aircraft. Property prices will fall because of lack of demand as the area will no longer have this status as a noise and pollution free region.
- 6. Loss of tourism revenue.
 - a. Tourists will be fast-tracked in and out of the mountains. Less time spent means less spending. Local tour operators are most likely to suffer.

I believe the land should be integrated with the National Park and the airfield kept for emergency purposes only.

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 2:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield.

The Blue Mountains are a world heritage listed area, famous the world over. They are visited because of their natural beauty and peaceful, unspoilt ambience. Chartered helicopter flights would seriously damage this experience.

I respect that the state government needs to capitalise on tourism to generate revenue. Common sense makes it clear that this development will hurt the tourism industry more than the sliver of extra revenue it would generate and therefore defeat its very purpose., but for a very few people and companies who would profit.

The airfield should be integrated into the surrounding national park and revenue sought to be generated in less destructive ways

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:49 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your reference: 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

My principal concern is regarding the safety risks associated with increased aviation activity.

I have been a professional pilot for 20 years, flying with the RAAF and 2 major Australian airlines, and am currently employed as a full time RPT pilot. I am currently a RAAF reservist. I have extensive experience as a Aviation safety officer and flying supervisor.

I am a licenced paraglider pilot, have flown at the Blackheath paragliding site, and intend to do so again numerous times in the future. The Blackheath site (and by extension a significant area around it) has a long and established history, and is considered one of the premier locations for sports aviation in NSW. As my experience is as a paraglider I will refer to those, however these concerns generally apply equally to other sports aviation types such as hand gliders and ultralight aircraft.

Without more clarity on the proposed operations, I am concerned that unless significant efforts are made to restrict regular powered flight in the Blackheath area away from the areas most commonly used by sports aviation, there may be an unacceptably high risk of a safety incident. Given that any near interaction between a powered aircraft and paraglider would likely result in a catastrophic failure of the glider, a fatality is a near certain outcome of such an event. Given the density of paragliders at the site, the likelihood of such an event would be high over time if the applicant's operations typically go near or through the site.

Some points to consider:

- Paragliders have a very low visual profile from some angles. See and avoid procedures are unlikely to be an effective mitigation.
- The exact location and altitude of paragliding activity is diverse according to the weather conditions, and is not entirely predictable.
- Paragliders do not carry transponders, and carriage of them would not be an effective mitigation given the traffic density.
- Paragliders often do not carry radios, and it would be unreasonable to require that, given the cost in equipment and training associated. This would also be difficult to police.
- Paragliders have relatively low maneuverability in comparison to powered aircraft, so they would be almost entirely reliant on any powered aircraft to avoid them.
- The paragliding community brings money into the blue mountains community as many paragliders spend money at local businesses when using the site.
- Paragliding has negligible environmental impact.

As an aviation professional I am routinely supportive of efforts to develop and expand the aviation community through endeavours such as the lease of the Katoomba airfield. As a member of the community more broadly I am supportive of individuals who have the courage and creativity to start business like the one proposed. I have not been able to find any information on your website that addresses the risk of a direct or near mid-air between a powered aircraft and a paraglider. I am also interested in how the proposed lease interacts with the Fly Neighbourly advice FN2 as published by Airservices Australia.

The paragliding community can reasonably expect to continue to use the site as they do now. There is a large community including locals and others who travel from around Australia and from overseas to fly at Blackheath. Their use of the site for this purpose is well known and accepted. This community can reasonably expect to be offered some guarantee that their use of the site will not be affected by developments at the Katoomba airfield now or into the future.

Before any decision is made to lease the airfield, I recommend that the department should establish appropriate measures to address the safety risk to aviation, and assess whether that would affect the viability of the lease.

I would propose the following items for consideration:

- that a Danger area is promulgated for the blackheath paragliding site. (other appropriate symbology should be considered for aviation charts)
- The applicant should be responsible for ensuring visiting aircraft are informed of the location of the Danger area and the requirement to avoid it where practicable.
- Arrangements are made to ensure paragliding activities are adequately communicated to visiting aircraft as part of compliance with FN2.
- Regular flight operations of the applicant should be required to avoid the danger area entirely
- Procedures for policing these points, with associated financial penalties.

Thankyou for considering my comments. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:19 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Hello,

I totally support the rejuvenation and planned use by Flyblue of the derelict Katoomba Airfield.

The Upper Blue Mountains must have a functional and efficient small airport. Not only to help promote tourism in the area but also for extremely important access for NPWS, NSW Fire Service, Ambulance, Police and an emergency service.

From what I have seen so far, Flyblue's preparation and professionalism with regard to this process is second to none. They have considered all parties involved.

I hope to see this project approved, as it should be as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 11:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemoountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

As a long time bushwalker and a resident of Blackheath, I would like to state my objection to the proposal to grant a long term commercial lease at Katoomba Airfield.

According to the latest report by Destination NSW in the year ending September 2018 the Blue Mountains received 3,993,000 visitors. Furthermore, overnight visitor stays added up to 3,004,000 visitor nights contributing \$705 million to the local economy. Reference: <https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/travel-to-blue-mountains-snapshot-sept-2018.pdf?x15361>

Sources: (1) National Visitor Survey (NVS) & (2) International Visitor Survey (IVS), YE Sep 18, Tourism Research Australia (TRA) - unless otherwise specified. Domestic Overnight Travel - destinationnsw.com.au

Travel to Blue Mountains Year ended September 2018 For the period of October 2017 to September 2018
Sources: (1) National Visitor Survey (NVS) & (2) International Visitor Survey (IVS), YE Sep 18, Tourism Research Australia (TRA) - unless otherwise specified.

www.destinationnsw.com.au

Amongst domestic overnight visitors, who are likely to be amongst the greatest of contributors to the local economy, the top second and third reported activities were: 'Bushwalking or rainforest walks' (45.6%) was the 2nd most popular activity, followed by 'visit national parks or state parks' (44.3%). Thus, as expected, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is likely to be one of the greatest contributors to the local tourism economy.

Katoomba Airfield is surrounded on all sides by the Blue Mountains National Park and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It is located just 1.5km from the nearest cliffline of Govett's Gorge, the most accessible part of the Grose Valley and that part most visited by tourists.

Given the location of the Katoomba Airfield it is inevitable that any use of the airfield as a base for helicopter charters will have unacceptable noise impacts on visitors to the national park, in addition to unknown effects on wildlife. To allow a relatively small number of visitors to destroy the peaceful enjoyment that many tourists are already deriving from the national park would not only be unjust, but also potentially economically counterproductive if the touted economic benefits of high end tourism were gained at the expense of driving the much bigger market of tourists seeking quiet nature based tourism experiences elsewhere.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of any proposed commercial lease on the Grose Valley. The Grose Valley has long been recognised as one of the most spectacular landscapes in NSW and has benefited from generations of community support to maintain it in its natural state, from the decision to reserve it from sale in 1875, to the citizen campaign to protect Blue Gum Forest in 1931, its reservation within the Blue Mountains National Park in 1959, its inscription on the World Heritage List as part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in 2000 and finally the declaration of the Grose Wilderness in 2001.

The Grose Wilderness is a jewel of incalculable value for the people of NSW. It offers the possibility of escape from all the stresses of modern life for quiet nature based recreation and yet is just two hours by train from the Sydney CBD. Psychologists are increasingly recognising the importance of such opportunities for the health and wellbeing of an urbanised population. Sydney thus has an advantage that few comparable world cities have. Amongst Alpha plus world cities only Tokyo has anything even remotely comparable. London does not have this. New York City doesn't either. Nor, it bears mentioning, does Melbourne. This should be a resource that Sydney guards jealously from encroachment, not allow to be destroyed by ill thought out development plans for limited private interests.

In early communications the lease proponent made assurances that it would not be running joy flights in the Grose Valley. These assurances have been repeated in the FAQ provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, noting that: "FlyBlue also notes it does not intend to fly in sensitive and populated areas or over Echo Point, the Three Sisters, Grose Valley and up the Grand Canyon." Nevertheless, at information sessions and on the FlyBlue website the lease proponents have indicated a proposed flight path that cuts right across the Govett's Gorge before heading up the Grose Valley. Such a flight path would have direct noise impacts at Fortress Creek Canyon, Blue Gum Forest, Pulpit Rock, Perrys Lookdown, Hanging Rock and the entire upper Grose Valley, the most visited part of the Grose Wilderness. It matters not whether these flights are termed joy flights or heli-charters or any other name. What is certain is that they will mean dramatically increased noise pollution in the valley. CASA and the lease proponents recognise that airports have noise impacts. It is for this reason that they plan to avoid populated areas for their flight paths. However, in their planning they appear to have no consideration for noise impacts on the environment, and the natural quiet of our precious wilderness areas.

The NSW Government's own Wilderness Policy at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/wilderness> outlines the following policy aims within identified wilderness:

Transport

21. Motorised transport operated by any agency, commercial interest or individual is not permitted in wilderness areas, except for management operations where:

the operation is necessary

use of the transport will not have any significant long-term impacts

the transport is the only feasible option available (for instance, during emergency operations).

22. Vehicle trails and helipads are prohibited. Existing ones should be closed and rehabilitated unless they are required for necessary management operations.

There would appear to be a clear conflict here that the NSW Government could have the above policies in place for lands managed as wilderness within the Blue Mountains National Park, and yet that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment should be asked to grant a lease for use of public crown lands that includes a proposal that might approve a flight path cutting directly through the same lands.

Accordingly, I strongly urge you to refuse to grant a commercial lease over the Katoomba Airfield and instead support the incorporation of the airfield into Blue Mountains National Park as an emergency airfield only.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to protect the old Airfield to be used as a commercial base for flights around the area and propose that the field be kept for emergency only use for National Parks and Rural Fire services. The whole upper mountains is becoming even more popular for Sydney siders and tourists who escape the noise of Sydney to retreat to the space and tranquility of the mountains. The whole area up here has been under threat of encroaching Sydney developers for so long and now we are doing our best to keep the area free from aircraft noise overhead. I think it is easy to forget that regular aircraft noise overhead ruins any sense of wilderness and peace - things that visitors hold as special when leaving Sydney. We need to protect these areas from such commercial venture for the benefit of the majority of those who visit and those who live here. This email is a passionate plea to stop this crazy idea going further

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 4:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter tourist flights based at Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

I attended the community consultation meetings held at the Hotel Blue on the Wednesday as well as the following Tuesday but was somewhat perturbed that the proponents of this business had not provided any details of what they actually intended doing, e.g. number of flights per day, exactly where they intended flying etc etc. This lack of detail I find rather ominous and the impression I and so many of have is that they intend pushing this business as hard as they can for the profit motive. Definitely profit before people.

At these meetings, numerous reasons were put forward as to why this proposition should be allowed to proceed.

- 1) 80000 local residents will have their lovely peaceful environment adversely affected by the noise created.
- 2) The hundreds of thousands of bushwalkers, local , intrastate, interstate and overseas who come here every year will have their experience very badly affected by the clattering of these helicopters reverberating off the cliff walls
- 3) Our traditional tourists who come up here by train, bus and car will not appreciate this racket also
- 4) In view of the above , local businesses will lose out once the word gets on the interney--lovely scenery but those noisy helicopters.
- 5) These helicopters only carry about 7-8 passengers creating an enormous amount of noise and pollution for very few visitors. As you know, they come up here by the train and bus load which is fine but we dont want a busload to come via helicopter.
- 6) This is not good for the environment with adverse effects on the birdlife and animals here and this occurring in a World Heritage area .
Totally inappropriate!!
- 7) If this business gets going really well which it should do if well promoted on the Web, the resultant effect will have an adverse effect on property prices starting around the cliff areas and rippling everywhere else.

All in all, this is totally unacceptable to all the abovementuioned people and wildlife and we hope and trust in your submission to the Minister that you will emphasize the truly negative effects this business will have and we trust the Minister will do the right thing by the great majority and reject this application.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:21 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Mr Glen Bunny
Department of Industry and Crown Lands

Dear Mr Bunny

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed commercial operation of the Katoomba Airfield.

Having just moved to Leura from Sydney to live in the extraordinary peace, beauty and magnificence that is 'the city in a World Heritage park', I was shocked to discover this proposal even existed.

But being awoken at 6:18am by a low-flying helicopter just other day really drove home to me what a horrendous proposal this really is.

Nothing could be more destructive of everyone's enjoyment of the tranquillity and wonder that is the Blue Mountains than this offensive proposal - which will serve the wealthy few at the expense of the rest of us, from the thousands of tourists who visit to enjoy the peace and beauty, to us locals to the wildlife who live here.

The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage area for a reason.

It is entirely inappropriate that it should become the playground of the rich, and in such a destructive way.

I urge you return the Crown Land on which the airfield is located to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to be used only for the purposes of providing a facility for emergency flights, and to help preserve the magnificence of the Blue Mountains World Heritage area for generations to come. The incursion of commercial joy flights jeopardises the very things that make this place what it is.

I understand from the Katoomba Airfield Community Group's website that there are a number of serious threats to the livability of my new home posed by this offensive proposal:

1. As I mentioned, we are already impacted with scenic flights over the area but these helicopters do not land or take off from within the World Heritage area.
2. Helicopter noise travels long distances, and in an acoustically sensitive environment - in the canyons and cliffs of the park - this is only exacerbated.
3. Any 'Fly Neighbourly Policy' is not worth the paper (or digital screen) it appears on, as this is entirely self-regulated. And in any case doesn't even include any joyrides proposed to depart from the Katoomba Airfield. What protection would we have? None, obviously.

4. An increase in traffic including fuel tankers and airport runway building equipment on a narrow road and walking path is a totally unacceptable threat to safety (not to mention the amenity of the area).

Please use your power to prevent this appalling proposal from getting off the ground.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No: 602686

I would like to lodge my serious concerns regarding the current proposal to commercially lease Katoomba airfield. I am a life long resident of the Blue Mountains. I strongly object to this public land being used for any commercial purpose. The current proposal has the potential to be extremely detrimental to the serenity of our Heritage listed environment. The applicants continue to refuse to specify if there will be a cap on the number of flights per day. I would like to see the land be made part of the national park and the airfield only be used for emergency flight purposes.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 12:47 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crownlands.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - submission against proposal

This submission **totally opposes** the proposal relating to the Katoomba Airfield (DP751627, Lot 550) on the following grounds:

- Incremental over-development of the Blue Mountains, a World Heritage Area.** The Katoomba Airfield proposal is only one of many changes the Blue Mountains is being subjected to – all of them negatively. Any consideration of the Airfield proposal should therefore take into account the already changing context of the area that could be impacted by the granting of a lease to the applicant. To name just a few:
 - The impact of flight paths to Badgerys Creek Airport – which is probably going to operate 24/4 – i.e. without a curfew
 - The resuscitated DA before BMCC for a wildlife park (biggest drawcard crocodiles) in Wentworth Falls
 - The daily influx of tourists into mountain villages causing a crisis in parking of cars and large buses in inappropriate and/or dangerous places
 - The impact of medium density housing in areas adjoining bushland where foxes and domestic cats and dogs are affecting local wildlife such as lyrebirds, bandicoots, wallabies and birds.As a result, the compromising of local amenity is already evident in noise levels, traffic congestion and impacts on biodiversity (this was especially stressed by several speakers at the meeting mentioned below).
- No EIS necessary?** At the meeting held in Katoomba on June 25 2019, one of the 4 officials from the then Department of Industry said to participants “ An EIS may not be required”. This statement alarmed listeners and raised questions about the entire process and its oversight by the department.
- Opacity of ownership.** Several questioners raised the issue of ownership of the licence. One claimed that a search had revealed that the company FlyBlue Management P/L Ltd could be traced back to a discretionary trust. Departmental officers appeared confused as to what authority the state would have over such a trust. The question of the possibility of foreign ownership was also raised.
- Length of lease.** The request for a 50-year lease is excessive and it seems unlikely that the granting of such a long lease would work in the public interest.
- The proposal offers the “opening up” of the area as a positive benefit.** This raises the question of whether/not this area around the airport should be “opened up” at all. Why not keep it as pristine as possible in this World Heritage Area? The proposer also speaks of “new and upgraded facilities for users of the airfield”. This suggests a picture of overseas tourists flying directly into one of Sydney’s airports, then taking a flight up to the mountains- why go by car/bus when you can fly? Maybe the Hydro-Majestic Hotel, 5-minutes from the Airfield could apply for a casino licence – a lot can happen in 50 years. This is incremental development at work...
- One tree for every flight proposal.** This must be one of the sillier sops that any developer has ever offered the community. How will such a scheme be monitored - for 50 years remember? In a word – ridiculous.

7. **Lack of detailed Business Plan.** The proposer should be required to provide a realistic detailed Business Plan showing predicted capital investment and revenue so that the Department is assured that the proposal is viable. What the local community does not need is the forced fire sale of the Airport so that the process is back to square one.
8. **The weather.** Have the weather patterns of this mountain area been taken into account ? This Airport is located in an extremely misty and high wind area (refer to the figures of wind speeds over nearby Mt Boyce) which surely will impact on flights. It is worth remembering that the previous owner of the Airport was killed in an accident when his plane crashed just 200 metres from the airport.

In conclusion, it is vital that Katoomba Airfield should be available at all times to Emergency Services and the proposer has offered this facility. However, the fact that the Bushfire Season in our area has been extended already is a hint of things to come. Interruptions to flight schedules may increase over the years and impact on revenue.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 3:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No Helicopter Noise at Katoomba

HI there

I'm a resident at [REDACTED] Katoomba NSW. I object to the use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes.

1: the airfield is 3Km away from my home and the noise, and possible air pollution, from aircrafts will degrade my current tranquil & healthy living and also the value of my property.

2: this land should be transferred to the authority that can protect and plan as to the remaining Blue Mountain National Park.

3: I have no problem for emergency usage on a working strip.

Thanks & Regards

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 4:07 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KATOOMBA AIRFIELD SUBMISSION

Dear Sir,

My name is [REDACTED], I was born in Katoomba and have lived there all my life.

I am a private pilot and hold a VFR night and instrument rating with endorsements on several aircraft types. I am also a volunteer pilot for Angel Flight Australia

I was friends with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who conceived and built the Katoomba Airstrip 50 years ago. The vast majority of our local community at that time were overwhelmingly supportive and keen for our area to have a local airfield.

I personally have been flying out of Katoomba Airfield for over 30 years. Initially I did some of my flight instrument training from Katoomba airfield and permanently based my aircraft at Katoomba Airfield for a number of years. I have conducted around 20 Angel Flights from Katoomba Airfield. I was a founding member of the original Blue Mountains Aero Club and am now a member of the Blue Mountains Aviators Club, both based at the Katoomba Airfield.

Katoomba airfield is the only emergency landing area between Bathurst and Sydney and has saved quite a few pilots over the years who experienced engine problems or bad weather over the mountains including myself. Its continued maintenance and operation is vital for this reason alone.

Katoomba Airfield has always been used during Bushfire and other emergencies and in fact every lessee has always given priority to emergency services.

Katoomba Airfield has been in continuous commercial operation for 50 years.

The small amount of air traffic generated from the Katoomba airfield is miniscule when compared to the daily air traffic flying over the mountains every day.

The lies and misinformation generated by some groups and individuals who are opposed to the continued operation of the airfield is mind boggling.

I would like to offer my unreserved support to Dereck and Floyd Larson as future long term lessees. I feel our community is very fortunate that they are prepared to invest their time, money and expertise into our local airfield.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

=====

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 10:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686 Please don't spoil the area with helicopters and joy flights

To Whom it Concerns,

I am writing with regard to your plans to allow joy flights to the airfield at Kootoomba. This is a bad idea that needs rethinking. It will benefit a few to the detriment of the many. The defining feature of this area is its natural beauty, tranquility and its sense of wilderness. The sound of helicopters and planes will cut through the air, stealing the natural peace away from the thousands of people below the blades. I would like to request that anyone taking decisions on this matter go and place themselves in the proximity of helicopters, only by doing so will they truly be able to gauge the impact of their decision.

Please have the courage to say no to the would be tour operator who, unlike the community over which they seek to fly, does not depend on the outcome of the decision to maintain their current lifestyle.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 8:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi,

I'm a concerned resident of the Blue Mountains writing regarding the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. I am 100% opposed to this.

My concerns are wide ranging and are outlined below:

- Helicopter noise will disrupt both terrestrial and bird life. Living in the Blue Mountains is beautiful because of the intimate connection you have with nature. I would be very upset if the birds and animals that are frequently present are scared away from the area.
- Helicopter tourist rides over the Blue Mountains is at odds with the philosophy of National Parks. National Parks are supposed to be wilderness areas where people can enjoy nature in peace and quiet. Aircraft noise will disrupt the peaceful nature of the area.
- Property values will depreciate due to aircraft noise impacting the peaceful and quiet nature of Blue Mountains living, especially those closest to the airfield and under popular flight paths.
- Local residents stand to gain very little in exchange for the loss of the above points. There is no net economic benefit to this airfield. A single company or group of companies stands to gain a lot at the expense of most local residents.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 10:53 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

There is much debate over the proposed 'revitalisation' of the Katoomba Airfield. I am bewildered as to why such an important piece of infrastructure would even be up for debate.

Is there not an existing airfield in place?
Is this airfield vital to local emergency services?

The answer to both is yes. End of debate.

One only has to consider the life-threatening implications of another big fire in the area if there is not sufficient infrastructure allowing the fire to be fought, casualties to be treated and people to be evacuated.

Can common sense please prevail?

And if you won't protect the local community then in the very least protect your own arses. Surely the legal likelihood of a potential class action by tourists and residents of The Blue Mountains suffering more than necessary in the event of another fire or other emergency situation is enough to warrant the approval to repair and improve this vital piece of community infrastructure. Promptly.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 10:36 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Mellow Bath old airfield use.

Ref: 602686

To whom it may concern.

I object to the proposition that this land may be used for light aircraft or helicopters flying over our Blue Mountains heritage listed national park. I particularly object to helicopters flying over our house. We moved to the Mountains for peace and quiet and this is already being disturbed by helicopters flying over our house at night at frequent intervals. We want no more. Our dog is being made nervous by the present helicopters and they must affect the wildlife in the same way. This land needs to be handed over for a further national park area. The Blue Mountains are unique and should not be endangered in this way. Please stop this project.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Proposed lease of crown land at Medlow bath occupied by Katoomba airfield

To Whom it may concern

I write to express my full support for the proposed new lease and development of Katoomba airfield by Floyd and Derek Larsen of Fly Blue Aviation.

I'm helicopter pilot based in Sydney and understand only too well the importance of such critical infrastructure as Katoomba airfield. I have no doubt that under Fly Blue's management, it would be in great hands. To quote the Department of Industry's own fact sheet, they sought in 2017 a new tenant "to whom the department could entrust ongoing management of the land". It comes as no surprise to me that the Larsen's are that tenant. Aside from their obvious passion for aviation, they have been longtime residents of greater Blue Mountains area and have an equal passion for it.

Over the past 20 years I've operated into an out of the Katoomba Airfield many times in various roles including passenger charter, powerline infrastructure patrol and inspection and of course bushfire fighting. The airfield is also a very important safe haven in times of inclement weather where pilots can put down rather than push on through the mountains. It is a shame to have seen it decline somewhat in recent years and the opportunity to see it improved for future use should not be missed.

Reading the details of the proposal I believe Fly Blue given more than adequate consideration to the various needs of all stakeholders including the aviation community, emergency services, the environment, and community concerns.

I'm in full support of the proposal.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:39 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter tourist flights from Katoomba Airfield Ref, 602686

Dear Sir?Madam,

I attended the session in Parliament yesterday and as advised byb Minister Pavey I am submitting the following reasons why this application by Fly Blue Aviation must be rejected.

- 1)We love our peace and quiet up here and are noty under any circumstances prepared to see this adversely affected by some tinpot aviation company wishing to potentially make a financial windfall
- 2) We have thousands of people who come up to what is the Mecca of bushwalking only to have their spiritual inspiration ruined by the invasive clattering of helicopters reverberating off the cliff walls
- 3) Similarly, we have day visitors who come up here by the train and bus load to experience the wonder and beauty of our famed Blue Mountains and tet will not appreciate having this experience spoilt for the above reason.
- 4) Ditto for our overseas tourists who will say -lovely place but those helicopters etc etc.
- 5) These visitors are the lifeblood of our business community who will also be adversely affected if our traditional tourism suffers as it will.
- 6) These helicopters only carry about 7-8 passengers , so this is a lot of noise and pollution for very few visitors.
- 7) This is a World Heritage area and as such, we are obliged to maintain it in as natural and biological condtion as possible. Helicopter tourist flights do not do that!!
- 8) Currently the airfield is used for the occasional a) Rescue, 2) fire-fighting and3) track-work by the N.P.&W.S. , all entirely appropriate.
- 9) We would like to see the trusteeship of this airstrip transferred to the National Park whose land virtually surrounds it anyway.

I trust the above will prove sufficient reasons for the correct decision to be made,

Thanking you in anticipation.

Youre sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 10:46 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

Re: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, Reference: 602686

I'm a resident of the Blue Mountains, and involved in remote bushcare as a volunteer with both Blue Mountains City Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW, and I have been involved with the weeding of Katoomba Creek just down hill from both Cascade Creek Dam and the Katoomba Airfield. I am concerned regarding the proposed lease of the airfield on a number of aspects:

- * The impact that upgrading of the site and increasing the number of visitors to the site will have on the local environment in the area, including the spread of weeds.
- * Potential impact on Cascade Dam or the Grose catchment if there were any leaks of fire fighting chemicals, fuel etc.
- * Impact on both residents and the peaceful wilderness of the Blue Mountains National Park by increased aircraft noise
- * The FlyBlue website statement of commitment to "delivering net positive environmental homogenous (sic) rejuvenation" - sounds like they think they can destroy native bushland and get a net positive result by planting a single species of tree.
- * If the lease was to go ahead, all of the concessions for environment, community access, and emergency access should be contractual conditions, and not voluntary allowances.
- * The proposal claims to open up substantial parts of the site for bushwalking and other community activities - but given that this is a commercial lease proposal, I am sure it would eventually devolve into security driven locking up of the land. No other airport I know of would invite bushwalkers. Also, it is public land, so wouldn't community use of the space be better served by it being managed by either Blue Mountains City Council or NPWS - if it was transferred into the national park?

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:20 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Emergency Airfield

Please, no commercial flights from Katoomba airfield. They would destroy the natural tranquility of the Blue Mountains enjoyed by bush walkers.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 2:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; mark.maloney@crowland.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Commercial operation of Katoomba airfield

Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to outline my objection to the commercial lease that is being considered for Katoomba airfield. I don't believe the community or environmental context of the Blue Mountains is at all suited to such an operation.

Noise- The company want to operate during daylight hours every day of the week. The flight paths proposed are over, not only many residential properties, but also some of the best and most popular bushwalks and world renowned lookouts within the Blue mountains. The impact that will have on tourism will be very detrimental. People come from all over to visit the Blue Mountains. For it's breathtaking scenery and it's serenity. Hundreds of people every weekend, coming to listen to the birds and take in the quiet awe of our valley views. The idea that people will be able to come to the Blue Mountains and "consume" it's views from aircraft at the expense of everyone else's enjoyment is distressing to me. For both tourists and the people who live here who choose to be here for the peaceful environment.

Impact on other activities- The Blue Mountains is home to a world class paragliding/hangliding site. The flight paths over the Shipley plateau indicated will immediately shut down the airspace for this activity. A quiet peaceful activity that creates no noise or pollution. Hundreds of people a year come to the Blue Mountains to paraglide. Rock climbing and canyoning. The Blue mountains is also home to world class rock climbs and canyons and is visited every weekend by hundreds of climbers and canyoners.

Lack of connection with local environment- As a World Heritage area we should be setting the standards for eco-tourism. Now more than ever, people are feeling the growing need to reconnect with the natural environment. This kind of operation heavily detracts from peoples ability to do this and encourages quite the opposite. The type of tourism that will be brought in, will be a consumer who does not want to actually engage with the area for any extended amount of time. It will be consumed from the air and they will move on to the next tourist hotspot to be ticked off their bucket list.

Pollution- Blue Mountains school children recently just protested inaction on climate change. A large proportion of the community up here care about the lack of action on climate change and adding a high polluting business that does not need to operate is a backwards idea in this day and age. This is a National park dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment. We should be looking to ways to minimise pollution not add to it.

Katoomba airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains national park and used only as an emergency airfield.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 8:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Airfield Should Be Preserved.

1. All over NSW there are national parks. All have an abundance of weeds and feral animals. Which are not being adequately managed.
2. Some of these have leased private use areas within their boundaries and indeed private land.
3. There is a need for the the strip to be kept.
4. The strip needs to be available to recreational pilots at a reasonable cost.
5. It's use as an air strip poses no danger to the national park. Hundreds of planes pass over it every day.
6. Who is going to foot the cost of maintaining it as emergency use? Blue Mountains Council, you would have to be joking, they can't run a chook raffle.
7. This is a, Win, Win, Win, tourism, emergency use, recreational use, no cost to long suffering tax payers. No effect on anybody who lives near, nobody does.

As a foot note I have taken off and landed as a passenger from this strip. The landing required two attempts as the strip has a diagonal ditch across it. This may well have contributed to the death of the previous sub lease holder in a crash. This is a beat up by green fringe who would have everybody living in cities with a fence to keep them in.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 12:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

[Reference number LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield](#)

Good morning,

As a licensed GA Pilot (ARN: 797529) living in Katoomba:
I would like to take this opportunity to show my support for FLYBLUE Management Pty Ltd in their proposed improvements, and use of Katoomba Airfield.

Katoomba Airfield is a vital piece of infrastructure that needs to be readily available for emergency, recreational & tourism operations.

Katoomba Airfield is the only aircraft landing area available between Bathurst & Bankstown.
Local residents may complain about aircraft noise at times, but this can't be avoided as NPWS, bushfire & emergency aircraft need to be refuelled so they can protect & support the local community.

Any promotion of Tourism in the Katoomba area will help the local economy.

Please consider my comments as a local pilot & business operator.

Kind regards:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 12:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Say No to Helicopter Noise LX 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I would just like to say that it is past time to stop worrying about making money and time to be radically concerned about the environment!

Stop the exploitation and start thinking about how we can do something positive and something that is right.

No. Helicopter. Noise.

Kind Regards,
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo7 Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 9:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

I object to the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield. I am a regular bushwalker in the Blue Mountains region, and have been over many years.

It is utterly inappropriate and unsuitable for this airfield to become a commercially operating airfield. Having commercial flights land and take off within a National Park is appalling. The introduction of these flights was stopped in 1995. Over 20 years later this must be stopped again.

The land in question is public land and should be put back into the surrounding National Park. Only by doing this will we ensure that this World Heritage Area is protected, as is our responsibility and obligation.

Noise, caused by aircraft, in this sensitive location WILL have detrimental impacts on native animals, WILL have detrimental impacts on the valuable visitors who come to visit a truly world class natural environment, and WILL have negative impacts on residents.

The environmental impact of aviation is well documented. Apart from noise, aircraft engines emit heat, particulates and gases that are detrimental to the environment. To have an increase of these pollutants directly into this World Heritage Area, as would occur with the proposed commercialisation, would be a disaster.

I urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure this land is protected, in perpetuity, as public land and not available for commercial use

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 1:57 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: I approve to the broad use of the airfield, commercial of all current and future uses, and private uses of all types including helicopters, to NSW govt reasonable controls. It is a hugely strategic location and shouldbe taken advantage of.

I reside at Mt Victoria

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 5:23 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it concerns

I wish to make a submission as part of the Government's review of the proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield to FlyBlue (Your reference 602686).

My feedback relates to the Government's withholding of data information vital to genuine and transparent consultation concerning the proposal.

Residents of the region have a right to know how many daily flights and daily passenger numbers are proposed, and the proposed flight paths, in order to be able to properly consider and provide feedback on the proposal.

It stands to reason that FlyBlue would have conducted detailed planning since any venture that requires investment and seeks to make a profit would have to undertake this kind of modelling. However, neither FlyBlue, nor the Government, have published these figures. Surely the Government would require this information in order to properly assess the application.

Noise pollution is also a legitimate consideration for residents and further necessitates modelling on proposed flight and passenger numbers, and flight paths. The applicant should be required to provide proper modelling of noise pollution. Failing to disclose this information also denies residents an opportunity to properly scrutinise and provide feedback on the proposal.

It can only be deduced that the Government has not published this information in order to deny residents an opportunity to properly consider and provide feedback on the proposal.

Should the Government not disclose this information at least 14 days prior to the conclusion of consultation, it will be sought through under Freedom of Information Act as a matter of public interest.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 10:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Reference No: 602686

Good Morning

I am a concerned resident of the blue mountains.

I wish my voice to be noted regarding future use of a piece of Crown Land - the old airfield at Medlow Bath - which is surrounded by world Heritage listed National Park. The concept of a long lease is as good as a sale in my understanding. This is NOT acceptable to the people nor globally when considering the protection order - ie. World Heritage - tag placed over the surrounding land.

1. I object to this land which is for public use being used commercially.
2. I totally support this same land in question being absorbed and placed under the protective wing of National Park care
3. I believe it is important, given the susceptibility of the blue mountains to fire, that an area of it should remain as a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Katoomba Airfield Submission

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my strongest objection to the proposed use of crown land at Mellow Bath/Katoomba for commercial aviation purposes.

Local residents have for years been advocating the return of this crown land to the National Park. The existing dirt airstrip is surrounded by National Park and as such is unsuitable for any commercial development. It needs to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The proposed commercial development of the airfield will have detrimental effects on the local tourism industry. The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within the World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoners
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or “wilderness experience” will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native plant species, including those listed as endangered.

I have particular concerns that a commercial lease of the airfield will result in damage to the nearby rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the asphaltting of the runway.

The proposed commercial development of the airfield will also adversely affect residents’ lifestyle and amenity. Residents in eastern Medlow Bath will bear the brunt of noise pollution from the proposed helicopter operations. However, from past experience of “joy flights” from this location, the noise readily spreads to residents in Evans Lookout Road, Blackheath and North Katoomba which are both less than 2km

from the airfield and which will, no doubt, experience fly overs despite the unenforceable fly neighbourly policy.

Finally, I have major concerns about the bureaucratic “process” which has got us to this point. The paralysis of intellect on display here is simply breathtaking. It’s almost unbelievable that someone thought that this was a good idea. Proposing a commercial lease of crown land situated where it is demonstrates lack of insight, arrogance and complete disdain for the democratic process.

The lease of crown land at Mellow Bath for commercial aviation purposes must not proceed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

Hi;

I strongly object to the proposal to grant a long term lease allowing the commercial use of the airfield at Medlow Bath for aviation tourism. Public land and especially this land that is located in a World Heritage-listed National Park, should not be used for commercial purposes and any use should be limited to ensure that it is compatible with the use of the surrounding land.

An intensification of the use that would result if the commercial use is granted, is likely to lead to unacceptable impacts on the flora and fauna of the area. It is also likely to lead to ancillary works to provide the amenities and fuel storage that tourism operators would expect. The proposed land use is not compatible with the surrounding area. A far better option would be to incorporate the airfield in the National Park. It could still operate as an airfield in emergencies as these are occasional events that deliver community benefits from public land that was never intended to serve private business interests.

A thorough consideration of the impact of the proposal raises many objections to the use that clearly render it unacceptable for this location. The proposal should therefore be rejected.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Subject: Katoomba Airfield - reference no. 602686 PROPOSED LEASE OPPOSED

Dear sir/ madam,

As a resident in Medlow Bath i strenuously oppose the leasing of the Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator.

This is an area where people from all walks of life come to enjoy the peace, beauty & tranquility of nature at its best while within 2 hours of of our major metropolis of Sydney.

A National Heritage Area, where people come to bushwalk & sightsee which in turn rejuvenates the soul while immersing & surrounding themselves in nature.

That the government thinks it ok in its quest to profit from the sale of the lease to the detriment of the local community & all those who visit this area is appalling as is the lack of transparency of the Air Operators Certificate who could ultimately be operating out of this airfield. Essentially a lease to an operator catering to high end users from Australia & overseas at the expense of the local communities & normal visitors who will be impacted by the noise & visual intrusion in the area of the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage area. This would never meet the liveability programs of a modern society.

I totally oppose the Katoomba Airfield lease proposal and request that my opposition is tabled and taken into account when Parliament debates the proposal on 1 August 2019.

Yours faithfully ,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 2:54 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

Dear Department of Industry,

I am a resident of Leura, neighbouring Katoomba.

I would like to register my protest against the development of the Medlow Bath airfield into a commercially operated airfield.

I say NO to the commercial lease

I say YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 7:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I say NO to the airfield.

Helicopters are very very noisy. I work in a hospital where there is a helipad. Parts of the hospital vibrates on landing and take off and then there is the penetrating/vibrating noise.

National Parkes/world heritage areas are not just about preserving trees and vegetation in general. It is about maintaining it in its entirety which means NOISE levels, vibrations, the skyways encasing the land, unseen pollution such as chemicals in waterways etc.

And even from a short term financial view point, Fly in fly out tourism benefits no one except the owners of the business.

Who benefits from this proposal apart from the business? Absolutely no one. It is so short sighted and without any merit to the wider community (humans, animals, plants etc) and the rapidly declining world ecology.

I felt sadness and an existential defeat when I heard about the proposal. I have almost run out of anger. When will All this selfishness and narcissism stop?

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 2:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Please: No Commercialization of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this mail finds you well. I go to the Blue Mountain Area when I have to get away from the madness of the hectic life. I came to know that the commercial helicoptering is being planned in the Katoomba Airfield which will no doubt disturb the peace and harmony of the area. I kindly request the NSW government to block this commercialisation of Katoomba airfield and maintain its environment of calmness and peacefulness.

Thank you in advance,

In peace,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 9:21 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No 602686 - objection to addition of commercial flights to Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern

I'm writing to object to the addition of commercial flights to Katoomba airfield, Medlow Bath. This will destroy the tranquility of the Dhamma Bhumi at NSW Vipassana in Blackheath. It will make it impossible to practice meditation with the noise generated by these flights. I'm sure the benefits of meditation are well known and I need not go into detail here.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 1:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Lease - Ref No 602686

I wish to state that I Object to any commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield. I believe that it should be put in to the National Park and maintained for Emergency uses only.

I live in Katoomba and can verify that we already have enough flights passing over the Blue Mountains already.

Any commercial leasee will necessarily need to make money from their operations and this will mean that there will be increased flights of helicopters and light aircraft from the airfield. Any increase of flights will be too many. There are already enough flights over the Blue Mountains and this airfield is very close to residents and to World Heritage National Park which is used for 'getting away' from such noise and disturbance. Any increase in flights, whether by 'neighbourly' flight paths or any other, will increase the disturbance to residents, native animals and tourists trying to relax in the bush.

It is of course useful for safety and for emergencies to retain the airfield as a part of the National Park and this should be easy to achieve. It is not necessary for the Blue Mountains to have another commercial airfield in the middle of a town.

Putting the airfield into the National Park and maintaining it for emergencies and park management requirements is the best solution and one that has already been studied and recommended.

The NSW Government via the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) has previously carried out many studies of the site, culminating in a recommendation in 2000 that the area be added to the Blue Mountains National Park, with the airfield being used for emergency purposes only.

Blue Mountains City Council have previously opposed the continuation of a private lease over the Airfield, requesting that the land be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park in 1999, 2000 and 2008. Likewise the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has previously supported the Katoomba Airfield being incorporated into the National Park, with the airfield managed for emergency and bushfire fire-fighting purposes.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service manages a number of airfields within national parks for management and emergency purposes. Specific funding to manage the airfield could be allocated to National Parks from the Bushfire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Program managed by NSW Treasury.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Wednesday 17th July 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 12:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Don't even think about it!

I retired to the Blue Mountains to have peace and quiet away from the noise of Sydney.

The thought of commercial enterprises destroying that peace doesn't bear thinking about.
Its called quality of life in my old age.

Give it to the National Park and let it be protected for ever. Only use it for emergencies like the bushfires we experience regularly.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 11:18 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: penrith@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: SUBMISSION Ref no 602686 - objection to lease of Katoomba airfield

Katoomba Airfield - Government Killing the Golden Goose?

In the 1960's Katoomba Airfield was excised from the Blue Mountains National Park on the basis that it would be returned in 1988. However this never happened. Recently its main use has been for bushfire fighting and medical evacuations. With the growing population, traffic and fire threats to the region this is **CORE service provision in the Blue Mountains and World Heritage Area.**

In 2000 and 2008 the NSW State Government undertook two assessments involving community consultations on the long-term future of the site. The Department concluded, that the land should not be commercially leased and that the site be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park on the expiry of the existing lease in 2008 and used **only for emergency and bushfire air operations.** The current commercial **lease process** is in direct contradiction of the land assessments and consultations carried out previously.

1. **Legal process:** On February 1st 2018 the Department granted a flying licence to Flyblue after a tender process which has never been made public and there was no public consultation. The airfield property is zoned E3 (environmental conservation under the Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan) and an aerodrome is not a permitted use. Therefore the approval may well find itself the subject of legal action.
2. **Consultation process:** Combined with the governments and the proponents failure to consult or conduct an Environmental Impact Study on the proposal, the approval for a lease of 50 years increases the likelihood of a private sale, ensures growth in impact (over time) and cuts out local business & community altogether.
3. **Threat to existing low impact businesses:** The impact on current business eco tourism in the Upper Blue Mountains has not been calculated. The link here is to the top 10 activities people come to the mountains for - companies running these busy [eco and adventure tourism](#) will all be impacted.
4. **Loss of Trade:** Conference venues, accommodation, luxury hotels such as the Hydro Majestic will all suffer losses from uncontrolled overhead helicopter noise.

No detailed flight plans have been made public, and the operator simply indicates that they would "not offer short trips" (under 15 minutes) nor fly at night (except in an emergency). No undertaking is given as to the frequency of flights, or flight paths and in fact there are no enforceable Regulations to cover this - residents and local businesses are left only with an unenforceable voluntary agreement.

World Heritage Areas across the World don't allow high impact noise air activities -

[see Cappadocia](#) for example - wilderness, vistas, wildlife, sanctuary, health and adventure retreats all lose their visitors / value and with over 100 years of investment into lifestyle tourism this would be like killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Governments need to make a decision for the long term when it comes to investment in Tourism - WHA listing will continue to drive investment in one direction and that is all put at risk under this proposal.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 1:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re Commercial Use of Katoomba Airfield (LX 602686)

Dear Managers of Crown Lands in NSW,

I object strenuously to the current proposal to use Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes. The idea has been proposed previously and been rejected. It has not gained any merit in the meantime. The use of the airfield by for commercial helicopter and light aircraft flights would degrade and prevent use of the National Park for more valid human purposes and impose unnecessary impacts on biodiversity. The proposal entails noise pollution, high levels of fossil fuel consumption (for flights) with attendant greenhouse emissions, and other petroleum-based pollution.

The proposal offers to provide a high-cost, semi-elite consumer experience that will destroy opportunities for low-cost, non-polluting, high-satisfaction activities such as bushwalking, camping and picnicking. These latter activities are deeply important for the wellbeing of Blue Mountains and Sydney residents and are deeply impacted by flight noise. The Grose Valley catchment (in which Katoomba Airfield is located) is renowned and highly visited for these activities. It is unique in terms of having high wilderness values and high accessibility for public transport, car use, Sydney residents and international visitors. These fundamental qualities support a substantial long-term tourism industry which could easily be compromised by the foolish imposition of low altitude flights.

The Grose Valley provides a much needed connection to nature for Sydney and Blue Mountains Residents that other locations simply cannot provide. The health benefits are clearly huge and are quite likely much greater than existing modelling suggests. That connection to nature is greatly compromised by helicopter and aircraft noise. Economic modelling which takes full account of human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits would show that this proposal constitutes an economic disaster.

The Grose Valley is also in the heart of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA). Many analyses have shown that incremental development can and will erode the values of the GBMWhA, unless it is kept in check. The current proposal is exactly the sort of high impact incremental development that must be avoided if GBMWhA values are to be retained.

The revegetation of cleared areas is important for biodiversity but it cannot compensate the damage to biodiversity associated with low altitude flights. The proposal clearly constitutes a biodiversity loss.

On the basis of what I've written above, I object to the proposed development.

I also ask that:

- the land be transferred to the National Park estate so it can be properly managed for biodiversity outcomes and light, sustainable human uses such as bushwalking, camping and picnicking;
- an airstrip suitable for emergency requirements be maintained and adequate funding for this purpose also be transferred to National Parks.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 8:48 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

To Whom It May Concern:

I was dismayed to hear that the land in the Katoomba area might be put to commercial use, particularly a noisy use, disturbing the peace of the natural environment. I refer to the projected use of the land for aviation-tourism. I had thought the land was national park, and now that I find out that it isn't, I would like to voice my opinion that it should be made national park and be subject to all the protections we place on our natural environments. I also object to land which is public land - even if it never becomes national park - being used for private commercial purposes.

I do see the need for a working air-strip for emergency purposes, but I do not believe the need for aviation in this region goes beyond that.

Hoping this issue is resolved in the best interests of the public,

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 7:01 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 Katoomba Airfield lease

Dear Madam/Sir

I wish to object to any commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. I believe that a commercial lease, even for a single, small operator, will open a door to more light aeroplane and helicopter flights over and around the area - seriously impacting the environment of the National Park and the towns within it.

Recently I walked the Milford Track in New Zealand and as the hiking group approached Milford Sound, the incessant drone of planes and thundering clatter of helicopters destroyed the peaceful natural environment. I would be devastated if the same thing happens to the Upper Mountains, which I believe would damage the visitor economy.

Living near the NPWS facility in Blackheath, I already put up with regular helicopter noise and I do not want to experience any increase in that in what is otherwise a relatively quiet environment.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 6:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF 602686

I am writing to express our concern at the proposed usage of the airfield at Medlow Bath, which is currently crown land, as a site for aviation tourism. We are concerned for a number of reasons:

1. This land is currently public land and should be preserved as such. Allowing a tourism operator, or any other private entity, to use the land for commercial purposes is inappropriate. As the population continues to grow and land becomes more developed there are an ever decreasing number of public spaces available. Those that exist must be preserved for the sake of future generations.
2. Given that the Katoomba airfield sits within a stunning, World Heritage listed National Park – a public space which can be enjoyed by all – it makes sense for the crown land to be transferred to the national park. Not only would this preserve its public status forever, it would enhance the National Park and allow for a more cohesive land management plan to be in place.
3. The Blue Mountains offers a peaceful, natural environment for residents and visitors alike. The addition of aviation tourism, through scenic helicopter flights for example, would contribute significant noise pollution, having a detrimental impact on the quality of life for residents, and the enjoyment of the vast majority of visitors who are unlikely to be able to afford such attractions.
4. The mountains are already inundated by bus loads of tourists who spend very little and barely contribute to the local economy – unlike the majority of visitors who arrive by car and train and support local businesses. It is my concern that tourists who prefer to use scenic helicopter services rather than enjoy the many beautiful walking tracks and lookouts provided by National Parks and Wildlife are likely to also arrive in buses as part of day packages and make a minimal contribution to the local economy. I see very little grounds, therefore, for any argument that the proposed use of this site would offer a significant economic benefit to the Blue Mountains.
5. The site's current use as an emergency airfield should be maintained.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:21 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 Katoomba Airfield

LX602686 Katoomba Airfield Submission

I am a full time student, living and working in the Blue Mountains. I hope to one day work in the tourism industry in the Blue Mountains.

I object to the commercialisation of Katoomba airfield. Far from aiding local tourism, I believe that allowing helicopters to use the airfield on a commercial basis will lead to more noise and pollution, and cause people to travel to other areas and limit opportunities for employment in the area. I don't believe that the operator of the Katoomba airfield should be able to disadvantage other tourism operators.

The noise impact and emissions from the helicopters will also have an adverse impact for people living in the mountains.

I believe the plan to plant trees at the airfield site to offset the emissions is a pure greenwash. The number of trees that the operator would need to plant to absorb the carbon dioxide released by helicopters flights would far exceed the land available.

I believe the current airfield should become part of the Blue Mountains National Park and maintained for emergencies and firefighting use only.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:22 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I write in concern about the airstrip in the middle of World Heritage Blue Mountains.

As a resident in Megalong Valley I wish to state:

- 1: I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.
- 2: This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
- 3: Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

Wildlife

I am deeply concerned about effects on Wildlife in Megalong Valley such as wedge Tail Eagles and the newly discovered Koala Habitat and colony.

Noise Pollution

We already have helicopters landing illegally at the Megalong Valley Tea Rooms. How will this be managed if the flights increase? The noise is dreadful and they already fly lower than permitted.

The noise created by half hourly flights will completely destroy the very beauty and tranquility of what the Blue Mountains represents and receives the majority of it's tourists for. The entire area will be devalued.

How can this possibly be allowed to occur in a World Heritage Listed environment?

Safety

The airstrip needs to be maintained for emergency services. The threat of fire is real and constant during fire season to all Blue Mountains residents. If the airstrip is being shared with commercial activity it effects the level of safety that can be offered.

Please do not allow the airstrip to be leased. Please ensure that the airstrip is maintained for emergency and safety reasons only.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 5:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Joy rides over the Blue Mountains

To whomever it may concern regarding the above subject.

I, along with my family am a long time visitor to the Blue Mountains - I visit friends who live there - I take overseas and interstate guests to see the natural beauty of the area, I am a keen bushwalker. I also visit the Vipassana meditation centre at Blackheath for 10 days at a time along with thousands of other people. I also vote and am a taxpayer (Registered Nurse) Please Please Please do not approve the joyrides. They will disturb the beauty and tranquility of the area. One of the blissful things for me in getting out of Sydney and going to the Blue Mountains is escaping the incessant noise from the flight path in Sydney. That will be shattered and destroyed if these joyrides are approved.

It is not that I am being a nimby and wish to prevent people from enjoying the mountains - by all means they should come and visit - preferably on the train or a bicycle and walk around and enjoy it. Elderly and disabled may need more assistance via buses. As the world is hurtling towards a climate disaster to approve a carbon guzzling joyrides business typifies the sadly all too common response to the impending climate disaster currently being shown by many in government -Putting their heads in the sand and burning more carbon!!! Wrong decision.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 8:58 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercial use of Mellow Bath (Katoomba) airfield

I am outraged by the proposals for joy flights and other commercial use of the Mellow Bath airfield, which will disturb our peaceful enjoyment of the Blue Mountains.

We moved here 12 years ago to live in the middle of a World Heritage listed National Park famed for its pristine beauty and extensive walking tracks in protected wilderness areas. Walking in the Gross Valley or over to Mount Solitary or on the six foot track out to Jenolan Caves you can experience that unique sense of isolation in an unspoilt natural environment. That experience is truly what the Works Heritage listing is about and it is also the drawcard for the substantial tourism and outdoor recreation industry which keeps the Blue Mountains prosperous. Our peaceful rural towns are well protected by planning laws from overdevelopment to maintain this beautiful and tranquil environment.

The proposals for Medlow Bath fly in the face of these World Heritage, National Park and planning restrictions. Our peace would be destroyed by their plans for additional flights.

Please reject their proposal

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to Katoomba Airfield commercial lease - LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of the upper Blue Mountains I am writing to voice my strong objection to the Crown land at Katoomba Airfield being leased for commercial purpose, for multiple reasons including:

1. It will result in a widespread increase in noise pollution, both to residents and visitors of the Blue Mountains. All residents and outdoor users of the Blue Mountains will experience at least some increase in noise pollution due to increase helicopter and fixed wing flights. For many residents this increase will be significant. Given the current low noise levels in the Blue Mountains this will have a large impact on the daily lives of many people.
2. It is strongly at odds with the character of the Blue Mountains, which is an incredibly quiet and peaceful environment. The Blue Mountains are inhabited and visited by many people who are looking to avoid noise pollution. An increase in flights will add to noise pollution and may even result in an overall decrease in the appeal of the Blue Mountains to tourists.
3. It will have a negative impact on local fauna, including endangered species. Multiple studies have shown noise pollution to negatively and significantly impact wildlife.
4. It is a poor allocation of public land for the benefit of a single commercial entity and a minute percentage of visitors.
5. It may threaten the Blue Mountains world heritage listing.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 8:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: FW: 602686

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 2 August 2019 at 8:21 am
To: "airfield.submissions@ceownland.nsw.gov.au" <airfield.submissions@ceownland.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au" <bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: 602686

I wish to record my opposition to this proposal, and to submit that, in its current form the department cannot give the proposal the proper, genuine and realistic consideration required of the department by the principles of administrative law. The proposal is submitted to fail to particularise a number of matters which are essential for its proper evaluation, including:

1. The terms and conditions of proposed public access to the site;
2. The terms and conditions of insurance cover, if any, proposed with respect to persons having access to the site for other than purposes associated with the proposed development;
3. The bond, security, or other pecuniary guarantees offered by the proponents with respect to compliance with any approval granted, the cost of enforcement action with respect to non-compliance, and environmental protection, particularly with respect to spillages of fuel or other chemicals used in aviation, and escape of substances threatening adjacent water resources, floral or faunal habitats, and remediation of the site upon completion of the lease;
4. Proposals to address identified threats to native fauna, particularly bird migration, feeding, mating and care of young, and protocols for their enforcement;
5. Independently reviewed details of an appropriate commercial return to the public for private use of a public resource;
6. Personal guarantees from the proponents with respect to compliance with conditions of any approval granted, and costs of enforcement action with respect to non-compliances;
7. Specified, independently reviewed weather and time curfews, height, flight frequency, identity of aircraft, and noise limits as conditions of approval, instead of unenforceable vague assurances;
8. Monitoring, reporting and independent auditing proposals with respect to the matters identified in 7 above, instead of the current unenforceable self-regulating regime proposed;
9. An independent EIS addressing the three pillars of sustainable development.

I submit that the proponents bear the onus of establishing, in accordance with the precautionary principle, that the proposed development on public land for private gain cannot compromise the right of future generations of residents and visitors to enjoy this unique world heritage listed region, and that the current proposal does not begin to satisfy that obligation.

I respectfully submit that the current proposal must be rejected, and that, given the public importance of the issue, there be a public hearing with respect to the consideration of any amended application submitted by the proponents.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 12:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission in relation to commercial use of Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686.

As a resident in the vicinity of Katoomba Airfield and a regular user of Blue Mountains National Park I object strongly to the proposed use of Katoomba Airfield for private commercial gain.

The proposed development is totally inappropriate in an area of World Heritage significance and if allowed to go ahead will significantly diminish the wilderness experience intended through the creation of the National Park as well as the amenity of residents in the Blue Mountains.

I and many other local residents spend many hours each year working to maintain the National Park on a voluntary basis through Bushcare activities. The proposal to allow this land which is owned by the public and in such a sensitive area, to be used for private commercial gain in a way that is detrimental to the park and the enjoyment of its users, is an affront to those of us who give our services voluntarily because we truly value the park and the peaceful wilderness experience it provides and seek to leave the park in a pristine state for future generations to enjoy.

If allowed to proceed this proposal will diminish the experience of park users and degrade the World Heritage value of the Blue Mountains National Park. It represents the crass commercialisation of a public asset for private exploitation and shows a contemptuous disregard for the value of the wilderness experience which National Parks should afford and for the welfare and the protection of native animals which inhabit the park.

Katoomba Airfield should be placed within the National Park which surrounds it. I support its use for emergency purposes only as required, managed by the NPWS.

I am aware the NPWS currently seeks to prevent the use of drones in the park so that people can enjoy the park in a peaceful and private way. Helicopter joyflights over the park would make a mockery of this endeavour.

The Blue Mountains National Park has been recognised as an area of World Heritage importance. Other world class National Parks have legislation protecting the "natural quiet and experience of the park" and Blue Mountains National Park should be protected in the same way.

Crownland NSW must act in the interests of local citizens and the broader NSW community who have supported the creation and protection of the Blue Mountains National Park and achieved its World Heritage recognition.

Crownland NSW must not allow the Park to be exploited for private commercial gain in a way which will degrade the experience, value and integrity of Blue Mountains National Park and impact the amenity of local residents.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 11:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

FlyBlue have demonstrated a willingness to engage with the local community and develop options for multiple uses of the site such that 50% of the current site is to be dedicated for community use and recreation. For example:

Amateur astronomers welcomed at Katoomba airfield

Amateur astronomy flourished back in 2009 and 2017, when Rod Hay leased the airfield, and now the new lessees, Derek & Floyd Larsen, have welcomed the Blue Mountains Astronomical Club to this dark sky site. They have made the airfield safe to walk about at night with no trip hazards and wheelchair accessible. Also aircraft, of any description, are not permitted to operate beyond dusk, allowing us to have access to this dark site environ away from stray car lights. Vehicle parking and pedestrian access are safe guarded for this family friendly activity, but you must come warmly dressed.

The president saying that "the club had no home for 3 years, until now"

Observational and astrophotography are undertaken here, and there are people only too happy to assist in these areas of astronomy. Star viewing sessions are held once or twice a month at the Airfield, and the club runs community based sessions outside of the Airfield as well. Amateur astronomers are most welcome to swell our fledging numbers. School teachers, community groups, and families interested in viewing the wonders of the universe are encouraged to make contact with the club's secretary [REDACTED]

Moon walk celebrated at Echo Point

"We would like to acknowledge and thank the Gundungurra and Darug Traditional Owners for allowing us to observe the moon on this occasion from this part of Country, which holds deep spiritual and sacred significance overlooking the Sisters as well as the Valleys below."

No events have ever been permitted at this local before our application.

Amidst gale force winds on Saturday afternoon (13 July), the Blue Mountains Astronomical Club setup a range of telescopes at Echo Point to celebrate 50 years since man's historic Moon landing.

In ideal viewing conditions, several hundred visitors young and old viewed the Moon, and later in the evening Jupiter and Saturn. There was much excitement around 5:30pm when the International Space Station (ISS) tracked overhead, passing above the Moon and Jupiter.

Robert Brand (ThunderStruck Aerospace) attended as a special guest. He was responsible for repairing NASA's equipment just in time for the original Moon walk to be viewed. An electrician had accidentally plugged NASA's 110v equipment into the 240v power supply down here in Australia. If Brand hadn't done an exceptional repair job under unusual time constraints, no one in

the world would have seen Neil Armstrong's first steps. Robert informally shared his many stories of his long involvement in the aerospace industry with those waiting to see the moon through club's telescopes.

BMAstro would like to thank the Aunties and Blue Mountains City Council's CEO, Mayor, Events Co-coordinator and Aboriginal Liaison Officer for their permission and assistance in making this 50th Moon Landing celebration possible.

Here is a link to a number of photographs taken by one of our members.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/brmwed7pz7yxyro/AAB6zWEuWeACrxz-g7x1D7NAa?dl=0>

Derek and Floyd Larsen have already begun optimising the social, environmental, economic and cultural benefits and provided for the ongoing development and improvement of Crown land, by inviting BMAstro and the local community to come and view the heavens in all its glory from this safe family friendly dark sky sight.

As always... enjoy many good things



[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

[Redacted text]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 8:04 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686 Old airfield Katoomba objection

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am objecting to the proposal to grant any long term lease of Katoomba Airfield which would allow the use of the land for aviation - tourism. I object to proposal that would allow this Crown land being used for commercial purposes. This Crown land should be transferred to national park and protected indefinitely. If the proposal does not go ahead, the airstrip could still be used for emergency use.

> Yours sincerely,

> [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:57 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield lease

Dear DPIE

I write to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield.

The proposed lease fails to protect and conserve the environment and natural resources and, as such, is not consistent with the principles of Crown land management.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:52 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield
Reference 602686
Crown Lands
NSW Department of Industry

I would you to note my objection to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to commercial enterprise. I believe that the Katoomba Airfield is a public asset that should be maintained for non-profit and emergency use only.

I propose that the lease application of Derek and Floyd Larsen and Flyblue be rejected and that the airfield be transferred, as previously proposed, to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park, and further that the airfield be maintained with Federal and or NSW funding such as under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program or Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Funding Brigade Mitigation Support Programme.

I suspect the nature of a commercial operation is such that it would be economically incentivised to increase helicopter traffic and have a detrimental impact on our community. The Significant increase Noise Pollution would impact in the following ways:

- Noise pollution affects both health and behaviour, sound noise would be detrimental to the peaceful nature of the valley.
- Noise can have a detrimental effect on animals, increasing the risk of death by changing the delicate balance in predator or prey detection and avoidance, and interfering the use of the sounds in communication, especially in relation to reproduction and in navigation.
- Noise pollution would create safety concerns for community members such as horse riders, working with animals in our valley.
- Increased air traffic in our valley would undermine our natural privacy
- Increased air traffic will undermine property values and the local economy by countering the very reasons that attract people to our valley to live or to visit either as tourists or for other activities such as horse riding

We believe that if a lease is granted on the Katoomba Airfield for a commercial operation, there will be limited to no recourse for the community to prevent a future escalation of Katoomba Airfield related aircraft traffic.

Warm Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 10:09 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Katoomba Airfield R:LX 602686

Dear Crown Lands

It has been brought to our attention that Fly Blue Management is working to renovate and operate Katoomba airfield and bring it back to a fully operating airfield. It has also been brought to our attention that there is a local group trying to stop the airfield operating.

If you have lived in the country through a natural disaster such as a bushfire you will understand the importance of having air support. Living in the Capertee Valley has its positives as a beautiful natural enclosed canyon however in a bushfire you need air support.

The airfield is also an important "safety ramp" in a geographically isolated area for general aviation and has twice been used as such during the past 18 months. It is the only viable and safe landing area on the Blue Mountains between Bathurst and Sydney for all General Aviation aircraft when traversing inhospitable terrain.

Please let common sense be the smart decision here in allowing Fly Blue Management to restore the Katoomba airfield and getting it fully operational again for the greater good of the community.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:41 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I am writing to voice my objection to granting a long term lease to allow the Crown land to be used as a commercial airfield. This piece of Crown land is completely surrounded by a World Heritage listed National Park. Instead of a commercial lease being granted this crown land should be transferred to the National Park and the dirt strip maintained for emergency use only.

We live on the northern escarpment of Wentworth Creek and the disturbance joy flights via noise pollution will make to the community and nature hasn't been properly considered or evaluated. The Crown Lands Act 2016 says 1.3 (d) to provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the People of New South Wales. How can a private business be given a lease when it isn't for the benefit of the people of New South Wales or the environment, only the for the commercial profit of the lessee.

The operations of a commercial airfield for joy flights isn't in keeping with the tranquil beautiful natural environment that residents and visitors come to enjoy and expect. This will be ruined with the operations of a commercial airfield for profit. Risks of airport operations to the confirmation of local water resources haven't been considered.

Please consider my objection when making a decision with regards to Ref No 602686 matter .

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 10:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: OBJECTION - Katoomba Airfield Lease

I OBJECT STRONGLY TO THE PROPOSED LEASE OF KATOOMBA AIRFIELD TO A COMMERCIAL OPERATOR BECAUSE ANY BENEFITS FAR OUTWEIGH THE DETRIMENT TO MANY MANY PEOPLE, AS BELOW:

For over 30 years thousands of meditators have enjoyed the tranquility of the Blue Mountains while practicing Vipassana at Dhamma Bhumi. Now the silence is threatened by the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield to a commercial flying operator. The airfield is about seven kilometers from the Centre. The operator would run commercial flights, including scenic helicopter tours, over the Blue Mountains. The licence is unrestricted, so that the flight paths and frequency of flights is entirely up to the operator with no further oversight or control.

The issue extends beyond the Centre. The Blue Mountains is a listed World Heritage area, noted for the grandeur of its mountain scenery, its abundant wildlife, and its peaceful silence. It is rare to have such beautiful and unique wilderness so close to a major population centre like Sydney. It is an amenity which needs to be protected. It is visited by people from Sydney and overseas to relax, to retreat from the pressures and noise of daily life, and to enjoy nature undisturbed. In addition to the local community Vipassana students are just some of the many who would be affected.

At present, the Katoomba Airfield is used just for emergency services. Between 1992-95, when a commercial lease was previously issued, it was mis-used and subsequently operations were closed down. When that lease expired, it was agreed that the airfield be returned to being part of the Blue Mountains National Park, but this never happened.

Meditators now have the prospect of low aircraft or helicopter flights directly over the Centre. While flights are meant to be above 1000 feet (30m) above residential areas, and 500 feet (15m) elsewhere, there is no enforcement process and a pilot can claim safety, poor weather etc.

The proposed lease is to be granted by the NSW Government Department of Lands. The government's own guidelines require that before such a lease is granted:

- its impact on the current community use and enjoyment of the land be considered,
- community engagement be transparent, conducted openly, fosters respect and trust, and is professional, honest and consistent.
- local communities have the opportunity to be involved and local voices heard.

Yet to date, no information has been offered about the flight paths, the frequency, and the number of flights. Clearly this is inadequate consultation.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 4:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 Submission

o Whom it May Concern - Objection to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield

I write this submission in objection to any private leasing of Katoomba Airfield to profit driven operators. We live in Blackheath, in the vicinity of Katoomba Airfield so admit to a vested interest. We do not support the arrival of yet more air/noise pollution of our relatively quiet village and the surrounding National Park. There are already helicopter tours over the Blue Mountains and we suffer the accompanying noise whenever these machines fly anywhere near the Grose Valley. The reverberations and echoes are very loud and they do at times fly low. Helicopters taking off and landing at increased frequency will likely make life unbearable. And, if profit were an issue, property prices could plummet in Blackheath and Medlow Bath in particular.

When factoring in the noise already experienced from westward flights from Mascot (Kingsford Smith Airport) and projected noise level increase when the Western Sydney Airport comes online, the accompanying thud and engine noise of increased helicopter flights and to a slightly lesser extent, small planes, is greatly disturbing. There are already times when helicopter traffic increases to disrupt our every day life. If we then have to endure a helicopter business operating out of Evans Plateau, life in Blackheath will deteriorate and the amenity of the Blue Mountains Heritage Area will be lost.

At present, there are already services and uses by various groups at Katoomba Airfield, these are entirely welcome and one would never complain of Emergency Services or Bushfire management. Indeed, we are often alerted to an issue by the arrival/departure of helicopters.

No community consultation has taken place regarding the passing of public land to private business hands.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From Crown Lands Act 2016

1.3 (d) to provide for the consistent, efficient, fair and transparent management of Crown land for the benefit of the people of New South Wales

--
[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 12:59 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you to express my support for the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

Aviation based tourism is a small but important part of Australia's domestic tourist market. In a modern economy tourism is rightly recognised as being an important generator of jobs thereby supporting our economic well being. I would urge the Department to support the development of sector by allow the proposed lease to proceed.

I live in Melbourne and belong to a plane syndicate based around recreational flying. I would certainly be user of the proposed upgraded facilities and can confirm that any trip I make to Blue Mountains would include one or nights accommodation as well supporting local tourist operators for on the ground transport.

I note that the potential leasees have given careful consideration to managing and mitigating any environmental impacts. They are to be commended for their efforts. From what I have read their proposed management could well set the standard for other airfields.

It is my view, that the proposed lease will produce an overall net public benefit.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Any questions: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 23 June 2019 10:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686 re Katoomba Airfield

People come to the Blue Mountains because they want to 'get away'. Get away from what? Often, they want to get away from the noise and pollution of an urban environment.

As you would know, helicopters are noisy. More specifically, they produce noise pollution. Economists call this an 'externality'. In other words, the business gets the profit and the stress/environmental degradation is offloaded on to the community. Please don't let this happen.

I think that commercial helicopter flights should only be allowed to operate out of the Katoomba Airfield when they can guarantee that helicopters will be silent.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 23 June 2019 9:36 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Please note my objection to the proposed commercial use of Katoomba Airfield and my support for its inclusion into the National Park and use in emergencies (i.e. NO to commercial use, YES to use in emergencies).

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo7 Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 12:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference LX 602686

Dear Sir / Madam

I have been a resident of the upper Blue Mountains for 21 years. I currently live under the flight path for helicopters travelling to and from Blue Mountains Anzac Memorial Hospital for emergency patient transports. I fully accept the level of noise intrusion for this purpose in providing crucial health services to the community.

Having regularly experienced the impact of the duration and level of sound involved in just one helicopter flight, I do not accept this level of impact of air and noise pollution on residents, towns and natural surrounds for the purposes of a privately -owned, commercial scenic-flight tourism operation. The intrusive noise and frequency of impact of any such operation would surely also work against other existing tourism operations that market themselves on the experience of the peaceful natural environment.

This is a publicly owned airstrip in a World Heritage Area. I say NO to a commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. I say YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies only.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] S.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 8:58 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Dear Department of Industry

I write about the proposal to lease the Katoomba Airfield to a private company for the purpose of running joy flights via helicopter.

I am totally opposed to this.

The Blue Mountains has huge significance within the world and Australia as world heritage area and the Blue Mountains National Park is massively significant, not just for the local community but for future generations. There is no value at all for the preservation of natural heritage for a commercial operator to run a noisy, invasive, polluting and incompatible venture from this site.

If the site were to be used for any purpose now, I support the recommendation that the area be included within the boundaries of the surrounding national park, be managed by national parks and be used if necessary for emergency purposes (bushfires, rescues and so on).

The Katoomba Airfield should not be leased out for commercial gain and certainly not for purposeless joy flights.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 6:36 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

Dear Minister,

I take this opportunity to write to you today concerning the future of the Katoomba airfield.

Firstly may start off by saying because we live in a democratic country that I am allowed to submit my thoughts to you and the Crown thus giving my sincere hope that my comments and thoughts will be taken in due consideration.

I thoroughly enjoyed the recent meetings with your department representatives concerning this proposal, however I could not think however that the process is slightly flawed.

There was No business case shared with the commercial regarding the viability of such an operation. This would have revealed what the proposed number of flights etc would have been calculated in the proposed lessee's mind and we could have gauged the true impact to noise / numbers of tourists / potential 3rd line impact of income to local communities / possible jobs etc

The flight maps that were presented at the recent public meetings had NO scale on them thus people had no idea of distance to housing / important locations.

There were NO elevation drawings presented to understand heights of flight paths .

This put the public at a disadvantage to understand completely and thus one could not come to a conclusion.

If information is incomplete how can one determine what's right or wrong??

Many community groups are concerned with commercial use of public space however there are so many examples of Crown land being used for commercial use this for me is not a strong argument.

also having the land dedicated to National Park in my view this deserves merit and this ties to the many existing National Parks in the local area. There needs to be an understanding of impact / running costs / tourist numbers / traffic impact however we should explore this idea in greater detail.

The local area is a HIGH Risk location for fire as we all know and we need to ensure that we have allocated emergency areas. There are a few other locations such as sporting fields etc to land helicopters but I have no details of fixed wing that use this location in the past for emergency situations. Again a lack of detail available to come to a conclusion.

The only constant in a person's life is change however having a commercial helicopter business in the Blue Mountains is not the way to go in my view

Why?

1. commercially the council / government gain financial income /taxes / revenue. where do we see the guaranteed return to the local community?
2. we see the operator do this for profit as all businesses would. this is not against the law but at what price?
3. we do see certain jobs created - this needs to be acknowledged but how many? is the a better way to create jobs in the local community and on this land?

4. we are democratic country that values due process and most of all the will of the people and thus if the majority are not in agreement then how can the system / the government who appointed by the people for the people go against their will?

I leave it in the systems hands for due process to determine the right outcome for all. I can only ensure that my voice is heard in a fair manner and this is summary,

1. The process did not provide sufficient detail
2. are there alternatives and have these been explored?
3. the majority should decide the outcome not commercial gain for a few

Minster, I respectfully request that you use your Oath / powers / conscious to support the people and what is best for us.

Simply say NO to this application / use for the commercialisation of Katoomba airfield

Thank you for this opportunity to express my view.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 2:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 Katoomba Airfield

Hello,

I would like to register my objection to any commercial lease arrangement for Katoomba airfield for the obvious problem that it will create with noise and distress to bird life in the adjacent nation park.

It also ruins the ambience of walking in the Blue Mountains, an activity enjoyed by more & more visitors each year, who thereby contribute to the local economy.

Maintaining it for emergency use provided that does not cost money is okay in my opinion, as the frequency of that usage would be low.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:00 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom this may concern,

In regard to the Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, I have no objections at all in regard to this proposal by potential lessees Derek and Floyd Larsen. Those who oppose this proposal have from the beginning, spread to the wider community of the upper Blue Mountains misinformation and mistruths. As a local [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] I have potential buyers expressing concern because of this misinformation, spread mainly by Blue Mountains Conservation Society.

This proposal represents enormous benefits on many levels, such as providing access to the local community for local meetings and functions, regeneration and maintenance of the natural environs, upgrading of the runway such as the resurfacing which represents huge safety benefits for both fixed wing and rotary aircraft. Tourism is what mainly drives the local economy, and this would be a major boost with flow on to smaller businesses.

Flight paths of the proposal have been carefully considered and, in my opinion will have no environmental impact to the local community any more than what is currently experienced by existing aircraft traffic, both fixed wing and rotary. Katoomba airfield is the only safe place between Bathurst and Bankstown for a fixed wing aircraft to land in case of an emergency. So, for Katoomba Airfield not to be properly maintained would in itself pose a danger for stricken aircraft needing a safe place to land.

So finally, I would encourage the NSW Department of Industry to seriously consider in favour of granting this lease for the greater good and benefit of the communities of the Blue Mountains.

Many thanks and regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 6:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No to commercial aircraft use within the Blue Mountains

Hi there,

I'm from France and I spent a week in the Blue Mountains this month. I did a lot of hikes in gorgeous areas. Seriously, Blue Mountains are one of the most beautiful part of the world. The atmosphere there is so peaceful, so quiet, that's just amazing!

I wouldn't have experienced the same thing with permanent aircraft noise. I know there could be good money to be made with this business, but that would be a short term thought for sure. Look around these last decades the world is getting bad because of too much short term thought.

Therefore, don't let that happen in your own place. Let this place as it is now. It's too beautiful to touch it.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 12:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686
Attachments: logo-full_bg-white_e86786e8-3134-4a7d-8512-78bf007d4d35.jpg

I am not sure if the email I sent you regarding proposed development of Katoomba airfield was delivered. This is a second email to express my opposition to any development which impacts not just on the airfield site but on the surrounding national park and residential areas. Flyers I have seen for several weeks suggest that a helicopter joy flight facility is proposed for the airfield. This would certainly qualify as something I am totally opposed to.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 4:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield Submission

Hello,

I am not opposed to the commercial lease for Katoomba airfield. In emergency situations a maintained airfield will be vital. There are only two roads in and out of the upper mountains (Great Western Highway, and Bells line of Road). When it snows both these roads are often closed. If for any other reason these roads are inaccessible for a long period of time, and the trains have stopped, the airfield will be crucial for movement of supplies.

My main concern is local traffic movements. I live on [REDACTED], this is opposite the train line and the highway. I get enough daily noise and traffic. Fuel trucks and the like will not be welcome on Railway Parade.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This email was sent from a Sony Android.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 10:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield (YKAT)

To Who It May Concern,

I would like to put forward this submission in support of Katoomba Airfield (YKAT) remaining open.

Our company has used YKAT aerodrome on many occasions over the years for the following purposes :

- 1.Assisting with firefighting operations (I have no idea where we would have landed to fight some very serious fires in the Blue Mountains should YKAT not have been in operation).
- 2.Picking up clients who wish to fly to and from Sydney, Bathurst, Orange and Mudgee to name just a few places clients request to be flown to and from YKAT.

All aviation companies are acutely aware of the Blue Mountains Fly Neighbourly Advice which I know we all adhere too strictly and the current Licensee Flyblue are extremely pro-active at informing all operators wishing to use YKAT that they do so with strict compliance to flying neighbourly.

I cannot offer my support for YKAT to remain open more strongly as I feel it would be a very important aviation asset that would be very badly missed should it not remain open.

I can be contact on this email or [REDACTED] should you wish to discuss this matter with me in greater detail.

Thank you very much for allowing me to put this submission forward to you.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 5:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I wish to strenuously object to the commercial use of our local airfield for helicopter joyrides & the like.
Noise is not the only issue here .

Our Mountains are polluted enough as it is & why should our beloved native fauna be further subjected to this
needless despoiling of our unique sacrosanct glory ,the madness and utter greed of a few .

The airfield must be used for
emergencies only .

I am unable to attend either meeting unfortunately & I can only hope those who do attend will remember those
they should not vote for in future elections .

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Airfield License Medlow Bath

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] S [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 2:10 PM
Subject: Airfield License Medlow Bath
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

We are a group of Blue Mountains residents who take action to protect the well being of our environment.

We strongly object to the new license granted to allow private flights over this area. We need to apply common sense and see that the considerable negatives far outweigh the benefit of wealthy tourists and the profits of some individual organisation. We as a community want it stopped and will not take no for an answer.

Please answer the following

- 1) What is the position and name of the individual responsible for making the decision to allow current flights.
- 2) What is the position, name and contact details of the person who will be making a decision as to a possible long term license
- 3) Are you, as a government body willing to listen to the people here and if not, at what point will you.
- 4) Are you willing to set up a body to offer compensation to offer fair compensation to individuals who suffer or are disadvantaged as a result of these flights. Please provide details

thank you for your time and please respond within 5 business days.

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 23 June 2019 11:32 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: STOP UNNECESSARY NOISE IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

Dear team,

I and my husband came to the upper Blue Mountains twelve years ago because we wanted to be where it was mountainous and quiet as we both enjoy quiet country pursuits such as hill walking and having wonderful and silent places to sit and enjoy the far reaching still pristine wilderness and ponder over the beauty, the age and the natural history, a just reward for our efforts, using nothing but our legs to get us there. A natural, healthy, non-damaging nor polluting activity.

We came from [REDACTED], where we had seen there what is now happening here; that is the unsuitable developments that promise big money to the developers, most not living in the area but seeing an opportunity to get rich at the expense of the environment.

These businesses include an old RAAF airstrip, used for Mountain Search and Rescue, and Air Ambulance helicopters. This was not a frequent occurrence happily and was accepted by the local populace as necessary, all living in a rural area from choice and because it was where families had lived, some for hundreds of years.

This airstrip is now referred to as an 'Airport' and as such has developed to receive a great many aircraft from further and further afield, for the most part -Tourism. In turn this has turned the narrow peaceful country lanes into a steady stream of traffic and aircraft regularly fly over the mountains that we loved and where we have walked in silent admiration of the beauty of the Snowdonia Range.

Now we see the quiet and friendly Leura being swamped with tourists every day of the week; if we locals want to shop we must get up there and out before 10am, or wait until after 4pm. Before 10 there's a chance of parking but a lot of the shops are still closed. (I often walk, it's less trouble) The main shops open being the supermarket and the coffee shops. A shop owner I know says the tourists don't spend much, a) they haven't the time and b) always wanting discount, as is the practise in their home country. That business doesn't benefit from tourists and the locals are avoiding the village because of the tourist congestion.

I had occasion to use the Ladies toilets one morning and found the toilets were already in a very unpleasant state. The toilet block itself has been made very attractive with tiling.

We are now wondering if we should look at leaving Leura, which we have enjoyed, being small and quiet and where we, as newcomers and knowing nobody, have made a small circle of good friends and many pleasant acquaintances through the Blue Mountains Conservation Group and our bushwalking groups, all of whom treasure and appreciate the Blue Mountains for the area of special environmental interest that it is, and it being of WORLD HERITAGE LISTING. We have seen several acquaintances move away this last 2 years.

As in Snowdonia, it seems that anyone with an interest involving noisy engines is welcome in this previously quiet and peaceful landscape.

We enjoyed walking in the West MacDonal Ranges a few years ago and after that went to explore the King's Canyon. All sense of wilderness was totally spoiled by the regular buzzing of tourist aircraft overhead, causing us to decide we wouldn't be going there again!

Apart from all the environmental considerations and the air, noise and visual pollution, how on earth is the Great Western Highway to cope with the ever-increasing traffic?

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 9:17 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission regarding Katoomba Airfield.

To Whom it may concern,

I am fully supportive of the proposal to lease the Katoomba Airfield. The applicants have shown a willingness to engage the community and are prepared to put in place additional facilities that are beneficial to the local community.

I am a recreational pilot based out of Richmond and it would be very comforting to know that there is a sealed and certified airfield that I can divert to if I have a problem crossing the Blue Mountains. On safety grounds alone, this proposal should be approved.

Those against the proposal should consider the consequences of a light aircraft having to make an emergency landing in an urban area because there is nowhere else to land.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Not happening

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 12:09 PM
Subject: Not happening
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Hi ,
Hope you're having a bonza day. Just writing because I am genuinely disappointed that you would even consider letting noisy helicopters fly around a peaceful place which has given so much to me and will continue giving to countless others if left undisturbed, the only benefit being that you you make 1 or 2 people a lot of money and probably employ a couple people aswell. If you want to make the world a worse place then go ahead. thanks

Sent from my iPhone [REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 11:49 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ref: LX 602686

I write to you as the [REDACTED].

We have for over 50 years serviced remote towns in Western NSW, QLD, South Australia and the Northern Territory from our base at Bankstown.

Katoomba Airport has been a reporting point on every flight coming and going!

We seldom land there – but the very existence of the strip, **is a safety net** for every single engine pilot traversing the mountains.

I am shocked to here the lease may not be renewed, and would like to add the support of all the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the renewal.

Bush fire fighting aircraft use the strip , and I think the strip would be a community asset in times of emergency.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 2:21 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF 602686 - KATOOMBA AIRFIELD LEASE

Importance: High

28 June 2019

Department of Industry, Crown Lands
By Email

KATOOMBA AIRFIELD LEASE - REF 602686

Our family has owned a residence in [REDACTED], Katoomba for over 20 years. We frequent the home on a regular basis with our family from our home in Sydney. We purchased the home for the peace and tranquillity and strong community ties the people from the upper mountains offer. To have peace and quiet and hear the birds and wind in the trees is priceless in a modern and noisy society we live in today.

We strongly object to the proposed Airport based on our own experience living under the flight path for small aircraft / helicopters in Sydney. The flight path runs along the Parramatta river on the north side of the embankment which runs and operates along the river past Gladesville / Tennyson Point, Putney area directly above our home. Hunters Hill LGA.

We accept living in Sydney there is constant noise from low air craft operating and running along the Parramatta river flight path and regular heavy aircraft operating from Mascot Domestic and International Airports over the Hunters Hill LGA.

The small aircraft is required to operate at a very low height. In fact so low drones are NOT permitted to be used in our area by the Parramatta river. The constant noise operates from 6am to 11pm each day and night. The constant flow of aircraft being required to operate so low above residential homes makes it impossible to hear each other speak or listen to the TV. The aircraft are so noisy and the loud noise from the engines cause the furniture in the house to vibrate when the aircraft pass. The emissions from the jet fuel leave a black haze of the home and outdoor furniture.

Thousands of people visit the Blue Mountains each year with the current forms of transport successfully transporting residence and visitors.

Until you live under the constant noise of small aircraft in your home you do not understand the impact this airport would have on the residence and visitors living and visiting the Blue Mountains.

The Blue Mountains is know world wide for its TRANQUILITY. The Upper mountains is a sanctuary for nature and serenity. Please do not allow this to change for the many locals and visitors to the Blue Mountains. Live under a small aircraft flight path and you will see the impact the aircraft have on on the lives of the community.

The Liberal Federal and State Government's have shown amazing initiative with the current projects underway in the state of New South Wales and must be commended for this world class infrastructure.

However, on this occasion the Premier and the Government **must stop** this project and a 50 year lease proceeding. Any small benefit to the commercial lease holder / lessor does not out way the everlasting impacts on the Blue Mountains and the daily living to residence and victors to the Blue Mountains of NSW. **live under a small aircraft flight path and you will clearly understand the significant negative impacts the Katoomba Airport will have !!!!**

Kind Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 3:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern -

On behalf of our members, the Directors of the [REDACTED] wish to express our support for the redevelopment of Katoomba Airfield (YKAT) as proposed by the applicant FLYBLUE.

The journey between Bathurst and the Sydney Basin includes some of the most inhospitable terrain in Australia, being a heavily timbered plateau dissected by deep gorges and regularly shrouded in rain and low cloud. Crossing it in a light aircraft is not a journey to be undertaken lightly as the Club's own sad experience can testify. A Club member and family lost their lives in bad weather during such a flight and others have had the melancholy experience of searching for fellow aviators who have come to grief in a similar fashion.

Katoomba is in fact the only place where an aircraft might safely alight travelling between Bankstown and Bathurst airports. Consequently a serviceable Katoomba airfield is a vital potential refuge for aircraft crossing the Blue Mountains should they encounter difficulties due to mechanical problems, stress of weather or other issues that make landing is a far safer option rather than pressing on.

The [REDACTED] whole-heartily supports this proposal to bring YKAT back into use for the safety of the general aviation community.

per [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 12:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Derek Larsen
Subject: Katoomba airfield LX 602686

To whom it may concern.

[REDACTED] has used this Airfield on a number of occasions during emergency service events and believe be only viable airbase for such events as it is centrally located in the Blue mountains district, as it is a high point on the range it is also reassuring to know the strip and its fantastic weather camera is available to use in the event of any weather related issues. We have used it on multiple occasions as a staging area for Shire works and also National Parks, it seems the loss of such an asset to the area would be senseless!!! as it is already established and well known to all local and non local aviation companies as a great option to use under varying circumstances.

I hope this facility remains an option for us to use going into the future, I would also like to state that Derek and Floyd Larsen are great ambassadors for the area, experienced airfield managers and a fantastic wealth of knowledge.

Please don't hesitate calling me if you require any follow up information.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 4:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref no.602686. Submission from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear enquiry members,

I am strongly opposed to the handing over of Public Land (airfield at Medlow Bath) to commercial interests to the detriment of

the natural environment , local people and the majority of visitors.

This site sits in a World Heritage area and is adjacent to the Grand Canyon which has had millions of dollars spent to upgrade

the walking tracks and will attract increasing numbers of visitors. The amenity of this beautiful area will be greatly diminished

with increased aircraft noise. The upgrading of facilities for a small airport will impact on the local environment particularly the

effect of changing run off patterns, sediment and the inevitable fuel spills and increased pressure for bushfire hazard reduction

clearing and burning.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area needs all the buffers it can get as opposed to commercial incursions so this area

should be included in the national park with an emergency air strip only remaining. The BALANCE between maintaining the

World Heritage ecosystems and human needs is well and truly on the side of humans as evidenced by silted up creeks,

invasive weeds, polluted streams, plastic pollution, development pressures, the destruction of the NPWS, the pressure for

unscientific burnoffs and the pressure to increase the size of Lake Burragorang.

Thankyou for considering this submission.

yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 5:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

From:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I object to the Katoomba Airfield being leased for commercial purposes, and request that the land be added to Blue Mountains National Park and the strip used for emergency purposes only.

I make this submission as a bushwalker, conservationist and historian very familiar with the Grose Valley. I am the author of the popular book [REDACTED] Blue Gum Forest, in the heart of the valley, was saved from the axe in 1932, and is arguably the cradle of the modern conservation movement in New South Wales.

In 1995, as the then [REDACTED] I put my name to the nomination of the Grose Wilderness. The Wilderness was declared in 2001, the year after it was included in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Formal assessment by NPWS had confirmed that it satisfied all the necessary criteria for wilderness under the NSW Wilderness Act. It was of adequate size and in excellent natural condition, and was capable of providing opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation. In other words, a place where peace could be found in a natural setting.

The "Govett Gorge" part of the valley, which is very close to the Katoomba Airfield, was identified as fitting all the criteria but was not included in the formal declaration, so as not to constrain the number of bushwalkers and campers who could visit it and enjoy its natural wonders. For all intents and purposes, and in the eyes of the many visitors and the public generally, the Govett Gorge is as much wilderness as the area beyond.

There was a period in the early 1990s when frequent helicopter flights took place over the Grose Valley, particularly the Govett Gorge part. They were based at the Katoomba Airfield. At the time I was spending a great deal of time bushwalking in the area. The flights were intensely annoying: the noise seemed to be magnified by the cliffs, and completely distracted me from any sense of peace. Even the interval between flights was spoiled, as I found myself wondering when the next intrusion would be upon me.

The flights even impacted on one's experience at places like Evans Lookout. The sense of wonder at the famous scene was ruined.

Given the impacts not only on human experience but also on native wildlife—particularly birds—it is unlikely that the valley would have been assessed as fitting the wilderness criteria if the flights had been persisting at the time.

Local scenic flights—or indeed any frequent-flight regime—cannot be allowed to re-establish. Blue Mountains residents and visitors are already enduring too many flights, emanating from Bankstown, Sydney, Richmond and (in due course) Badgerys Creek airports.

While it is understood that the intended lessees of Katoomba Airfield are not proposing "scenic flights", there appears to be no definition of that concept. The temptation for flights to deviate from set paths for scenic purposes would be overwhelming and impossible to regulate. Moreover, once a lease is granted there can be no guarantee that its terms will not be changed, or the lease sold to operators with different intentions.

Aircraft tourism is for the benefit of a wealthy few, at the expense of the many tourists and walkers on the ground—and nearby residents—who are trying to find some peace in their lives.



Please note: I have been a member of the Blue Mountains NPWS Advisory Committee since 1996. This submission is not made as a member of the Committee and is not intended to express the Committee's views.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 4:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease Katoomba airfield to commercial flying operators

To whom it may concern

It is with dismay that I read about the above proposal - and fail to understand why this has progressed so far as to require public opposition to draw the Department's attention to the issues this raises with local residents, local businesses, to say nothing of the great erosion of the protected Blue Mountains National Park.

As I understand the role of your Department, it includes the obligation to protect the environment, one would have thought especially areas with World Heritage recognition.

I cannot believe that your Department is so ignorant as to assume that helicopters flying over residents, and wilderness areas are not interfering with the rights of those below to enjoy normal peace and tranquility without the indulgence of cashed up visitors flying about.

I am not against anyone wanting to view the Mountains - they can walk in them, climb their cliffs, camp peacefully and if all that sounds like too much effort, I am sure the IMax theatre can provide them with a very good alternative using drone footage so that they can safely enjoy the view in comfort without the real fear of dying in a helicopter crash.

It will only take one fatal accident to destroy the business and that will be after they have disturbed the Mountains as so to risk its World Heritage status.- so why wait until someone dies? Just shut the whole proposal down now - save the Mountains for those who love the Mountains enough to choose to live there - and who wish to protect it from the greedy eyes of those thrill seekers who only wish to give the Mountains an unbearable noise to say nothing of the intrusion into people's right to privacy in their own homes.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains for decades on and off, my accustomed response to helicopter noise is alarm - knowing that they are usually only in the air to survey fires or do a rescue. Now it is proposed that the residents learn to endure this very disturbing noise as a matter of course to say nothing of the wildlife.

I ask you - why does a commercial flying operator have more rights - than the residents and businesses in the Blue Mountains??? Businesses depend on the tourist trade and you can bet that social media networks will report the helicopter noise to walkers, runners, climbers, bird watchers etc..... and they will stop coming in the droves that the resident businesses now enjoy.

**There are 3 major types of sound - geophony - sounds made by the earth eg waterfalls, wind etc...
Biophony sounds made by living creatures - eg bird songs, and anthrophony - sounds made by people
and these can be divided into organised noise such as speech and music - or disorganised chaotic noise
which is more and more part of our lives - and includes the chaotic noise of construction, traffic and
helicopters. Most of this chaotic noise we learn to live with - but it is extremely stressful to living
beings human and non-human.**

Any department with the power would see it as being very beneficial to protect areas from chaotic noise whenever they had the power to do so.

Finally I have to add my own personal interest - I have lived in Blackheath for many years and I came there because of the Vipassana Meditation Centre. This meditation centre has been developed over 30 years and

people come from all over the world to meditate in its peaceful serene atmosphere. Every fortnight a 10 day silent meditation retreat is held - free of charge - and it is not a business - it is a unique experience in the Mountains. The courses are booked up well in advance with long waiting lists that have to be closed due to the demand.

People WANT Peace - and it is in your power to ensure that as much peace as possible is preserved wherever you can..... every bit of peace preserved spreads and helps the world become a more peaceful place and you know this is a good thing.

Meanwhile I suggest you check out the website www.bhumi.dhamma.org and consider taking a 10 day course - so you can appreciate what peace and quiet really feel like. The course is funded by donation and no-one will ever ask you for a donation. The whole place has been built by generous donors who get no recognition nor any special treatment. There is no other gain than knowing that your donation goes towards giving someone else the chance to experience true peace and quiet for at least 10 days. So please protect this centre as well as the rest of the Mountains.

with good wishes that you make the right decision for everyone including those non-humans with whom we share the Mountains - the birds, kangaroos possums etc..... [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 1:08 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 - Concern regarding proposal for Katoomba Airfield

We are residents in [REDACTED] and live around 8 km (directly) from Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath. We strongly object to the proposal for this public land at Medlow Bath being used for commercial purposes, particularly for aviation tourism. We recognise that tourism is an important part of the Blue Mountains economy but we do not support the use of public land for the purposes of increasing air flight activity (rotary or fixed wing). Our reasons for this objection are as follows:

1. This public land should be freely available for legitimate use by the public and not be used for commercial purposes.
2. Although the Katoomba airfield has been established for some years, we believe that this crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever.
3. We already experience a reasonable level of low-flying helicopter activity associated with the Katoomba hospital. We do not support any increase in this activity and believe that it could be unreasonable because of the unwanted additional noise and of the personal intrusion.
4. The Katoomba airfield strip could be retained for emergency use in times of bushfire or other disaster situations.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 5:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref: 602686

To Whom it May Concern

We are writing in objection to the proposed commercial lease on the Katoomba airfield. This airfield lies within the boundaries of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. A commercial operation puts at risk the integrity of the Grose Wilderness Area.

The Blue Mountains needs the strip to be maintained for emergency procedures only (such as firefighting operations). We don't need constant air traffic from small fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. The granting of a long term commercial lease is almost certain to result in a steady flow of aircraft in and out of this airfield. The airstrip lies within the Grose Wilderness and this is home to many birds and other animals. There is not enough research into the effect that aircraft noise and movement will have on these animals. Some of them are vulnerable species - such as the Gang Gang cockatoo. It is also highly likely that the annual honeyeater migration goes through this area as the birds fly north. More research needs to be done in this regard.

To issue an interim commercial lease prior to public consultation is not the right thing to do in relation to public land. This is why there is now a petition with 10,000 signatures opposing the commercial lease. Many people are opposed to it and we weren't consulted beforehand.

Not only is there a real threat the wildlife, but there is also a great potential of increased traffic in and out of Medlow Bath - a small and quiet village in the upper Blue Mountains, and the potential for residents of upper mountains and people enjoying a true wilderness experience (walkers and canyons) to be disturbed by noisy aircraft.

The land should be transferred into the hands of National Parks & Wildlife Service and they should be funded adequately to maintain the airstrip for emergency purposes only. A commercial lease is not appropriate within a World Heritage National Park and must not be granted.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 7:26 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Helicopter Use

Having attended one of the meetings led by Department of Industry in Katoomba, I was pleased to hear the public concern, the questioning by educated community members and the answers provided by Department of Industries, although some answers are still to come after further investigation by them.

The Blue Mountains community is objecting to this proposal on valid grounds. We live in an internationally recognised World Heritage Area.

The area is renowned for its wildness, its beauty, fabulous bushwalks, diverse fauna and flora, serenity, peace and quiet, clean air and a community who want to protect it for the future. These are also the features which attract tourists.

If this proposal is given the green light, it guarantees the demise of all of these. It is an environmental disaster in the making and will be frowned upon by the rest of the world, if we allow a private money-making business to reduce the integrity of the area. One business venture to be always present audibly and visually to the community and disturbing the wildlife who depend upon what the Blue Mountains National Park offers to their survival - peace and protection.

The Katoomba Airfield is absolutely necessary for disaster relief in times of bushfire and in my opinion (and that of many others) should be maintained solely as such. It belongs to Crown Lands and I understand that National Parks cannot afford to maintain it. As it is National Parks and the emergency services who need to utilise the location during disasters, why cannot Crown Lands donate it to the Emergency Services or National Parks and the Blue Mountains City Council maintain it? Surely a levy of \$2 per annum onto every household's rates would surely cover annual maintenance.

Please do not allow this destructive proposal to go ahead.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 10:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]; airfield.submissions@crownlands.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: objection to Katoomba airfield development LX 602686

yeah, its just a crap idea really!!!

hey if you feel like it it would help if you forwarded it to the BMEE (Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise) as per below too (need that by COB today since they have a board meeting tomorrow). hey are currently for it, but mainly due to a couple big wigs sitting on it exerting influence!

(CCing yr local liberal member helps too)

We need to address To BMEE and Team, since this ensures it doesn't just disappear into the board. We want their wider team and staff to see this too, since many of them are on our side and can use this internally. We need to send to these 2 emails:

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

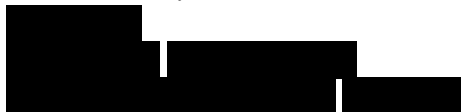
-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 8:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crownlands.nsw.gov.au
Subject: objection to Katoomba airfield development LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to voice my objection to the granting of a commercial lease to develop the small Katoomba airfield. This airport should be left as it currently is and available for emergency use. I support the public land being absorbed into the Blue Mountains National Park which is a far more sensible option as this aligns with the vision of the Blue Mountains world Heritage area. A significant commercial airport development would harm regional tourism and the by destroying the intrinsic values of peace and quiet. No longer would people be able to enjoy bushwalking and the serenity of the region, as this would be destroyed. Many residents live in the area for its peaceful and serene ambience and the airport development will destroy the lifestyle of many for the financial gain of a few people. On balance it will damage the regional economy by harming the tourism industry. I for one would look elsewhere to stay for a weekend away from the city.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 4:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

For the attention of Mr Glen Bunny
Department of Industry, Crown Lands
airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Bunny

REF LX602686 - submission to object to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

We are members of the Blue Mountains community and have recently purchased land in North Katoomba. We are small business owners who made the decision to move to the Blue Mountains around five years ago.

We work in media production and publishing and have grown important contacts between the communities in the Central West (including Mudgee, Rylstone, Kandos and Lithgow) and the upper Blue Mountains (including Hazelbrook, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Blackheath and Katoomba).

We have had very successful working relationships with the Blue Mountains City Council and have worked on a number of successful projects in the area for and with the Blue Mountains City Art Gallery, Varuna House Sydney Writer's Festival, Sculpture at Scenic World, Linden Observatory, Bilpin International Ground for Creative Initiatives, the local Katoomba Gallery one88 and the Cementa Arts Festival in Kandos.

We are writing to express our concern that if commercially developed the Katoomba airfield will disadvantage the local community, environment and economy, especially to those who have made the upper mountains their home and cherish the richly diverse Flora and Fauna and the peaceful and tranquil environment that supports the biodiversity of the beloved Blue Mountains National Park. Many of us believe this is the absolute bedrock of our local economy.

We object to the approval of any commercial lease on the crown land containing Katoomba Airfield. This Crown land should be added to the Blue Mountains National Park and World Heritage Area to protect the ecology and economy that depends on it.

The Katoomba Airfield should be maintained only for its use as an emergency airfield.

Our objection to the commercial use of the airfield is made strongly in context to our obligation and duty of care to World Heritage for an area of outstanding universal value.

We believe the proposal to lease Katoomba airfield is environmentally irresponsible, economically reckless and unsustainable, inconsistent with Australia's obligations as a State Party signatory to the World Heritage Convention, damaging to the ecology and the economy, now and in the future.

We fully support the more detailed submission made by [REDACTED]

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Submission against the current proposal of commercial use of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this submission as an objection to the proposal for commercial use of the Katoomba Airfield. As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains, the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield will be detrimental to the environment and economy of the Blue Mountains as follows:

Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation and less on local businesses, thereby hurting the local economy. The amount of flights to make this a viable proposition would result in increasing noise and reducing amenity for the vast majority of visitors - day tourists from Sydney and those who experience the bush from the ground - hikers, climbers and canyoners. There would be a decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' which will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. Its status may be effected, again affecting the area's reputation with the probable drop in numbers, again affecting the local economy.

Increased aircraft noise will adversely impact the liveability of upper Blue Mountains towns and villages, with the proposed business profiting a few but will adversely affect thousands.

Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?

Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. From what I understand there is potential for this to expand, causing further reduction in liveability and knock on adverse effects to the local economy.

Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

Since it is public land, returning the airfield to the National Park and maintaining the airfield as a vital location for emergency services is the best option for the environment and for the local economy.

Yours [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Please refrain from destroying the tranquility of the Blue Mountains with helicopter joy flights. It is a World Heritage listed site harbouring many endangered species such as the Regent Honeyeater which is down to less than 100 breeding pairs.
This is not wanted and is environmentally corrupt.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield: Ref No 602686

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on NSW Department of Industry's potential issuing of a long-term lease on Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator.

I write as a long term Blue Mountains resident (25 years) and a regular walker in the Blue Mountains National Park (around 20 times a year). I moved to the mountains with a young family, and feel very lucky to have raised four children in such a beautiful environment, subsequently recognised with World Heritage listing.

I am very concerned that the proposal is not in the best interests of our community.

We owe it to future generations to protect our national park, and to resist encroachments on it. The airfield was originally excised from national park. I support the NPWS's approach of looking to incorporate into national parks any privately owned or leased land surrounded by national park when that land becomes available.

It is not appropriate to grant a long term lease for the commercial development and operation of an airfield on land which is wholly within the Blue Mountains National Park. However, I fully support continued use of the airfield for emergency purposes if required, as such a use clearly would be in our community's interests.

Any upgrading of the airfield for commercial purposes will impact on the residents, and on the tourist trade on which the community is heavily economically dependent. People live in the Blue Mountains and visit the area for its natural beauty, wildlife and the peacefulness of the bush setting. All will be detrimentally impacted by noise pollution from low flying aircraft and helicopters.

I am not comforted by the lease applicant's comments about sustainably managing the site, and commitment to community access. The operator will have a commercial imperative to do whatever it takes to make a return on its investment. Their assurances, whilst perhaps well-intentioned, carry no weight and can easily be jettisoned. The community will bear the costs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Submission - LX 602686

Dear Sir Madam,

I write in opposition to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, I am a resident of Springwood in the Blue Mountains.

- I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
- Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only
- I am very concerned about the bureaucratic process that got us here

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write in support of the proposed plans for the restoration, upgrade, protection and enhancement of the Katoomba Airfield site. As residents and land owners within the Blue Mountains we feel the redevelopment of Katoomba Airport is vital to the growth and safety of all residents and visitors to the Blue Mountains region. From an aviation perspective it is important to have a serviceable airport within this location, not just to accept tourists and visitors but also to ensure the safety of commuting aircraft in the event of an emergency particularly within such a geographically isolated area.

The history of the Katoomba Airfield as an aviation asset is over 50 years strong, the airport has been used in times of emergency by NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service, Air Ambulance, NSW State Emergency Services and National Parks and Wildlife; whether that be bushfires or accidents requiring people to be airlifted.

We are confident the proposal from FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd has been thoroughly researched and prepared to address all concerns relevant to ensuring the sustainable management of the surrounding Blue Mountains National Parks and residential areas. As tourism is increasing from year to year it seems logical to have a functioning and maintained airfield within the Blue Mountains.

Please accept this submission in support of the proposed leasing of crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:55 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield

This lease should NOT go ahead.
To have helicopters flying over a world heritage area is a travesty.

- It will threaten our world heritage status
- It will threaten the lifestyle of the locals
- It will reduce the amenity for tourists who seek the peace and quiet of the mountains wilderness areas.
- It will reduce the tourism attraction of the Blue Mountains
- By reducing the attraction to tourists - it will threaten local tourism businesses.

There is no guarantee that the lessees wouldn't on sell the lease to business people who do not adhere to the stated requirements of the lease.

Please do not allow this to go ahead.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 10:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: re: Katoomba airfield LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern and dismay regarding the possible commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield within the National park.

Since 2013 I have been overnighing in North Katoomba weekly for work, and have developed a great love for the Mountains and the vast national park surrounding.

As a regular walker in the Minnehaha Falls area, I believe the impact of noise and air traffic from such a venture into the area would be devastating for native fauna and flora. I have heard emergency service helicopters whilst on walks and the impact is substantial – obviously emergency services are essential, but to allow regular commercial flights in and out would be a mistake in my opinion. In a place where even the bark of a dog can be heard for kms, the aircraft noise would also have a direct negative impact on the residents.

The beauty of the Blue Mountains is its vast untouched wilderness and serenity. It is what draws people to visit, locally, nationally, internationally. Commercial flights would destroy this untouched experience and have a negative impact on many businesses in the area that rely on the pull of the notion of a peaceful escape and adventure.

Commercialisation ultimately only benefits chosen businesses, you only have to look at any of the many over commercialised tourist destinations to see this. Don't add the Blue Mountains to this list by allowing flights to come in from anywhere, it is a slippery slope.

Retain the runway for emergency services only and return it to the national park.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 8:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Airfield Submissions

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I am a 33 year old who grew up in Tamworth NSW and has lived in the state of NSW all my life. I work as an Exercise Physiologist, using exercise as treatment with people who have physical and/or mental health problems.

The Blue Mountains National Park is a special place, not only for current residents in and around the park but for people who visit NSW from all over the world. A place with of such extraordinary nature should be protected.

This has been recognized by the fact it is listed as a UNESCO heritage site and building an airport for whatever purpose would defiantly disrupt and have a huge impact on the area.

Personally, the BMNP is a location I visit from Sydney on a regular basis, to recharge my batteries when the city is tiring me out. I know many other from not only Sydney but around the state do the same. It is a place for hiking, camping, rock climbing and just enjoying the beauty of nature away from the busyness of day to day life.

Places like this are becoming few and far between however, I believe becoming more and more important in today's society. Such areas can have transformative effects on peoples mental and physical health and I have witnessed this first hand. Spaces like this represent a sanctuary not only for animals but for humans as well. To have regular aircraft buzzing around the National Park would be extremely detrimental to the area with potential negative impacts on the flora and fauna (I understand the park protects an unusually wide range of plant and animal species and communities, as well as a large number of threatened, rare and restricted species) and definite negative impacts on people who seek out natural beauty for peace, leisure and recreation.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 10:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fw: Cancel the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield "Our reference: 602686"

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister,

Re: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath.

I strongly oppose the proposed lease of this airfield to a private operator for recreational flights over the blue mountains and wilderness area.

I have owned and operated a tourist hotel in Sydney for 24 years until 2014 and I have first hand knowledge of what tourists value in their interest in and desire to visit the blue mountains. Almost every tourist I spoke to knew that they should visit the blue mountains as part of their experience of a visit to Sydney. What they had heard about the mountains was that they were a world heritage and pristine ancient wilderness area. The Blue Mountains is famous throughout the world.

It is my informed opinion that the tourism "benefit" of a few tourists flying around the mountains on sightseeing flights would be would be hugely outweighed by the degradation of the amenity and aesthetic value of the experience of the vast majority of tourism visitors by the noise and intrusion of joy flights overhead .

The airport should be returned to the national park and set up as a base for rescue and firefighting operations only.

Yours Truly,

[REDACTED]
21 June 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 9:06 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Madam/Sir

I would like to outline my serious concerns regarding the proposal to allow an aviation tourism business to lease the old airfield at Medlow Bath in the Bluemountains of NSW.

Main Points of concern.

1. The noise and pollution from proposed flight paths of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will impact on some of the most spectacular bush walks the Bluemountains has to offer especially the Grand Canyon area. Far from enhancing tourism in the area, these flights will have a negative impact on tourists as the uniqueness of walking in a peaceful quiet environment will be totally lost. Past experience in the mid 90's of helicopter flights operating from this old airfield was not good, low altitude flights combined with noise and exhaust pollution was appalling.
2. The sub-leasing or selling of the lease to the airfield in the future is also a major concern. There appears to be no official mechanism to monitor ongoing compliance of all operators using this proposed site now and into the future. It should not be up to the local community to monitor compliance especially flight paths, altitude adherence and number of flight arrivals and departures per day.
3. The proposal to "improve" the airfield amenity will likely involve the clearing of established vegetation. If the facility was to offer refuelling options for aircraft we would see fuel storage in the middle of a high risk bushfire zone. Currently there is no town water connection, how will this facility protect its assets, both fuel and buildings with just water tanks, will the leaseholder clear even more vegetation to provide a fire buffer and meet strident BAL requirements.

Overview

I am an avid bushwalker and fear the impact of helicopter and fixed wing aircraft on the area will be detrimental, this is a unique area and needs to be protected.

The public land known as the Katoomba Airfield should not be used for a commercial purpose that so negatively impacts both bluemountains residents and tourists.

This crown land should be transferred to the national park and a dirt airstrip be maintained for emergency use only.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NSW

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 6:32 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your reference: 602686

I have been a resident of the mid and upper Blue Mountains for 56 years.

I fully support the commercial lease and continued full operation of the Katoomba Airfield.

The Airfield has been operational for as long as I can remember and having formerly lived in North Katoomba I was aware of aircraft noise but did not find it intrusive..

As a 40 year member of the RFS I believe the most effective and efficient way to keep the airfield up to operational standards for use by emergency services is to have a commercial operator maintaining the airfield.

I operated a service business in Medlow Bath in the 1980's when a commercial operator was running the airfield and experienced first hand the direct benefits of tourism and employment in the local area.

Why do people move to the Blue Mountains and then whinge about our existing local infrastructure? If you don't want to live near an airfield then don't buy a house next to one!

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 4:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference no: 602686

I am a resident at [REDACTED] Medlow Bath. I have moved from noisy inner city Sydney to the mountains to be in a beautiful area surrounded by nature, to have peace and quiet.

I would like to register my objections to the proposed changes to the airport at Medlow Bath, especially that this public land, part of a World Heritage National Park should be used for commercial purposes.

I have attended a number of residents' meetings and find an utter lack of transparency about the process. I was unable to find out, for example, the proposed:

- number of flights/day
- length of time of each flight
- altitude of the flights
- how many of these would be monitored and enforced to comply (if any compliance is to be enforced at all)
- who will enforce it and at what penalty if the rules are broken?
- how many extra tourist would it bring to the area and how long on average are they likely to stay?
- what comeback do residents have if the rules (whatever they may be) will be broken?

Turning into and out of Bellevue Crescent MB onto and off the highway is already life-threateningly dangerous, as is the pedestrian crossing at MB railway station, with extra traffic these risks will be increased

If the proposed privatised airfield goes ahead, there will be greatly increased number of flights which will cause havoc with:

- noise pollution
- air pollution
- lack of privacy – not only with the naked eye, but because of the use of cameras on joy flights
- bird and native animal life: disruption to birds and other animals trying to communicate with each other
- world heritage status

I realise that there is already some air traffic, but at its current level it seems to be sustainable and not too intrusive.

I find it morally wrong that a whole community should be paying through loss of lifestyle (if flights too many, roads even more congested) for the benefit of a single individual's or company's pockets.

If against most of the residents' wishes this project is approved, what does this new would-be owner intend to put back into the local community? Who will hold him to it?

I agree we do need a working airfield in case of emergency and fire. So far a single individual (maybe with the help of some mates) was able to maintain the airfield to a suitable standard. The National Parks had offered to do this in the future. It seems ridiculous that a chunk of a world heritage National Park should be given away for the benefit/greed of a single person or company.

In conclusion, I believe this crown land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Concern,

I am writing to express my sincere request to use the Katoomba airfield only for Emergency purposes. Its evident from the amount of tourism and people visiting the Blue Mountains, that it's so quieter and clean air. It's a world of Nature and peace.

I have been to a Ten Day Vipassana Meditation course in Blackheath, and it was one of the most peaceful and silent places. I can't imagine helicopters and flights hovering above in the skies and disturbing disturbing meditation. I think it's a very humane cause where we come for peace and quiet atmosphere to get better out of themselves.

May you please consider the request if favor of the Community and Humanity.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 6:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir or Madam

I am strongly opposed to the proposed commercial plan for the airfield at Medlow Bath. As you are aware this airfield lies in our National Park, and despite meaningless assurances by AirBlue about noise abatement and sustainability, the regulations are not in place to ensure either of the above.

Helicopters are even worse than planes in terms of noise pollution and the process has been anything but transparent, with no community consultation prior to the initial temporary lease granted to FlyBlue, and the horrific, 7 day a week flight schedule released only one day before community consultation prior to the decision on whether to grant a permanent one.

This is the proposed time schedule:

Operational Hours Katoomba Airfield

- Night flights prohibited except in emergencies
- Mon-Fri Departures from 7am
- Sat & Sun Departures from 8am
- Mon-Sun Departures (from) first light
- Mon-Sun Arrival 30 minutes before last light!!

Our national park is a living treasure and a place where bushwalkers, tourists and residents have a right to expect peace and hear only the sounds of nature.

The airfield should continue to operate only for emergency flights, which are essential, and very low key commercial operations, not the greedy and monstrous scale of commercialisation which FlyBlue are proposing.

It is a nonsense for them to claim sustainability by planting trees in another location to reduce their environmental footprint! This will not help the national park at all.

In addition, the noise will greatly impact our precious wildlife and no environmental studies have been made in this regard.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 11:15 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686, Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

Subject Reference Number: LX602686 proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my concerns and register my opposition to any lease of Katoomba Airfield for any commercial operation.
My concerns are listed thus:

1. The proposal fact sheet states, as I understand it, there will be no short duration joy flights or circuit training. There is no restriction, however, on flights into the airfield from elsewhere, or away from the airfield to elsewhere, to not engage in "sightseeing".
The "fly neighbourly" proposals are purely voluntary and not enforceable.
2. The proposal's claim that this development of the airfield would enhance local tourism is a fallacy. I have lived in the Blue Mountains since 1991 and bushwalked, engaged in wildlife research and other activities since the 1970's. The over-riding sentiment expressed by visitors and residents, especially away from the more heavily visited areas, is how peaceful it is! The cacophony of noise from increased helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft traffic will ruin this attribute. Other tour operators and the community will not be able to promote the peacefulness as a selling point, which is not an "enhancement". This was recognized with the helicopter joy flights in the 1990's and they were eventually scrapped.
3. Leasing this public land purely to gain government revenue is of benefit to no one except perhaps the lessee. If the proposal goes ahead, it will further erode the world heritage values of the Blue Mountains National Park.
4. The Blue Mountains communities have benefitted from having the airfield available during emergencies such as bushfires. It should be retained and maintained for such use and nothing else.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 5:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686 - NO to commercial lease

NO to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield

YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use only in emergencies.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 5:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Subject Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield - proposed lease

Dear Mark

Thank for the opportunity to provide a submission in relation to this matter.

I am a resident of Sydney who regularly visits the Blue Mountains as a tourist. I participate in a range of activities including hiking, tours, eating out, and shopping.

In general, I am typically in favour of further development of tourism infrastructure and services. Tourism is a renewable resource - if managed correctly.

I should also add that I have, in other countries, participated in the kinds of flights that might depart from Katoomba Airfield should it be leased to a commercial operator.

I do however, have deep concerns about the proposed lease. These are outlined below:

- Flights of this nature will affect the quality of experience for the majority of tourists. The noise and visual effect of having low flying aircraft of any sort in the skies will reduce the sense of rugged, natural beauty for which the Blue Mountains is famed. Due to the expense of such flights they will only be used by a very small proportion of tourists and therefore will affect the experience of the area for most other visitors. This will reduce the attractiveness of the area for visitors over time.
- While there may be a need for an emergency airstrip, the general rule should be for areas of excised land to be re-incorporated into the National Park. This approach helps to build the tourism asset (the National Park itself) while also achieving conservation/biodiversity outcomes. Commercialising every available parcel of land will ultimately degrade the natural environment as well as the attractiveness of the area to tourists.
- Revenue can be generated through other channels which are more accessible for visitors (financial or otherwise), sympathetic to the environment and in keeping with the reasons why people visit the area.

There are many other arguments to make against this proposal - some emotive, others practical and environmental. I will leave these to others to make.

From my perspective as a visitor to the area, I would view such flights as reducing the attractiveness of going to the Blue Mountains.

Managed correctly, the Blue Mountains area can be a tourism hotspot for generations to come.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 3:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Potential granting of a long term lease for the old airfield at Medlow Bath

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my concern over the potential granting of a long term lease for the old airfield at Medlow Bath.

This piece of crown land is surrounded on all sides by the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park and commercial helicopter use would be deeply disturbing for the voting population of the Blue Mountains and for the thousands of bushwalkers who come to the Blue Mountains to experience this unique world heritage park.

I strongly object to this piece of crown land being used for commercial purposes. This land should now be transferred to the National Parks and protected for ever, with a working dirt strip kept at the airfield for emergency purposes only.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 6:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Victor Dominello MP
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Lease

Dear Crown Lands NSW,
CC: The Hon. Victor Dominello, MP - Member for Ryde (my local MP)

I write in support of FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd's application to secure a long-term commercial lease over Katoomba Airfield (YKAT).

I recently obtained my Recreational Flying Certificate and am now enjoying a life-long dream of being able to fly across this wonderful state. In the short time I have been flying I have already visited wonderful towns including Goulburn, Bathurst, Orange, Young, Cootamundra, Cessnock among others. I've stopped and taken time to visit local businesses; cafes and the like, contributing, albeit modestly, to the local economies. I have a personal ambition of visiting as many different air-fields and their local townships across the state as possible.

FlyBlue Management's proposal to re-open Katoomba Airfield to fixed-wing aircraft would be fantastic for a number of reasons;

1. As noted above, I like to visit towns across NSW so opening Katoomba Airfield would provide yet another destination to visit. If not the most picturesque one in the state. I'm sure other recreational aviators would equally agree and avail themselves of the local facilities as I would intend to do; cafes, restaurants, B&Bs, taxi services etc would all benefit. Being so close to Sydney, I'm sure it would be a popular destination.
2. As any recreational aviator will tell you, our flights are predicated on good weather and the Great Dividing Range can stir-up unfavourable conditions very quickly. Having a well maintained airfield in the region would enhance flight safety by providing additional options should weather turn during flight. Currently there is nothing between Bathurst and the Sydney basin.

My understanding is the Airfield has been in operation since the 1960s and has provided wonderful support to the local community, notably in times of bush fires. I appreciate the desire of local residents to live quietly in their homes. I'm sure the "Fly Neighbourly" policies set out by FlyBlue Management for all aviators to adhere to will provide the peace these residents desire. Aviators are well versed in adhering to detailed airfield operation rules!

It would be a shame if this facility is not restored to its rightful position as well maintained, active airfield.

Yours sincerely,
Ian

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission Ref No:602686

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the granting of a long-term lease (potentially 50 years) of Katoomba airfield for aviation tourism.

Channel 9 recently reported on Helicopter tourism turning the living conditions of residents beneath the flight paths into a “nightmare” (Nine News, Fri 26th July), and some were unable to live in their homes because of the noise from local tourist operators operating in the skies near their homes.

There is greater concern for the residents of the Blue Mountains, because unlike the residents in the article (the Gold Coast, QLD), the Blue Mountains are not a high density urban area where some background noise is unavoidable. Most areas in the mountains away from the highway, are characteristically peaceful, and surrounded by World Heritage National Park, with a large variety of bird life, including hawks, eagles, and black cockatoos, who would be impacted by the noise and traffic of tourist helicopters. Despite the aviation tourism operator in the article claiming to operate with sound abatement procedures and sensitivity to residents, the sounds of the helicopter joy rides have been compared to “a war zone [with] incoming wounded”, with the disruption “relentless”, “overwhelming”, and “it goes all day”.

Traffic in the Gold Coast case can be up to 20 joy flights per day, with a recent three-fold increase, ranging in duration from 5 minutes to 45 minutes. Most concerning is that Air Services Australia has said in a statement to Channel 9 that “There is no regulation that limits how many times an operator can offer helicopter joy flights”. Essentially there are no guarantees that the operator would be required to operate in a way that is sensitive to the world heritage values of the area, to the wider tourism benefits, or to the residents who choose to live in the peaceful environs of the Blue Mountains, nor are there conditions imposed on the hours of operation, flight paths or the number of flights.

In conclusion, I oppose this public land being used for Commercial purposes. The granting of the lease would not benefit the residents of the Blue Mountains, yet it is they who would be unduly impacted. I believe the land should be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and protected for all Australians, and that the air field be used for emergency use only. Additionally, there is the risk that the lease may be transferred or sold without community consultation, and for uses not yet specified.

Many thanks for your consideration.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Submission - LX 602686

Dear Sir Madam,

I write in opposition to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, I am a resident of Springwood in the Blue Mountains.

- I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
- Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only
- I am very concerned about the bureaucratic process that got us here

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield: Ref No 602686

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on NSW Department of Industry's potential issuing of a long-term lease on Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator.

I write as a long term Blue Mountains resident (25 years) and a regular walker in the Blue Mountains National Park (around 20 times a year). I moved to the mountains with a young family, and feel very lucky to have raised four children in such a beautiful environment, subsequently recognised with World Heritage listing.

I am very concerned that the proposal is not in the best interests of our community.

We owe it to future generations to protect our national park, and to resist encroachments on it. The airfield was originally excised from national park. I support the NPWS's approach of looking to incorporate into national parks any privately owned or leased land surrounded by national park when that land becomes available.

It is not appropriate to grant a long term lease for the commercial development and operation of an airfield on land which is wholly within the Blue Mountains National Park. However, I fully support continued use of the airfield for emergency purposes if required, as such a use clearly would be in our community's interests.

Any upgrading of the airfield for commercial purposes will impact on the residents, and on the tourist trade on which the community is heavily economically dependent. People live in the Blue Mountains and visit the area for its natural beauty, wildlife and the peacefulness of the bush setting. All will be detrimentally impacted by noise pollution from low flying aircraft and helicopters.

I am not comforted by the lease applicant's comments about sustainably managing the site, and commitment to community access. The operator will have a commercial imperative to do whatever it takes to make a return on its investment. Their assurances, whilst perhaps well-intentioned, carry no weight and can easily be jettisoned. The community will bear the costs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2019 3:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to Katoomba Airfield Being Used for Commercial Operations - Reference Number 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains and I am concerned about any potential activity that may impact on the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The Katoomba Airfield should only be used for emergency use. To protect this vital asset it should be acquired and reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

No commercial operations or leases should be ever be approved for this valuable public land or surrounding areas that may impact on the current or future generations access to prime wilderness areas.

By not approving the site for commercial airfield operations will ensure the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area integrity is maintained.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Subject Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield – proposed lease.

Dear Sir,

Subject Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield – proposed lease.

I strongly oppose the granting of a commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield. The Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and used for emergency and bushfire air operations only. A commercial lease will obviously mean an increase in the frequency of aircraft flights taking off and landing from this airfield – both light planes and helicopters. I object to frequent flights for non-essential commercial purposes.

As a bushwalker the last thing I want is to have my walk disturbed by non-essential flights. Takeoff and landing of aircraft and the departure/approach of aircraft over these valleys in a declared Wilderness Area should not be allowed. It is just so important to retain these areas of wilderness to be able to be accessed by many and not destroyed by a few privileged people who will enjoy the benefits of flying in and out whilst the majority on the ground will suffer – day visitors at lookouts, serious walkers in the valleys and residents.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:01 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: 602686 Katoomba Airfield

KATOOMBA AIRFIELD SUBMISSION Reference: 602686

I have been a resident of Medlow Bath for 26 years. The things I love about living in this village are: the peace, quiet, lack of traffic, lack of noise, lack of commercial businesses, access to beautiful areas of the Blue Mountains National Park and World Heritage areas, and the simplicity of life.

A commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield, bounded by National Park, on a small unpaved village road, is not in keeping with why our family has loved living here for 26 years.

The airfield must be maintained for emergency and fire fighting use. The Katoomba Airfield should be returned to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for management and only used in future for this purpose.

My concerns include:

- helicopter noise on a regular basis
- increased traffic (large and small vehicles) on small village roads. We walk on these roads often and increased traffic will make this an unpleasant experience.
- the transport of aviation fuel on residential roads which are narrow, go through national park and are unpaved. This is a high bushfire risk area.
- the noise and impact of increased traffic both around the village and on the road to the airfield.
- the unknown impact on birds and fauna of increased air and road traffic.

A commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield will not advantage any person living in Medlow Bath and will seriously detract from the quality of life of those of us who call Medlow Bath home and thus should not be granted.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 29 June 2019 11:32 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been greatly concerned and distressed by the plan to commercialise the Katoomba Airfield. This public land should not be put up for commercial lease. Especially when this lease will destroy the Blue Mountains ecosystem and the peaceful atmosphere which draws so many people to the Mountains.

Though I am not a resident of the Mountains, my husband and I are regular visitors who one day hope to live in Blackheath. The idea of the tranquility and undisturbed bushland could be ruined by a commercial airfield is devastating. How long will it be before all bushland is destroyed in such a way? The airfield as it stands serves an important purpose for emergencies. There is no call for anything more.

Please don't do this to a place beloved by so many.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 4:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: HPE CM: Submission - File no. 602686 - Stop Katoomba Airfield Lease

Dear Sir/Madam,

Due to privacy reasons, I request my name and email address to remain CONFIDENTIAL. Please do not disclose my personal details, including my email address, on the internet.

I strongly oppose the renewal and/or continuation of the lease for the following reasons:

1. The noise pollution from aircraft (including helicopters) not only around the airfield but also within the flight paths. Joy flights should not be permitted over the Blue Mountains. As a resident who lives within 1 km from the escarpment in Katoomba, the noise that was emitted by previous joy flights was unbearable and thus stopped. Please do not repeat the same mistake.
2. The loss of privacy from all aircraft flying over private properties, which also wrongly occurred during previous joy flights that were stopped.
3. The environmental pollution associated with flying and maintaining aircraft at Katoomba Airfield.
4. The dangers to the community and the Blue Mountains National Park from aircraft crashes/accidents.
5. Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park, as was proposed by the then Department of Land and Water Conservation in 2000.

I therefore ask the Department of Industry - Crown Land and Water to stop the renewal and/or continuation of the lease and incorporate Katoomba Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 5:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield proposed LEASE

To the Katoomba airfield decision-makers -

I strongly disagree with the granting of a commercial lease to a private operator mainly on the grounds of noise and loss of amenity to residents of the upper mountains, and also visitors who come to enjoy the peacefulness and calmness of time spent in our World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park.

NOISE - the main reason for my objection

I was recently bush walking near Govetts Leap and the noise of two helicopters flying over just 30 minutes apart was deafening and quite an intrusion into what should otherwise have been a very peaceful activity.

There was no bushfire /emergency that day, so these would have been commercial operators most likely ferrying tourists from a nearby resort in the next valley.

COMMERCIAL LEASE = more NOISE

By granting a commercial lease the number of helicopter or fixed wing aircraft journeys would increase and hence exacerbate this noise pollution.

OTHER OBJECTIONS too

There are also other issues of native wildlife disturbance, erosion, fuel runoff into the adjoining bushland, as well as increased traffic movements in Medlow Bath, etc.

INCLUSION of site into NATIONAL PARK as PROPOSED in 2000

And I would strongly encourage one of those options being the inclusion of Katoomba Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park to be managed as an emergency airfield. This was the intention of the 2000 assessment of the site undertaken by the then Department of Land and Water Conservation, which stated that the department:-

"proposed to add the area to the Blue Mountains National Park upon expiry of the current lease subject to discussions yet to be held between the relevant stakeholders....Upon addition of the area to the National Park it is proposed that those facilities required for bushfire surveillance and suppression including emergency use of the airfield and any infrastructure will be maintained by agreement of the relevant authorities. The areas of the site not required will be returned to natural bushland."

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 8:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield (YKAT)

To whom it may concern.

My name is [REDACTED], I am the director of [REDACTED], the company that owns the [REDACTED]. I also am director of [REDACTED], which is a 1/3 owner of [REDACTED].

Hence I am a strong proponent of tourism, and I understand am the largest private employer in the Blue Mountains. With 225 rooms, and numerous conferencing and F7B facilities, we facilitate tourism to the Blue Mountains.

I myself, have participated for the last six years in the UTA 50 walk in the mountains. I simply love our National parks, and am pleased to show case our World Heritage area of guests from Australia, and overseas.

So obviously I support the Katoomba airfield, as a conduit to allowing joyflights.

But the airfield will do more. It will enable a quick transit stop for aircraft in the blue mountains. It is amazing how it has been carved out from a bushland. That this was allowed to occur in the first place is controversial, but it has occurred, and hence it should be maintained. It is a loss of an amazing facility to allow this airfield to become delapidated and unusable. And we are lucky that Floyd and Derek are willing and desirous of upgrading these facilities.

So please allow their plans to succeed. Sure, limit them with regards to noise to the surrounding residential areas, but they should be encouraged to upgrade a facility falling into disrepair.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

27 June, 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 3:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Minister Pavey
Minister for Crown Lands
cc. Trish Doyle MP

Dear Minister Pavey,

I am writing to register my objections to the use-age of Katoomba Airfield as a commercial enterprise.

The commercial use of the airfield being in the centre of a National Park, **will disturb and adversely affect the wildlife living within this area due to the noise and activity generated by the coming and going and flight of aircraft on a regular basis.** It will also be a **huge disruption to the people living in the area** as well as users of the park for recreational purposes.

I further feel this land **should be incorporated into the National Park.**

At any rate this is **public Crown Land and should not be used for the profit of one private agency.** How is this democracy?

I live in the Blue Mountains for the peace and quiet it affords and the noise and imposition of having flights of sightseers flying over my house and yard is unthinkable and completely unfair.

I have **no objection to its continued use for emergency purposes** for this is a necessary situation and hope that it will continue to be used for this community service.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 2:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Please accept this as my submission in SUPPORT of the proposals by FlyBlue to restore and improve Katoomba Airfield.

My support is based on

- Knowledge of the area, having owned property at Wentworth Falls and having visited parents there when bringing my family from Walgett, North-West NSW.
- I am a Private Pilot with some 1,300 hrs flying hours. As [REDACTED] Club I produced newsletters for a wider aviation community. Aviation safety featured prominently, influenced by the Club having lost a number of members in different incidents.
- I found it a godsend that such a facility at Katoomba was available to me to land at.
- Katoomba Airport is strategically located in 'tiger country' for pilots entering Sydney airspace from the West. No other similar facility is available in the area.
- I see no environmental effects that have not already been noted during previous aviation operations as having any adverse impacts. I say this based on my experience in the natural resource management field, notably as [REDACTED] of five water committees based on the Namoi Valley and Great Artesian Basin, and [REDACTED] Management Committee.
- The *Blue Mountains Gazette* (17 Oct 2018) appears to have published a well-balanced article on the subject. If these are the main objections:
 - "Whilst the Society recognises the value of Katoomba Airfield for emergency uses, we are concerned about the environmental impacts of its operation," Society president Madi Maclean said.
 - "A new lease arrangement with an aero club or other private operator is unlikely to keep operations to a minimum and will not adequately safeguard the threatened ecological community on-site nor the likely presence of endangered species."
 - "Other concerns include soil erosion, groundwater contamination from chemicals and fuel stored on site and weed invasion. Depending on the frequency, duration and intensity of air operations proposed by the new licensees, there are also likely to be noise impacts as well as loss of amenity and privacy for local residents. This not only includes residents in Medlow Bath immediately adjacent to the airfield, but residents in the Upper Mountains if the new commercial licensees are proposing activities such as joy flights".

I would readily challenge them: for starters, the proposers would, in their own interests, if not regulated to do so, improve and protect the environment of threatened or endangered species, if there are any on that site. As for "noise impacts as well as loss of amenity and privacy for local residents", my photo surely puts this throw away comment into perspective?

• I find it very hard to understand why a Society, any society, could, on one hand recognise 'the value of Katoomba Airfield for emergency uses', then, on the other hand, disregard this value in favour of popular catchphrases. Again, with my experience as a Churchill Fellow following up on *Community Emergency Risk Management*, the Airfield would win hands down.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: LX602686 - Submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Mr Bunny

RE: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in the beautiful world heritage Blue Mountains. [REDACTED] the area where the proposed air flights might take place if the proposed airfield is to go ahead.

We live in a very unique environment and we have the endangered spotted quolls and many other vulnerable and endangered species. I am afraid that the disturbance of the airspace could cause further detrimental damage.

In addition to the plans for Warragamba dam this poses another source of significant threat to our World Heritage Status.

Numerous government reports have recommended that this site be returned to the National Park. How has this not happened? At a time when our world is at turning point where we can make choices to protect our Earth for future generations, this is one decision that can move us in the right direction.

I object in the strongest way possible to the proposed commercial operation of Katoomba airfield to allow for helicopter rides etc. It is a completely inappropriate use of the land in a World Heritage area.

Please protect the future of this land.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 12:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

As a local business owner, long time bushwalker, rock climber, resident of Katoomba and local school Principal, I would like to state my objection to the proposal to grant a long term commercial lease at Katoomba Airfield.

According to the latest report by Destination NSW in the year ending September 2018 the Blue Mountains received 3,993,000 visitors. Furthermore, overnight visitor stays added up to 3,004,000 visitor nights contributing \$705 million to the local economy. Reference: <https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/travel-to-blue-mountains-snapshot-sept-2018.pdf?x15361>

[Sources: \(1\) National Visitor Survey \(NVS\) & \(2\) International Visitor Survey \(IVS\), YE Sep 18, Tourism Research Australia \(TRA\) - unless otherwise specified. Domestic Overnight Travel - destinationnsw.com.au](#)

Travel to Blue Mountains Year ended September 2018 For the period of October 2017 to September 2018
Sources: (1) National Visitor Survey (NVS) & (2) International Visitor Survey (IVS), YE Sep 18, Tourism Research Australia (TRA) - unless otherwise specified.

www.destinationnsw.com.au

Amongst domestic overnight visitors, who are likely to be amongst the greatest of contributors to the local economy, the top second and third reported activities were:

‘Bushwalking or rainforest walks’ (45.6%), this was the 2nd most popular activity, followed by ‘visit national parks or state parks’ (44.3%).

Thus, as expected, the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is likely to be one of the greatest contributors to the local tourism economy.

As the owner and operator of two holiday letting properties in Mount Victoria, situated on the border of the Blue Mountains National Park, I am acutely aware of the needs of domestic and international tourists visiting the area. Grossing 60K per annum, my business contributes thousands of dollars each year to the local economy through guests eating and drinking at local venues, local services for property maintenance such as painting, building and gardening services and directly employs two local property employees who manage the business.

95% of the tourists who stay in our accommodation are domestic tourists from the greater Sydney region, Canberra and interstate visitors. Based on surveys of the reasons for visiting the area, 98% of these tourists cite bushwalking or recreational activities such as climbing/canyoning or riding in the Blue Mountains National Park.

Katoomba Airfield is surrounded on all sides by the Blue Mountains National Park and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. It is located just 1.5km from the nearest cliffline of Govett's Gorge, the most accessible part of the Grose Valley and that part most visited by tourists.

Accessing Wilderness areas easily, for the enjoyment of the peace, recreation and health benefits that wilderness provides is the prime selling point and reason my holiday accommodation business is successful. Any reduction in the wilderness values of the Grose Valley and wider Blue Mountains National Park area will threaten the enjoyment and peaceful recreation of visiting tourists, leading to a diminished tourism experience in the Blue Mountains area and inevitably lead to a reduction in the perceived value of the Blue Mountains as a site of accessible recreation in a wilderness area and a reduction in tourist numbers and visitors.

Given the location of the Katoomba Airfield it is inevitable that any use of the airfield as a base for helicopter charters will have serious noise impacts on visitors to the national park, in addition to unknown effects on wildlife. To allow a relatively small number of visitors employing these charter flight services to destroy the peaceful enjoyment of the millions of tourists visiting the national park would not only be unjust, but also potentially economically counterproductive if the touted economic benefits of high end tourism were gained at the expense of driving the much bigger market of tourists seeking quiet nature based tourism experiences elsewhere.

I am particularly concerned about the impact of any proposed commercial lease on the Grose Valley. The Grose Valley has long been recognised as one of the most spectacular landscapes in NSW and has benefited from generations of community support to maintain it in its natural state, from the decision to reserve it from sale in 1875, to the citizen campaign to protect Blue Gum Forest in 1931, its reservation within the Blue Mountains National Park in 1959, its inscription on the World Heritage List as part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in 2000 and finally the declaration of the Grose Wilderness in 2001.

The Grose Wilderness is a jewel of *incalculable* value for the residents of Sydney and the people of NSW. It offers the possibility of escape from all the stresses of modern life for quiet nature based recreation and yet is just two hours by train from the Sydney CBD. Medical Doctors, Psychiatrists and Psychologists are increasingly recognising the importance of such opportunities for the health and wellbeing of an urbanised population and are beginning to prescribe regular time spent in wilderness areas to treat illnesses such as depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions. Mental illness currently places significant and extensive costs on individuals, society and the NSW health system. It is likely that in the very near future the government will need to look at more comprehensive ways of tackling the mental health crisis in NSW. One of these interventions may be to increase access to nature based experiences in wilderness areas. The 5 million residents of Sydney can currently access wilderness areas to be used for nature based recreation in the Grose Valley and Blue Mountains National Park via public transport or private vehicle within 2 hours. This development proposal threatens the long term economic and health benefits of these wilderness areas for the people of NSW, is economically negligent and grossly unjust.

Easy access to wilderness areas gives Sydney an advantage that few comparable world cities have. Amongst Alpha plus world cities only Tokyo has anything even remotely comparable. London, Paris and Berlin do not have this. New York City doesn't either. Nor, it bears mentioning, does Melbourne. This should be a resource that the NSW government closely protects and guards from encroachment. The government should protect the benefits that wilderness areas provide and should not allow their inherent values to be destroyed by ill thought out development plans for limited private interests.

In early communications the lease proponent made assurances that it would not be running joy flights in the Grose Valley. These assurances have been repeated in the FAQ provided by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, noting that: "FlyBlue also notes it does not intend to fly in sensitive

and populated areas or over Echo Point, the Three Sisters, Grose Valley and up the Grand Canyon." Nevertheless, at information sessions and on the FlyBlue website the lease proponents have indicated a proposed flight path that cuts right across the Govett's Gorge before heading up the Grose Valley. Such a flight path would have direct noise impacts at the Grand Canyon, Fortress Creek Canyon, Blue Gum Forest, Pulpit Rock, Perrys Lookdown, Hanging Rock and the entire upper Grose Valley, the most visited part of the Grose Wilderness. It matters not whether these flights are termed joy flights or heli-charters or any other name. What is certain is that they will mean *dramatically* increased noise pollution in the valley. CASA and the lease proponents recognise that airports have noise impacts. It is for this reason that they plan to avoid populated areas for their flight paths. However, in their planning they appear to have no consideration for noise impacts on the environment, and the natural quiet of our precious wilderness areas.

The NSW Government's own Wilderness Policy at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/wilderness> outlines the following policy aims within identified wilderness:

Transport

21. Motorised transport operated by any agency, commercial interest or individual is not permitted in wilderness areas, except for management operations where:

the operation is necessary use of the transport will not have any significant long-term impacts the transport is the only feasible option available (for instance, during emergency operations).

22. Vehicle trails and helipads are prohibited. Existing ones should be closed and rehabilitated unless they are required for necessary management operations.

There would appear to be a clear conflict here that the NSW Government could have the above policies in place for lands managed as wilderness within the Blue Mountains National Park, and yet that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment should be asked to grant a lease for use of public crown lands that includes a proposal that might approve a flight path cutting directly through the same lands.

Accordingly, I strongly urge you to refuse to grant a commercial lease over the Katoomba Airfield and instead support the incorporation of the airfield into Blue Mountains National Park as an emergency airfield only.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Katoomba Airfield Lease

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield to a private company. It is shocking to find that no community consultation on options for the future of the airfield occurred prior to an interim license being issued to the proponent. This lease will only benefit an extremely small number of tour operators and a few wealthy tourists but it stands to jeopardise the livelihood of many, many other hospitality and tourist industry workers.

The mountains currently hosts well over 4 million land based visitors a year who come to experience the majesty and peace and quiet of this stunning world heritage area. The upper mountains has had the experience of dealing with disruptive noise when a previous operator had permission to run helicopter flights in the early 1990's.

We certainly don't want it to end up like the 12 Apostles in Victoria where the constant drone of helicopters completely ruined the experience for us. We would NEVER visit there again and we warn every guest or traveller we meet to give it a wide berth. We are so lucky in the mountains that amazing views are easy to access by car or on foot - you don't need to be in an aircraft!

Apart from noise pollution, there is also the threat of fuel spillage and other pollution as the airfield is surrounded by National Park.

Another point for consideration is the Blue Mountains climate. The weather in the mountains can be extremely changeable and treacherous with unpredictable winds that can appear rapidly and sometimes gust over 100 km/hr.

Any aircraft accidents could also lead to a catastrophic bushfire which has the potential to cause great environmental damage and loss of life and property.

The airstrip should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and kept for emergency aircraft only, as was originally proposed in 2000 after Crown Lands themselves carried out extensive studies and came to this conclusion.

The Government of NSW has an obligation to protect the Blue Mountains as "World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located."

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:31 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your reference: 602686 | Submission re Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern.

Please accept my submission in which I fully support the Katoomba Airfield (YKAT) continuing its operation. Under the current licensees, Derek and Floyd Larsen, YKAT is providing an invaluable service and amenity for use by the residents of the Blue Mountains and the broader community.

For many years, the Blue Mountains [REDACTED] of which I am a member, has been using YKAT for the operation of portable field day amateur radio stations. These stations are used by BMARC members to participate in various field day contests run throughout the year by the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA). The aim of these contest is to encourage, and provide familiarisation with, portable and field operation of amateur radio equipment and to provide training of amateur radio operators for emergency situations (eg when conventional communications infrastructure may be rendered inoperative due to natural disasters, etc).

YKAT is in an excellent location for amateur radio field operations, due to its remote location, high altitude and amenities, and BMARC is very grateful to the current licensees for their community focus, generosity and support in continuing to provide the club with access to this wonderful resource.

Since the current licensees took over the operation of YKAT, they have continued to make significant improvements to the site and amenities, such as improved toilet and shower facilities, water tanks, online weather station, security cameras, etc.

In addition to the above, the following important points, relating to YKAT's continued operation, should also be considered:

- YKAT has operated as a commercial airfield continuously since it opened in 1968 (ie 51 years). Although it is currently closed to fixed wing aircraft (except in emergencies), due to the eroded runways, it continues to be used by helicopters.

- YKAT plays a vital role for emergency service and defence aircraft, during events such as bushfires, and it is not only in the interests of aviation that it remains open, but it is also in the public interest.

- YKAT is an important "safety ramp", in a geographically isolated area, for general aviation and has twice been used as such during the past 18 months. It is the only viable and safe landing area on the Blue Mountains between Bathurst and Sydney for all General Aviation aircraft, when traversing inhospitable terrain.

- The licensees' new enforceable YKAT Fly Neighbourly policy features appropriate flight paths away from residential areas, operating hours and general use of the airfield, with noise abatement procedures.

- The licensees plan to restore, protect and enhance the site including sealing the main RWY 06/24.

The plans that the licensees have proposed for YKAT can only be applauded, as developing a tourist facility, emergency response hub and providing access for community groups, will benefit the residents of the Blue Mountains for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:00 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686- Katoomba Airfield Commercialisation Objection

To whom it may concern,

I wish to object to the commercialisation of katoomba airfield. I have been to the Blue mountains several times and also attended a vipassana retreat there for 10 days. This location has unspoilt silence and serenity and this will cease to exist if the current proposal is allowed to ho ahead. This will not just effect nature and its wildlife, it will also effect the experience enjoyed by tourists.

We are destroying one natural wilderness after another in this world, it's time we took a serious look at ourselves and ask what is the real driving factor behind our choices. There will be no jobs on a dead planet!!

Thank you

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 29 June 2019 9:30 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686: What do you value?

Good morning

I've walked many kms through the Blue Mountains and spent many hours in silent contemplation wrapped in the quiet and solitude which it provides.

To deny this increasingly rare opportunity to several thousand people, both local and from far afield, for the commercial benefit of a handful of investors, will describe the values which we are using to shape our future.

The NSW government needs to decide which voices it wishes to serve: Those of peaceful, public, pleasure or those of penurious, private, profit.

All the best with your deliberations, they will determine how you are remembered.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 2:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686 - Support for incorporating the airfield into the National Park for emergency use only

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am in support for incorporating the airfield in Katoomba into the National Park for emergency use. It makes sense. It cuts travel time in case of emergency which may save lives. However I do not support the Katoomba airfield used for commercial purposes. It is not a tourism option. People visiting the Blue Mountains have a variety of options to come up the mountains. They can reach Katoomba by coaches, trains or motor vehicles. They are better off staying a night or two to get a "feel" than fly in /out for a brief look. It is not fair for people residing in the Blue Mountains to be subjected to extra air & noise pollution.

I hope that our voices matter to you,
Regards,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 8:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Lx 602686

>
> To whom it may concern,
>
> I am writing to voice my concerns in regards to the proposed commercial lease for public land for airfield in Katoomba. As a local who has lived here for years and my partners family who have grown up here, we highly object to the noise pollution. Helicopters often come to the local hospital for emergency retrieval's and it is heard all through the valley. As a nurse I can understand the need to have the airfield open for emergencies only.
> Having the airfield open for commercial lease would ruin the serenity of the beautiful blue mountains all for money and without listening to the voice of the locals.

>
> Regards

> [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 4:19 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Reference # LX 602686

To Whom It May Concern

- * As a resident and regular user of the Blue Mountains National Park I strongly object to the commercial use of the Katoomba Airfield due to the many associated disruptions to the peaceful nature of the surrounding environment.
- * I would like to see the airfield held under the management of National Parks and Wildlife Services and continue to be available to all emergency agencies for use.
- * There is no (or minimal) air traffic over the Grose Valley at the moment and in keeping with the solitude of the environment of the area I would like to see it remain so.
- * Helicopter noise in particular would be most disruptive over the valleys and escarpments in the area and, in my view, denigrate the sole purpose that the majority of tourists visit the area - the beauty and solitude of the vast wilderness.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: LX 602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 7:37 PM
Subject: LX 602686
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

To whom it may concern,

As a local resident, the proposal to lease the Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes is alarming and I am strongly opposed to it. As the airfield is surrounded by National Park, it ideally belongs under National Park control, for emergency use only. Allowing a commercial operator will benefit only a few and comes with significant downsides to the local community, other visitors who come to enjoy the peace and beauty of the mountains and the environment.

I am particularly concerned about any noise impacts from a commercial operation. The local environment is generally one of very low noise levels which means that ANY low flying aircraft has a huge impact on the area. We have already noticed an increase in such aircraft which affects our quality of life. Flights over and around residential areas are also visually intrusive and impact on privacy.

Approximately 25,000 people that live in the villages surrounding the airfield will be negatively affected. The proposed flight paths appear as though they will also impact residents in the lower mountains.

I am also particularly concerned about the impact of the proposal on the world heritage area. The world class walks and lookouts which are nearby would also be negatively affected.

Commercial air operations in and out of the Katoomba airfield is completely inconsistent with the local environment, economy and amenity. It simply does not stack up when the all risks and potential benefits are considered together.

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:30 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: (LX 602686)
Attachments: Screenshot_20180726-221756_Hushcity.jpg; Screenshot_20180801-094310_Hushcity.jpg; Screenshot_20190211-104640_Explane.jpg; Screenshot_20190210-112643_Explane.jpg; Screenshot_20190314-121928_Explane.jpg; Screenshot_20190314-121904_Explane.jpg

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 10:48 AM
Subject: (LX 602686)
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of the Blue Mountains, passionate gardener and bird watcher, in reference to the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield. Really, what more could the government do to turn the Mountains & the National Park into a 🤮hole no-one wants to visit anymore! Coal mines polluting the water, killing critically endangered species and destroying a World Heritage site by raising a dam, planting an aerocropolis at the base of the Mountains and flying planes over our heads, and those of all the National Park visitors 24/7 & now THIS. ANOTHER AIRPORT!!!! ☐ This time for helicopters all day long! Ruining the experience of every visitor so that they tell their friends not to come! Tourists A [REDACTED] planes flying over in ever increasing numbers from SYDNEY airport. So do residents. Actually, the Blue Mountains are the biggest source of aircraft noise complaints about Sydney airport. Why? It's QUIET & hearing is RELATIVE. For example, if you're watching tv, then a huge rainstorm moves in, drowning out the tv, you turn the tv up so that you can just hear it over the racket, the rainstorm subsides & then sudenly the tv sounds very loud. So too with aircraft noise. The quieter it is to start with, the louder and more intrusive the noise. Plus, aircraft noise is regularly rated as one of the most irritating, right up there with leaf blowers. Worse than trucks or trains. So, to illustrate how bad helicopter noise would be if this airfield were to be commercialised (and the western Sydney airport piece of 🤮), I have taken measurements, which are illustrated below. First, average background noise levels night & day (the loudest sounds having come from birds, which aren't actually counted as 'noise', which is irritating by definition). Then I've included some examples of measurements from aircraft passing overhead. As you casn see, helicopters are a nightmare! Deafeningly loud, hurting

your ears and drowning out every other sound! A Mac truck could drive by and you wouldn't hear it over this racket! It is absolutely absurd to consider helicopter joy flights as anywhere NEAR appropriate for a location such as the Blue Mountains! So, I urge the department (now that you've stolen the democratic rights of locals to determine our own fate), to refuse commercialisation of the Katoomba aerodrome lease, and instead incorporate it into the National Park, for use only during emergencies. Thereby ADDING value, instead of taking it away. It's a no brainer.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 11:29 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

On a recent holiday to Medlow Bath, staying at the Hydro-Majestic Hotel, I was concerned to learn that a lease was granted nearby to a commercial air tourism company to provide 'scenic' and 'joy' flights within the Blue Mountains National Park.

For three generations my family has regularly holidayed in the Blue Mountains, as do many of my friends. We choose the Blue Mountains because of the peace and tranquility the UNESCO World Heritage Area provides. We also value and enjoy the excellent local tourism and hospitality offerings. We happily choose to spend a significant portion of our annual income in the Blue Mountains local economy including accommodation, restaurants, boutiques, vineyards and National Park entry fees.

I was dismayed to hear that the peacefulness of the Blue Mountains we value so much will be compromised, if not destroyed, by the company you have granted this lease to. Anyone who has visited the Grand Canyon can tell you how disruptive and intrusive this type of air tourism is on the natural environment. Many of us choose to holiday in the Blue Mountains as a respite to the noises of city life but there would be no point in continuing to visit if we could not escape the noise pollution.

Tourists like myself support many kinds of local businesses when we stay. To lose so much economic support that is shared among many, for the sake of a single business, is a poor business plan indeed. I fear for the many local tourism and hospitality providers, whose businesses rely on tourists like me and the natural environment of the Blue Mountains to succeed, and the many local jobs that will be lost if this air tourism business goes ahead.

The Blue Mountains is the jewel in the crown of NSW, unequalled in its untainted beauty, peace and tranquility. Please do not destroy this.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] n behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:38 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ref LX602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jun 20, 2019 at 2:52 PM
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref LX602686
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

As my wife and I live only 6km from Katoomba Airfield on [REDACTED] we strongly object to any scenic flights in this area. Many people, including ourselves, retired to the Blue Mountains for peace and quiet. Therefore any joy flights would likely cause anxiety and stress to us and to many other Blue Mountains residents.

Emergency flights are necessary at times but an intrusion of constant noise is certainly not necessary. We implore the Government to see the threat of this proposal and endeavour to make the said Airfield, part of the Blue Mountains National Park.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPod

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 9:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to proposals for Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

Dear Department of Industry,

I write to ask you to please take urgent action against the proposals for the Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes, specifically, the proposed plane and helicopter joy flights over the Blue Mountains National Park.

Peace. Quiet. Nature.

These three things are very highly valued, and much sought-after by a great many people in this increasingly fast-paced, frenetic, noisy world.

They are the reasons I moved to [REDACTED], where my home and art studio are adjacent to the bush, which is filled with wildlife – Wallabies, Black Cockatoos, and countless other kinds of birdlife. It is at the top of the Kanimbla escarpment and valley, part of which is the Megalong Valley – a space which is within the World Heritage-listed (protected) National Park, and which could be directly affected by these flights.

Immersion in this natural environment – as I work, in my home, and during my research time in the bush - makes me feel connected to nature and all its subtleties, many of which only reveal themselves after long periods of time sitting quietly, undisturbed, within this environment. The sounds of the birds, the wind, the waterfalls, the trees, the smell of earth and eucalyptus, the positive, restorative effects of this ‘natural quiet’ on my mental health and wellbeing. I feel inspired, balanced, calm, rested, energised, and part of the natural world – qualities that I, as an artist – a painter who works with the landscape – inextricably embed in my artwork.

I am a sensitive person – sensitive to sound and activity - and deeply affected by my surroundings. If I am in peaceful, nurturing spaces, I am peaceful and feel nurtured. If I am in a place where I have chosen to live to access these things, that *should be* this way, but is not, because some external, disruptive force is imposing itself upon this place, I feel agitated, disturbed, upset, anxious, and ultimately unable to find a sense of peace to make my work. This directly affects my income and mental health, which then affects my ability to work. It is a vicious downward spiral.

For me, and my work, and that of many people who live here, there is a direct correlation between ecology, mental health, and economy, and as described above, this proposal threatens to disrupt these three things to the extent that I will not be able to work. With the proposed plane and helicopter noise, and the emissions resulting from these, I will not be able to immerse myself in the landscape, internalise it, and have it emerge in my work. I will not be able to access the state of mind I require to work and live peacefully, with good mental health.

I am just one of many creatives who live here for similar reasons, the Blue Mountains has almost double the national average of creative people living here, and the reason for this is the quiet, the natural sounds and atmosphere, and the direct, undisturbed contact with nature that this environment affords.

The proposed plans for aviation tourism and helicopter joyflights are wholly at odds with the natural state of this place. Whatever brief, enjoyable experiences people may have by taking these flights, and whatever profit the business(es) may make through this, will not mitigate the damage and devastation they will cause – to the natural environment (flora and fauna), local businesses and livelihoods, the people who come to work, play, rest and recover here, and it’s residents’ quality of life and mental health. It is us who will have to live with the fallout of this activity – day in, day out. There will be no increase in profitability for local businesses, as these visitors will fly in and fly out without spending locally. In fact, many local businesses will suffer a loss of income, as with the increased noise, there will be less people wanting to stay and take refuge here - from the city and their busy lives - if there are helicopters and planes overhead.

On the point of mental health, many people come here, and have done for over a hundred years, to live or to visit, and restore their mental health following trauma. A key factor in them being able to recover is access to quiet, undisturbed

nature, and to be able to walk peacefully in the bush, connecting and communing with the plant and animal life. This will be increasingly impossible under these new plans, and will remove access to a potentially life-saving resource. The airstrip currently supports life-and-environment-saving emergency services - fire and air ambulance, which is as it should be and to which I have no objection.

In addition to the above and the fact that this is a World Heritage-listed area that should not be tampered with, it is Gundungurra and Darug land, it should not be disrespected so much as to become a tourist mecca with the skies full of planes and helicopters dumping emissions onto the people, land, animals, waterways and plants below.

I implore you to consider the significant negative impact of this proposal on the environment, businesses, and the people who live, work and visit here.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 29 June 2019 2:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission ref: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to make a submission in support of the proposals for the Medlow Bath (Katoomba) airfield.

I am a long term resident of the Blue Mountains and I believe the proposals are of great benefit to the Blue Mountains and the "Fly Neighbourly" policy will also improve the environmental effects from transiting aircraft who are not operating from the airfield.

I have been profoundly disappointed by the circulating misinformation which has often degenerated into outright lies within my community about this proposal. Sadly many people have signed petitions based on totally the wrong information.

Currently the Blue Mountains Council is the subject of a Public Inquiry after the NSW Minister for Local Government threatened suspension. As a result, politics here is at "fever pitch" with vested interests seemingly trying to divert attention away from the real issues which caused the threat of suspension. These groups and parties seem to be deliberately encouraging and promoting sideshow issues like this so the community loses focus on the serious issues and problems within Blue Mountains politics.

A well run and properly managed GA airport is a vital transport and emergency link for the Blue Mountains, just as they are for all regional communities in Australia.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: KAoomba airfield. DO not destroy our local economy by allowing what most tourists would regard as nuisance aircraft noise.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jun 20, 2019 at 11:26 AM
Subject: KAoomba airfield. DO not destroy our local economy by allowing what most tourists would regard as nuisance aircraft noise.
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposals regarding changing arrangements at Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath. As a long term resident of the upper Blue Mountains, I am keenly aware that tourism is the lifeblood of our region - it is the key industry which supports our population, local jobs and businesses. I do know that the number of tourists likely to use the airfield facility for a joy ride is MORE than outnumbered by the thousands of visitors who escape the the BLue Mountains to enjoy the tranquility of the region. There is ample evidence that both overseas and Australian tourists visit the mountains to enjoy the PEACE and QUIET of natural surroundings. Most do NOT travel all the way up here for the sake of a joy ride they can have at any other location.

Approving this airfield is therefore likely to significantly damage the EXISTING tourism industry and, by extension, the economy of our region. Tourists (not just bush walkers) will be put off by the increased prevalence of aircraft noise and will choose quieter, less intrusive locations for future holidays.

Do not allow the benefits accruing to one company and its RELATIVELY SMALL number of potential clients to outweigh a likely significant loss of tourists due the the degradation of our most prized asset - the tranquility of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 7:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Dear Crown Lands,

Re: LX 602686
Katoomba Airfield

I say NO to commercial operators & helicopter flights on our publicly owned airfield in our World Heritage Area. We want to protect our tourism industry, our wilderness & our peace & quiet - our local jobs are vital to our thriving communities.

The Airfield should be incorporated into the National Park for use in fire & other emergencies.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] n behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Airfield

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 4:10 PM
Subject: Airfield
To: <Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

I say no to an airfield in katoomba

Sent from my iPad

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 6:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686. Helicopter flights from Katoomba airfield.

[REDACTED]

I wish to register my opposition to the proposal to allow helicopter tours and joyflights from Katoomba airfield. The Blue Mountains National Park is enjoyed by thousands of people for its natural beauty, peace and tranquility. Helicopter noise will spoil the recreation of many for the sake of the few. If this foolish proposal is not stopped it will be yet another example of a wonderful natural asset being ruined by stupid commercialism.

[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 4:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Templeman, Susan (MP)
Subject: Ref: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I am writing to you in relation to the possible grant of a lease over Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath for commercial purposes. I understand one of the possible uses of the airfield under such an arrangement would be "joy" flights utilising helicopters.

I wish to object to this proposal in the strongest possible terms. I am a part time resident of Blackheath having had a home there for the last 15 years.

The quiet enjoyment of my property and the adjoining areas of Blackheath and Medlow Bath is already compromised, particularly in Summer, by the frequent overflight of what I assume are aircraft engaged in bush fire related activity. I accept that this is a necessary activity that overall enhances the well being of the community

To add to this noise to financially benefit what I assume can only be a small number of individuals is, in my view, bad public policy.

I submit that the airfield should be maintained for the purpose of bush fire prevention and fighting activities. The expense of this should be borne by the relevant government body or bodies for the benefit of the Blue Mountains community.

I am happy to discuss my submission. My contact number is [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 3:07 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield - Ref no 602686

We go to OUR Blue Mountains for a Peace and sounds of Nature : running water, wind whisper through the tree crowns, many different birds singing.

But NOT to listen a Motor Sounds of aircrafts above our heads - too much of it in the city.

Please DO not destroy one of a few Places around Sydney that you could truly relax in with commercial aircraft noise (even if its

The noise level from commercial aircrafts, helicopters would ABSOLUTELY Destroy peace , tranquillity and cleanness of this unique Place on Earth - Blue Mountains Range.

The unique qualities of the Blue Mountains are recognized by its status as a World Heritage Area. The Blue Mountains National Park's magnificent land form, the grandeur of its canyons, the variety of flora and fauna and birds, combined with the scenery, peace, and silence, make it a delight for residents and visitors alike. Flights overhead, or even nearby, would shatter all this.

There is no way of controlling flights paths and the frequency of flights, as the ability to regulate them is minimal. The height restrictions are (500 feet) 150m above wilderness, and (1000 feet) 300m over houses.

There has been no study of the environmental impact on birds, animals, or humans, especially with regard to noise impact. No details have been released concerning the tender process, and the deeply-flawed public consultation process answered few questions. Once granted, the lease will secure the operator's tenure of the airfield for 50 years, opening the way for further commercial development, or even on-sale to another operator or developer.

Clearly, this lease to a commercial operator, FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd, should NOT be issued!!!!

It's a business and only there to make money! Simple as that.

"FlyBlue has advised the department that Katoomba Airfield is a licensed and legal airfield open to the public and it will allow helicopters other than its own to land at the airfield for a fee...." - *Proposed Crown land lease Medlow Bath - Frequently asked questions*

In 1999, the Blue Mountains City Council requested the Department of Land and Water Conservation to integrate Katoomba airfield into the National Park and restrict flights to emergencies only.

This concept was reaffirmed by Blue Mountains Council again in 2008.

Lets keep it up in 2019 and not destroy the Beauty and Tranquility of OUR Blue Mountains!

Please DO NOT LET [Katoomba Airfield](#) to be commercially Used!!!!

Money is not everything in this crazy world!

Very Concern Citizen

██████████

██████████

██████████

██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 1:57 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Letter of Objection to a commercial lease: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield to a commercial flying operator.

This is a World Heritage area because of its untouched wilderness and peacefulness and needs to be protected. It is rare to have such beautiful and unique wilderness so close to Sydney. It is visited by so many people to enjoy nature undisturbed.

By allowing aircrafts the freedom to fly over these areas you will strip this region of its uniqueness therefore of its attractiveness. In addition, I feel the proposed lease is not in the best interest of the citizens of this area. You will be violating the rights to privacy of the communities in this area & the added noise that will be generated will cause unnecessary misery for residents in this area.

I ask that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use only.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 2:07 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: protest

I am writing to

1. object to any commercial lease for this public land.
2. I think that
the land
should be PUT INTO THE NATIONAL PARK
and
3. the airfield should be kept for EMERGENCY USE ONLY

The proposed flight paths for this lease are over sensitive national park areas. Unfortunately helicopter and small planes fly very low and their noise is very significant especially when it's so quiet. This is not the city where ambient noise is prevalent but In this world heritage national park , people come to the area to relax, enjoy the views, enjoy nature and get away from city noise.
planes and helicopters would really take away from this wilderness experience.
Please don't allow this- for the community and the wildlife , DO NOT permit a commercial lease.

thankyou for listening

[REDACTED]

Sent on the run

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 2:23 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield 602686

Department of Industry, Public Lands

Minister Pavey.

I am sending a submission to you to indicate my objection to any Commercial Use of the Airfield on a regular basis, except in the case of emergencies. This land is public land so it should remain that way, in the hands of the public rather than for a private company.

Any commercial use of the old airport for aircraft movements will also have invasive aircraft noise throughout the Blue Mountains and especially over the National Park. This would impact on tourism for all in the area as well as residents, rather than for the benefit of a few privileged visitors who can travel there by other means.

The area should be included as part of the Wollemi National Park, where access to bushwalks and views can be enjoyed by the public.

As a member of the Blue Mountains Astronomical Club which has used this area extensively in the past, increased use of the airfield with flights would degrade our ability to use our telescopes effectively. The darkness as we look north is not available elsewhere, due to urbanisation.

With regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 10:08 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 No airfield for commercial purpose

To whom it may concern.

As a former Sydney resident who moved to Leura for the beauty and tranquility I implore the following regarding the Katoomba airfield:
The land be incorporated into the National Park, that it be used for emergencies only and strictly no commercial activity or lease.

This is imperative to protect the beauty and peacefulness of the World Heritage listed pristine mountains that are already under fire from the new 24 hour International Airport. Enough is enough!

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 4:44 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: HPE CM: Katoomba Airfield lease Your reference: 602686

Dear Minister,

I am writing to bring to your attention, my dismay at the prospect of having to listen to helicopter flights(not joy flights whatever that means) over the Grose Valley and other areas. I live near the Grose Valley and we get some helicopter traffic associated with medical retrievals, emergencies etc. This is to be expected and welcomed but listening to the noise of helicopters providing tourist flights isn't. No matter what the initial approvals would be, if the flights are granted, no doubt this would be the thin end of the wedge and the number of flights would eventually grow. And there would be no going back no matter how many complaints were lodged.

This is a beautiful area of National and World importance and to have it desecrated by tourist flights which are entirely unnecessary, is beyond belief. There are plenty of other ways for tourists to see the Blue Mountains beauty spots.

I hope you will ensure that this unnecessary intrusion into a beautiful area does not go ahead. I know there has been tremendous opposition already put forward by the public so I hope the will of the people will be listened to in this matter.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 9:23 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference LX 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
19/06/2019

I live in Leura and have done so since retiring in 2017. I moved here because of the quiet and beauty of this area and the lifestyle it offers. Leura and Katoomba are currently under the flight path of Sydney airport and we get jet aircraft flying overhead throughout the day although the noise is not great and hardly noticeable due to their height. From time to time we get helicopters flying towards Katoomba Airfield and although they are on the north side of the highway and less than one kilometer away from where I live, the noise level generated by helicopters when they fly the same flight path is significantly greater than that from the jet aircraft flying overhead; in fact local flights are clearly heard inside my house which is constructed from brick veneer.

With respect to the proposed modification of the Katoomba Airfield, I am concerned that no noise study has been conducted into this proposal which should be a mandatory exercise due to the impact aircraft, and particularly helicopter flights, would have on the amenity of residents, who pay some of the highest rates in NSW, and zero impact eco tourism businesses operating in the area. We came here to enjoy quiet in our retirement not to listen to helicopters flying in, out and around the tourist attractions of Katoomba. This is a World Heritage area and Australian National Park. It is not a fun park. Local residents do not want the airfield modified to attract what would be wealthy tourists able to afford the cost of flying into the area for a few minutes viewing the scenery before flying out again. There is also a proposal for 'joy flights' which common sense tells you that this would have a detrimental effect on locals and visitors alike. Who really wants to look at scenery while a helicopter or helicopters fly around overhead?

This area needs to be maintained in its current state as the impact on residents and visitors would only suffer a severe deterioration in their amenity. I would therefore urge that this proposal for commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield be rejected as the noise it will create will have a detrimental effect on the amenity of this World Heritage Area.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.

<https://www.avg.com>

From: [REDACTED] behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:30 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: LX 602686 - commercial airfield lease proposal

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 10:58 AM
Subject: LX 602686 - commercial airfield lease proposal
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Hi,

I'm writing to object to the proposed new commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield. I understand this was previously discontinued, but a new proposal to reissue the lease is being considered.

I've personally experienced the benefits of the nearby Vipassana meditation space. As a refuge and care facility, operated as a nonprofit, this provides an incredible service to the community at large. To disrupt the privacy and seclusion of this space by issuing a lease for a space misused previously is a mistake. "Fool me once", etc.

Please reconsider the current proposal, and reject plans to lease this airfield for commercial use. I believe it should remain for emergency use only, that the land be reincorporated into the National Park, and that this incredible World Heritage area be treated not just to the letter of the law, but to the spirit of that title.

There is immense value in promoting this "exclusive inclusiveness" as a tourist benefit; the space is protected for *all*, not just for those who can afford airborne viewing.

Thank you for reviewing this,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] n behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:30 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: LX 602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 11:08 AM
Subject: LX 602686
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Hello There,

I highly object the commercial leasing of airfield in Katoomba. It would have serious impact of birds habitat and overall disturbance in natural tranquility.
Katoomba Airfield should be used just for emergency services.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 9:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: (LX 602686) Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the Katoomba Airfield public land being used for commercial purposes.

As a nearby resident that enjoys the peace and wildness of the mountains, from the beautiful Grose Valley to the open expanse of Hanging Rock, I disagree with opening up the air airstrip to commercial operators. One only has to look across the pond to New Zealand to see how unfettered tourist heli flight operations have impacted the locals and their peace and quiet.

The air strip plays an important role for our emergency services and rescue teams, but that is a vastly different argument to allowing tour operators to use the air strip extensively, day in day out.

An ideal resolution would be to see the airstrip remain in place as it has been, for emergency use only, and have the whole airstrip area that is currently Crown Land absorbed into the surrounding national park.

Please consider the submissions made by residents and close neighbours, who moved to the Blue Mountains for its unmatched peace and tranquillity.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

18th July 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 12:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To whom may concern,

I ask you to please rethink taking over the Katoomba airfield.

The closure of Katoomba airfield would be a disastrous for myself as a Tax paying business person, as I have recently taken on a large development within the blue mountain area with 3 years construction time. The Katoomba airfield is used for my crews and personal transport. Without this airfield my costs would drastically be increased having to fly into Bathurst or Sydney and exponentially pressuring my project into non-profits and closure of the project and less economy benefit to the blue mountains area. Not only for myself but many developers.

I suggest you give consideration to studying the closest airfield to the blue mountains area, not only is the area difficult to access via road or rail due to the area of mountainous terrain, taking another mode of transport out would be ridiculous !

I hope no one close to you ever has to be air-transported from the blue mountains area, its heavily dominated with fog , air rescue not being able to obtain access to Katoomba hospital helipad would mean an hours and a half drive into Western Sydney could be life threatening, if only there remained an airfield accessible. Every access available is critical, not for one but many lives. Development is great, but is it worth a life ? especially someone close to you ?

Although I am a strong believer of development interest, this is not the site. Not only is blue mountains council renown for being the most difficult council in the state to gain approvals, this raises chance extremely to development not going ahead. Would you like to see the airfield closed, air rescue difficulty, excessive cost to access the blue mountains area, small business developments not going ahead and ending up with a vacant blocks after council will not giving approval on the proposed ?

I ask you now to please rethink taking over the Katoomba airfield, consider the above.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 3:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Ref 602686

Hi,

Quick note to say I'm against the use of Katoomba airfield being sold off crown land for commercial use.

Please ensure this is protected in national park land and that the airfields is retained for emergency use only.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 6:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX602686

Being a resident of Katoomba, I would like to make this submission from a Local's point of view. Like most people here, I moved to the Blue Mountains to get away from the city's hussle and buzzle as well as its pollution. My great pleasure is the peace and quiet and the unique wilderness we enjoy in this World Heritage Area. There are not many of those to be found in Australia, indeed, in the world and I am not adverse to sharing it with visitors, visitors who come for hiking, admiring the views and being close to nature.

I strongly believe that if these tourists were to use a commercial helicopter service to enjoy the views, the whole point of this area would be made ad absurdum.

The extremely loud noise of helicopters echoing from the rockfaces through the vallies, especially on weekends would spoil the peace for people (residents and visitors) as well as our precious wildlife. The visual impact and air pollution from the copters' fuel would also be destructive.

THEREFORE I STRONGLY OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSITION!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 5:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Reference: 60266 Katoomba Airstrip

> On 14 Jul 2019, at 1:51 pm, [REDACTED] > wrote:

>
>
>

>> On 14 Jul 2019, at 1:47 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> We object to this land being sold off because:

>>

>> - This is public land and should not be used for commercial purposes

>>

>> - It should be transferred to the national park and be protected in perpetuity

>>

>> - This land should be used for emergency purposes only.

>>

>

[REDACTED]

>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 9:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield Objection

NO TO KATOOMBA AIRFIELD!

I strongly object our local public land being used for commercial purposes. This kind of aircraft usage will inevitably lead to increased noise that will disturb our quiet National Park. It's completely unacceptable because it will destroy the very reason tourists visit the Blue Mountains and will ruin the standard of living for us residents. As well, the storage of large amounts of aviation fuel at Katoomba Airfield will pose a significant fire risk within our wilderness, not far from Katoomba's centre. .

This Crown Land should instead be transferred to the Blue Mountains National Park.

I agree that it makes sense to retain a dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use, but only in times of bush fires or for rescue operations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 12:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 -No Commercialization of Katoomba Airfield

Dear NSW Government team,
I hope this mail finds you well.

I go to the Blue Mountain Area when I have to get away from the madness of the hectic life. I came to know that the commercial helicoptering is being planned in the Katoomba Airfield which is bound to disturb the peace and harmony of the area. I was surprised that there has been no EIA carried out or any detailed helicopter plans been made public.

I kindly request the NSW government to suspend this commercialisation of Katoomba airfield especially the helicopter tourism and maintain its environment of calmness and peacefulness.

In peace,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: No unconditional helicopters for world heritage

Dennis Buttigieg

Dear Sir

I understand there is a lease on the old airfield in the upper mountains. I am writing in regard to the conditions that might be placed on its use, specifically luxury helicopter tours.

I am sure this has been proposed as an economic development for the mountains. I would like to see a detailed economic study undertaken which includes the opportunity cost of the multitude of tourists who visit the mountains for peaceful pursuits such as relaxing, hiking and cycling. In fact, developing a mountains cycling master plan would beat luxury helicopter by a large factor in economic development terms.

Luxury helicopter tours plague many world heritage sites to their detriment. The downsides to this one is not limited to humans.

Biodiversity will be impacted by noise and pollution.

If this goes ahead despite our cries for peace, I suggest the flights are limited to between 2pm and 5 pm and do not come within a kilometre of any escarpment or houses.

It is disturbing enough in Blackheath to have emergency services and light planes above us most days. I object to unconditional use of the airfield.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 2:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airport (LX 602686)

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to my attention that the Blue Mountains Katoomba Airport, previously used mostly in emergencies and in fighting bushfires, is possibly going to be offered to commercial interests to lease and develop. I am very opposed to such a development for several reasons.

Firstly, we are at a stage in global warming when we should all be doing all we can to reduce the number of aeroplanes in the sky, not adding to them. Aircraft emissions make a huge contribution to greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide and we need to fight to turn this around, not to exacerbate it.

Secondly, the Blue Mountains are a national park with National Heritage listing; as such they are precious and need to be nurtured for future generations, not squandered in the interests of generating income to private individuals.

Thirdly, the Blue Mountains are already a tourist attraction, bringing both money and pressures into the area; it is an attraction which should be carefully supported and carefully controlled in order to bring benefit, not damage. Helicopter flights, in fact, have already operated in the past, and created so much noise and disturbance that the local residents fought to end them.

The Blue Mountains City Council has long had plans to incorporate the airstrip into the national park but to continue its use, (even to extend its length to cater to the needs of small aircraft as well as helicopters), for emergencies and for bushfire-fighting. This has always been the plan, and it is one that benefits both the treasured national park as well as the people who inhabit it, and it's time it was implemented.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 4:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Ref No. 602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, 8 Jul 2019 at 16:38
Subject: Ref No. 602686
To: <airfield.submission@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

I would like to make a submission regarding the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba airfield. I have a house at [REDACTED] and consider that commercial use of the airfield is not appropriate for the following reasons:

1. The airfield is surrounded by the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park. Of note the airstrip is located close to major access points for the park including Evans Lookout, Govett's Leap, Pulpit Rock, ANvil Rock and Perrys Lookdown and the Grose Valley. The area is also unique in that the Grose Valley and is untouched right down to Grose Gorge near to the junction with the Nepean River. This is in contrast to the valleys on the other side of the ridge.
2. Commercial use will inevitably lead to increased plane and helicopter use for joy flights that will impact the surrounding area.
3. There is no need for a commercial airstrip in this area. Joy flights could be operated from strips located within the Sydney Basin. There is no demand for commercial use other than joy flights. I believe the airstrip has not been used for over 10 years.
4. The roads leading to the airstrip are not suitable for increased traffic associated with commercial operations.

I strongly suggest that the airstrip be taken over by NPWS and maintained for emergency use. NPWS would be best placed to determine the need for an airstrip versus a helicopter only facility.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no. 602686 airfield comment

From [REDACTED]

I own a house on [REDACTED] in Blackheath. This location is peaceful, near a bush and national parks setting. The proposed airfield at Medlow Bath would have negative impacts on my investment there, and on that of entire towns in that area. I request that there be no airfield expansion, in order to respect the rate payers of the area. I would not hesitate to join any legal action to fight against airport expansion.
sincerely

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 3:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: I AM SRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE COMMERCIAL FLIGHT PROPOSALS AT Katoomba Airport. LX 602686

Importance: High

REFERENCE LX 602686

I AM SRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE COMMERCIAL FLIGHT PROPOSALS AT Katoomba Airport. It represents an offence to local residents and World Heritage status of surrounding Blue Mountains rare, globally significant Wilderness and fragile bio diversity.

From [REDACTED]

Detrimental effects on the Local Tourism Industry

The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoneers
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native species, including those listed as endangered.

1. The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. It's status may be effected (and threatened further in combination with proposed changes to Warragamba Dam)
2. Damage to rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the tarmacing of the runway
3. The potential impact of Helicopters on Blue Mountains Wildlife and other World Heritage Values

Lifestyle and amenity

The liveability of upper Blue Mountains towns and villages is likely to be impacted by:

1. An increase in helicopters and associated noise—we already have issues with scenic flights over the area conducted by other operators. However, those helicopters do not land in or take off from within the World Heritage Area.
2. Helicopter noise can travel long distances in an acoustically-sensitive environment dominated by cliffs and canyons, potentially affecting parts of North Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath and other areas in earshot of the flight paths.
3. Any Fly Neighbourly Policy is self-regulated. The policy does not, at the admission of the lease applicant, include aircraft that do not originate from Katoomba Airfield, so that would include many arrivals.
4. Increased traffic along the route to the airfield (including fuel tankers and airport runway building equipment) on a narrow local road and walking path. The road is not designed for large vehicles (Station Street, Rutland Road and Grand Canyon Road). View [Route to YKAT \(PDF\)](#), supplied by a local resident.

"Living in the Blue Mountains truly is the closest thing to heaven. The air is clean, the birdlife spectacular, the bush has the ability to soothe the frayed nerves from the madness of the city."
- Joanne, Wentworth Falls

Concerns about the bureaucratic process

1. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?
2. How can anyone properly engage in community consultation when we don't know the scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation? The state government has steadfastly refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public.
3. Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West. Do we know these flight paths? We do not. This model may also bring in other operators further increasing activity.
4. Why was the community not consulted by the state government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a licence by direct negotiation (see [Expression of Interest](#)), and awarded it to a high-impact helicopter tourism business, when community groups had also applied?
5. Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?
- 6.
7. Yours Sincerely . [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed lease of Crown Land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield. I feel that the granting of a 50 year lease for the operation and development of an airfield within a World Heritage National Park, is not in the best interests of our community.

I object to the granting of the lease for the following reasons.

1. I am a bushwalker and currently the President of a local bushwalking club with 250 members. We walk in the area below the flight paths that will be used by helicopters and other aircraft. Our club, other bushwalkers and the many tourist who walk in the area come to the Blue Mountains to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Grose and Jamison Valleys. I am also a Blackheath resident with my home near the Grand Canyon, located not far from the airport. The presence of helicopters and aircraft would destroy the wilderness experience, the reason that many visit the Blue Mountains. In addition to the excessive noise there is also the visual disruption of helicopters spoiling views from lookouts and other vantage points below the flight path.
- 2 The land is surrounded by NSW National Park. I feel that it should be managed by NSWPS and not be used by a private company for personal gain. The existing airfield should be kept for emergency use only, as it has been for many years.
3. Fly Blue's clients represent a small minority of the millions of visitors to the Blue Mountains every year. All visitors would potentially be adversely affected by the increased noise pollution and the loss of wildlife in the surrounding bush. The local tourist economy would be adversely affected.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 11:29 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Hi. I received a brochure in regard to the use of the Medlow Bath Airfield. I think it makes excellent sense to utilise the facility in a sensible way for general aviation both private and commercial and to include tourist opportunities to view the unique nature of the Blue Mountains from the air. It could be run in such a way that it wouldn't have to be invasive and I see it as an opportunity to make the most of what we have. I would add though that it needs to be owned and operated by Australians and not be wasted by letting overseas interested exploit our assets. If those opposed to the idea see it as something bad because the area is within a National Park it makes me wonder why they live in the Blue Mountains ??

Cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 4:52 PM
To: Mark Maloney; airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield - proposed lease.

Subject: **Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield - proposed lease.**

Dear Sir,

We previously wrote to you (*via email to Scott Mullen on 19.02.19*) concerning the proposed lease of Crown Land at Medlow Bath, occupied by Katoomba Airfield. Since then, you've begun the formal 'community engagement and consultation' process and we therefore now wish to submit a formal submission, anticipating that it will be considered during preparation of your report into feedback received.

1. This proposed lease is counter to the general push to incorporate into National Parks any leased or privately-owned land that becomes available when that land is surrounded by existing NPWS-managed land. Incorporation allows for more coherent land management in the public interest, and provides security against environmental degradation within acknowledged areas of State and National significance (In this case, of course, the land is within a World Heritage listed National Park). The desire to seek financial returns via rental agreements from commercial operators is only one small consideration, to be weighed against the incalculable value to future generations of appropriately extending, in perpetuity, our Blue Mountains National Park. Because of its special location and value, we believe this public land should remain under the management of a public institution, not leased to a private company to develop for their personal gain. We would like to see Lot 550 DP 751657, Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath gazetted as an extension of our Blue Mountains National Park.
2. We don't regard the existing airfield solely as an historical nuisance, since all of us in this community have benefitted from its use during emergencies, such as bush fires. We would hope that future use by RFS and other emergency services will continue and perhaps be enhanced by dedicating the existing facilities to these organisations for training and operational purposes. This is compatible with the land being within the National Park and having the surrounding bush managed by NPWS. This could improve the provision of vital fire-fighting facilities in the Blue Mountains, without the need to pave a runway, or have aircraft low-flying daily over pristine bush and nearby villages. We request that the existing airfield be kept for Emergency Use Only.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686

I wish to make a submission in opposition to the proposed commercial use of Katoomba Airfield.

- 1: Low flying aircraft will destroy the peaceful experience of the wilderness which is enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people.
- 2: Such use will have a detrimental effect on wildlife and may endanger the World Heritage listing of the park.
- 3: The land should be transferred to the National Park and be available for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 5:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686

Dear Madam/Sir

We strongly object to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to a private operator. After reading <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/on-exhibition/proposed-lease-of-katoomba-airfield>, we emailed this address asking whether there is any more information, and in particular an operating and business plan for the proposed lessee, and was informed that there is not.

We have also checked the website of the proposed lessee www.flyblue.com.au and found nothing about the proposed number of daily flights (helicopter or fixed wing), times or flight paths or about the impacts of the proposed operations on the environment of the Blue Mountains National Park or World Heritage Area.

We could not find an Environmental Impact Statement. The land management initiatives promised by the proponents are peripheral to the proposal and offer no real benefits beyond how the land would be managed if integrated onto the National Park.

In short, the lack of information alone is sufficient grounds to invalidate the proposal and lead to its rejection.

However, we have a number of objections in principle beyond this.

1. The land is Crown Land, in the middle of a national park. This is a historical opportunity to integrate it into the national park so it can be managed as an emergency airstrip by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
2. The proposed use would damage the local economy, which relies on the visitors who come to the Blue Mountains for peace and quiet – whether they stay in accommodation or bushwalk in the wilderness. We have experienced low-flying helicopter noise during bushfires (when we realise the operations are entirely necessary and serving the public interest). Regular aircraft noise would completely change the character of Katoomba and the surrounding areas.
3. Apart from the noise and other pollution generated by flights originating at the airfield, it would increase light aircraft traffic across the Blue Mountains, further eroding the amenity and the World Heritage values which tourists come for.
4. In effect, the proposal would destroy public amenity and reduce the income of existing tourism operators for the profit of the proponents, without adequate compensation (notwithstanding whatever lease payment may be made).

To sum up, the proposal must be rejected and the site (which is already Crown land, so does not need to be purchased) integrated into the National Park.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 8:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my strong opposition to allowing commercial flights, including helicopter tours over the Katoomba airfield.

The Blue Mountains National Park (BMNP) is a World Heritage Area protected by UNESCO and I am deeply concerned with the environmental impact this purely commercial decision would have on the animals that inhabit the area, the quality of life of residents and visitors seeking peace and refuge. We live in an increasingly noisy and frantic world. We must keep some places of respite for us and our future generations.

I spent 10 days in a silent meditation retreat in this beautiful park. The silence is paramount not only so that the experience can affect deep mental transformation for the better in the lives of hundreds of people that use the centers, but also for the fauna of region. In the period that I was there, I saw the happy birds that are unique to that area, I heard their songs, their chirping, their happiness, I felt part of the family with them. I even saw a black cockatoo and these are very rare birds.

I agree that the Katoomba Airfield can be continue to be used for emergency medical evacuations and bushfire fighting, but not for any other flights. Please I urge you to return the Katoomba Airfield to the Blue Mountains National Park as it should have happened in 1988.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 6:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Future of Katoomba Airfield - Ref. No: 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

We are very concerned about the possibility of granting a long term lease to the current working dirt strip (old airfield) at Medlow Bath.

We were also not happy with the state government changing the way Crown Lands is managed.

Crown Lands from 'time in memorial' are vested in the people, it is not to be used for commercial purposes!

We feel the current dirt strip should only be used in the future for emergency use only – e.g. bush fires, emergencies etc.

It would be far better to hand the land over to the national park authority and protect it from future development.

Finally, where will the greed in government cease, as we have already lost so much of the national estate to greedy developer.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 6:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686 - future of Katoomba airfield

I am writing to express my concern about the government's willingness to consider the granting of a lease over this crown land which would allow aviation tourism to operate from the site.

I strongly oppose the use of public land for commercial purposes, purposes which in this case would not only harm the amenity of the national park which surrounds the site but also irreparably diminish the quality of life of local residents.

I urge your department to transfer the site to the National Park, keeping a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 7:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

We have been residents at Echo Point for forty years and Leura for four. We are concerned about the increase in tourist activities without the necessary infrastructure or consideration given to those who live here.

It is a World Heritage area yet it is not being treated as one. Much more care should be taken.

- We object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.
- This Crown Land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever.
- Keep a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only

We are concerned about the:

- *Loss of local amenity*
- *Economic impacts*
- *Environmental impacts*
- *The consultation process which does not seem to be really listening to the views of Blue Mountain residents.*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 6:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Yes to Airstrip!

Just kidding. Its a [REDACTED] stupid idea (seemingly in vogue). I will never visit Uluru or Katajuta again for this very reason , ruining the very essence of a place with annoying low flying aircraft , turning what could have been a lovely sunrise/sunset/any time of day into a [REDACTED] circus where the very few ruin the tranquility at the expense of every one else. Yes I am a local , yes I like hiking and being in the bush and ever since I was a kid , hiking up the Coxs to camp at Jenolan creek just to see fat wealthy non trout fisherman helicopter in, to pretend that they are trout fishermen , I realised that recreational scenic flying is an activity for [REDACTED]. Even now whalewatching on the Beecroft weapons range Im getting buzzed by some low flying chump , so I stay at home , where besides the regular weekend Toll rescue job when some microwave-brained Sydney-Sider axes them self on a clifftop or forgets how to drive properly on Mt Vic pass , the [REDACTED] of the skies is relatively low. I dont just 'object' to this public land being used for commercial [REDACTED] , I am utterly repulsed by the notion that anyone could think it remotely 'OK' , thats you guys I'm talking about. Any how , I will be loading up the mortars in preparation for all out guerilla warfare and seeing as they are rather noisy and somewhat cumbersome to carry on to the roof of the Hydro Majestic why dont you do us all a favour and reject the further degradation and exploitation of this dwindling resource we call 'peace'. Good on yezz.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

No commercial flights over Blue Mountains!!!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 10:15 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. 602686 Comments on proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

We own a cottage at [REDACTED] Medlow Bath. We live in Sydney and typically use the cottage for stays of a few days every two to three weeks.

We wish to oppose the proposed lease on the basis of reduced amenity of our property. We find it impossible to quantify the degree of reduction as we have been unable to obtain any detail of the applicant's business plan. However it is presumably based on an increased use of the airfield by aircraft, with a consequent increase in ambient noise and of vehicle traffic on Grand Canyon Road.

We support the retention of the airfield to a standard suitable for use in emergencies, particularly bushfires. However we strongly believe that we should, as a society, fund this important function ourselves. Using private industry to fund it in the manner proposed does not eliminate the cost, it just transfers it to the people who live in the immediate vicinity. It also sets up a situation where the lessee has a financial incentive to increase traffic and activities. What starts out as a minimalist model – sufficient activity and associated income to maintain the airfield – becomes a pursuit of financial profit. The State government, as the lessee, will have a conflict of interest going forward. If activity and profit increase then the rent it charges can potentially also rise. This will conflict with its responsibility to the local community.

In our opinion the airfield should be transferred to the department that manages the national park that it sits within. This department should receive adequate annual funds to maintain the airfield for emergency use. We are sure that the NSW community would support the funding of this essential activity. The Government should not presume that it would not and should not make such a decision on the community's behalf.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To: Department of Industry (Crown Lands)

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I am writing re the old airfield at Medlow Bath which is located on Crown Land and surrounded by World Heritage-listed National Park.

I understand that lease of this land for the use of commercial aviation including tourism helicopter flights is under consideration.

In my opinion this airfield should be

- considered part of the World Heritage National Park and for passive recreational use by residents and tourists alike.
- for use by airborne emergency services only (rescue and bushfire).
- the broader community of the upper Blue Mts be consulted re a suitable constructive use of this land.

The following comments are based on my experience

- of travelling to and living in Katoomba over several years when bushfires, lost and or injured bushwalkers/ visitors have necessitated access to safe landing fields for the emergency use of helicopters.
- living in Alexandria bordering Redfern between two flight paths, approx 5 km from Sydney airport and 500 metres from Channel 7's base for around 9 years.
- I have found helicopter noise 'menacing' and intrusive (consider visibility too from lower elevation) on my everyday life be it work or leisure but I accept it, regarding emergency or short burst media / news purposes.

Risks and possible negative / unintended consequences of the proposed lease,

- Aviation noise and loss of sightseers: A reduction of enjoyment and amenity for the majority of tourists / sightseers to major tourist lookout areas due to noise 'pollution' for the benefit of a very few who can afford a scenic flight. Helicopters in particular.

- Regulation: if a lease was granted and regulations are set as part of that who will monitor adherence to those regulations? For aviation around major city and regional airports this is a priority. How will this be implemented for a non-consequential commercial venture in a national park bound space? And who will pay for it.?

- Fire risk - stored fuel on this airfield, sparks from any take offs or landings and potentially any accidents which at some point in time might occur.

- Negative Impact on wildlife - in the immediate surrounds of the airfield re noise and 'wind' generated and noise impact, potential propeller kill of helicopters and again noise impact on local wildlife - leading to changes in habitats.

The NSW government does not need revenue from this trivial commercial venture. Wait until Badgery's Creek airport is developed and think of the bigger picture environmentally, for tourism experience, residents / ratepayers amenity.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 10:02 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: frank moon
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am amazed and saddened that we in the beautiful villages of the Blue Mountains have to fight to protect the peace and harmony we so value in this World Heritage Area because of some decision makers within crown lands.

I have lived on [REDACTED] for 30 years and now have a proposed **helicopter flight path directly over the roof of my house!!** – this will affect the way of life and well being of my family and all people living on [REDACTED] (see proposed flight paths helicopter and fixed wing) and should an adverse decision be made we will be left with no option but to galvanise and fight it in the courts.

The interim licence holders have no respect for the impact they are going to have on the people and environment of the Blue Mountains and are business people looking only at the financial gain and their efforts to pacify the communities concerns are hollow and should be treated as such.

The airstrip should be handed back to National Parks / Council and should be used for **emergency services only** and **emergency helicopter use only** – No fixed wing will save the costs of maintaining the strips and these areas could be regenerated by the Community/Parks/Council.

While this proposal affects my family and I directly it will also have serious impacts on the Blue Mountains as a whole with impacts such as noise and aircraft fuel pollution destroying the environment that brings people to the Blue Mountains - whether it be as a resident or day visitor.

Please put the communities interests and environment in front of the greed of a few!

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 9:04 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission Regarding Katoomba Airfield Proposal

Hello

Thanks for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.

As a permanent resident of Blackheath, I am extremely concerned by the premise of commercial helicopter flights operating in an otherwise peaceful National Park and World Heritage Site. One of the greatest drawcards, for both residents and tourists, of the upper mountains is its peaceful serenity. Walking along the cliff tops you can often hear nothing but birds singing and trees rustling.

Commercial helicopter flights will undoubtedly destroy that peaceful serenity for so many people, with little to no benefit to the wider tourism industry and local community. I have read through the detailed fact sheets and FAQs, yet thoroughly reject that there is a public benefit.

While the proposal suggests that there will be tourism benefits, such a benefit would be limited to the miniscule proportion of tourists able to afford such heli tours and the even smaller number of commercial operators who will financially benefit. The externalities and consequences of increased helicopter flights, specifically noise pollution, will be borne by a very large community and the many tourists who have absolutely nothing to gain and so much to lose from the proposal.

The beauty of the Blue Mountains is that you don't need to view it from a helicopter to view and appreciate it's spectacular beauty. It's available to any visitor, wealthy or otherwise. It's also home to tens of thousands of people, the vast majority of whom feel as passionate as I do on this matter. Together we will continue to rally against a proposal such as this that will line the pocket of a small few at the significant expense of the wider community and the serenity of such a national treasure.

Thanks for your time.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:57 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Please do not ruin the peace

I write to protest on allowing helicopter ride at blue mountain region .

The people do not want it , please listen.

Thank you .

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 2:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Objection to development of Katoomba Airfield

Objections to the commercial development of Katoomba airfield surrounded by Blue Mountains National Park, NSW, AUSTRALIA

I am writing to you to voice my strong objection to the proposal to develop Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes as it is surrounded by World Heritage National Park. To proceed with this development is counter to UN and UNESCO advice and threatens the future classification of a pristine wilderness environment. Below are further reasons why I object.

The possible presence of helicopters

Sustainable tourism can operate in the Blue Mountains without the presence of helicopters. It will only benefit a few at the expense of visitors and residents who seek to enjoy the natural environment. Helicopters using the airfield adjacent to the National Park, Grose Valley and Grand Canyon will only create discord and spoil a World Heritage site.

Noise factor

The level of noise created by helicopters and light planes coming and going on a regular basis will change Medlow Bath, North Katoomba and Blackheath dramatically. The very reason people come to the Mountains is to seek peace and quiet in a natural environment. The activities and noise created by a busy airfield will shatter the peaceful place in which we live and others come to visit.

Protection of World Heritage National Park

I accommodate travellers from all parts of the globe. I am constantly told by visitors the Blue Mountains National Park is unique and of world standard. As an asset easily reached from Sydney it is well worth protecting. I would like to see the airstrip returned to the National Park and continue to be used as an emergency airfield, which is how it operates now. We keep hearing how successful tourism is in the Mountains so surely the money can be found to upkeep it from alternative means, for example having an affordable entry fee to the National Park.

From small weekend occupant to unknown scale of commercial contender

When I moved to the peaceful village of Medlow Bath the activities of the airfield did not cause problems. The new applicant seems to be getting the green light without clearly stating in their business plan how big the operation will be. All indications are the operation will be large scale, necessary to repay costs of sealing a tarmac. I see this as a loose, loose situation. Sydney and overseas visitors, along with residents will pay the price to keep a few people wealthy. All visitors will loose out by not actually experiencing the natural beauty and quiet the Park has to offer in its present state.

Three year temporary lease granted without community consultation

I find it hard to believe a temporary lease was granted for 3 years without community consultation. This favours the Larsens enormously and the community unfairly. I would like to see a three year temporary lease given to the community and local groups in opposition, to find alternative ways to fund the upkeep of the airfield. I believe this can be done.

Possible granting of lease to operate during daylight hours

What kind of an existence are we to look forward to with planes operating daily from dawn to dusk for a possible 50 years? Furthermore there are presently no effective controls for monitoring the number, and flying height, of small planes within the sky. And on top of this there may be helicopters doing joy rides. **My current business activities hosting tourists and running art workshops will be compromised.** Visitors will go further afield to avoid the location and house prices will drop.

Length of lease is too long, particularly if the site is overdeveloped

I favour a fifty year lease to keep the airfield as part of the National Park, available for emergency use and alternative funding found through other sources, for example an entry fee to the National Park similar to what occurs in other National Parks such as Ku ring gai National Park.

Overdevelopment of the Blue Mountains

In the future we may look forward to increased noise from the new airport at Badgerys Creek Sydney, the constant and increasing sound of transport trucks on the Great Western Highway, the raising of the Warragamba Dam against UN and UNESCO advice, and the possible commercial development of Katoomba Airfield with planes flying over a World Heritage site.

Why not try to protect a World Heritage site on Sydney's doorstep for present and future generations?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 3:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir / Madam

I am in full support of the proposal for Katoomba Airfield by Fly Blu.

The blue mountains have a strong small but loud group of people that are anti any progress, change or prosperity.

Katoomba and the surrounding regions are in desperate need of more strong businesses and tourism opportunities. When my family visits from other parts of the world there is a true lack of options for them to explore the area of the Blue Mountains. Flights and scenic tours is a great way to showcase the area – In such an iconic place its truly strange that this is not available to do.

The mountains is full of thousands of miles of protected land and national park. Having the airfield in use isn't going to cause the dramatic issues that OurBlueys are promoting by adverts and flyer drops in mailboxes.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 12:06 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the public land that is Katoomba Airfield.

I object to the public land being used for commercial purposes, the noise generated by helicopters in the area has very much destroyed the serenity for people coming to our area to enjoy the National Parks and emerge themselves in the peace and tranquility of the blue mountains. These people are the ones injecting money into the local businesses bush walkers, rock climbers, canyoning your photographers and people stopping by as they drive through. To fly helicopters through it just makes no sense at all, if that is the choice then ultimately you will have made a big mistake and it will cost more than whatever it is you make from this venture.

This land has suffered such injustice at the hands of primates who calls themselves the most intelligent species on earth. The most intelligent species on earth and we have to fight these kinds of actions with letters and petitions so as it seems common sense is not that common at all now since humans will sell anything sacred to them.

I believe this crown land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever what we have here is truly amazing and I'm sure people who come here from the city and around Australia don't select helicopter sounds on their calm app so why would we want to come to the mountains to hear that they might as well stay in Bankstown and listen to helicopters in the comfort of their own home. Sitting in my house on Centennial Glen Rd Blackheath I have helicopters fly over sometimes before the sun is even up all day and late in the evening when I am deep in the National Parks the noise level of helicopters is ridiculously loud compared to trucks brakes or even the train lines.

I think leaving a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergencies is a good idea but to have everyday noise like it has been for the last couple of months is not on.

I moved to the mountains to get away from built up areas and aircraft if this plan goes ahead I will be leaving the area and so will a lot of the people I have spoken to about this, it has truly affected the local township already.

Warm regards,
[REDACTED]

From: Scott Mullen
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:55 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: SUBMISSION for Katoomba Airfield Ref No: LX 602686

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 4 August 2019 at 17:38:43 AEST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUBMISSION for Katoomba Airfield Ref No: LX 602686

Dear Mr. Mullen,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposal of granting a long-term lease of crown land for private profit at the Katoomba Airfield. I find this proposal deeply distressing for multiple reasons which I will list below:

- **Noise impact on people:** From a personal standpoint, as a resident of Medlow Bath, with the airport located at the end of my road, I am deeply concerned about the level of noise pollution this private lease will have on the surrounding residents of this peaceful community. Already many residents near the train line endure the night (and day) long noise pollution of freight trains that literally shake our house as they travel through. The prospect of further noise pollution from helicopter day flights is hard to imagine and would most certainly make me re-evaluate living in the upper mountains. This noise pollution in addition to that caused by the proposed Badgery's Creek airport will surely destroy the Blue Mountains National Park's reputation as a tranquil sanctuary for rest and relaxation, not to mention, threaten its UNESCO World Heritage Listing which is up for review later in the year.

- **Noise impact on Environment:** There are more than 3000 native species within a 5km radius of the airport, including those listed as endangered. The park "protects an unusually wide range of plant and animal species and communities, as well as a large number of threatened, rare and restricted species." (BMNP Plan of Management). We also must consider the potential damage that could be caused to rare and very sensitive hanging swamp habitat from runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the tarmacking of the runway.

- **Beneficial to few, harmful to most:** This commercial lease will see profits in the pockets of few, whilst deeply impacting the larger tourism industry, upon which this local economy is so reliant. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation, rather than spreading the economic benefits to a greater number of local businesses. The Blue Mountains attracts approximately 1.25 million bushwalkers a year, drawn the peaceful surrounds, not to mention the many retreats such as The Vipassana Centre, Dhamma Bhumi, in Blackheath that provide a place for healing and inner peace for thousands of people a year. All of which will be disturbed if this commercial lease is granted, in the name of benefitting a select few.

- **This piece of Crown Land was removed from National Park in the 1960s** on the basis that it would be returned in 1988. However, this did not occur. The Department did not honour the commitment but instead proposed a commercial lease.

- **Aboriginal Land Rights:** The Blue Mountains is home to countless significant and sacred sites of the Darug and Gundungurra people who walked this land long before we set foot on it. I believe that Crown Lands should be managed consistently with, and in a way that facilitates and furthers the objects and purposes of the Aboriginal Lands Rights Act 1983 (NSW). It should be recognised that 'the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 is beneficial and remedial legislation designed to address past dispossession of, and injustice to, Aboriginal people' [1] .

The license granted to Fly Blue Pty Ltd should be terminated according to Licensing of Crown Land Guidelines that permit 'licenses be terminated when an Aboriginal Land Claim has been made over the land' [2]

I would also like to propose that the land be transferred to Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Land Claim no. 49068 registered on 1 July, 2019 with the condition that the airfield is maintained by the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council and available for emergency use only.

Are we willing to threaten the health and well-being of the wildlife and quality of life of residents whilst ignoring Aboriginal Land Rights, all in the name of personal profit?

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[1] Minister for Natural Resources v NSW Aboriginal Land Council (1987) 9 NSWLR 154 per Kirby P at 57; Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council v Minister Administering the Crown Lands Act (2011) NSWLEC 95 per Pain J at [6].

[2] NSW Department of Industry, Licensing of Crown Land Guidelines, July 2018, p.6<<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/165213/Licensing-of-Crown-land-guidelines.pdf&>> accessed 29/07/2019

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 8:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

28 June 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Australia

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated in Medlow Bath, near the Blue Mountains National Park.

I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I live in inner city Sydney, however I stay and work in the Blue Mountains, mainly Blackheath and I visit regularly and often spend time bushwalking there. I love this incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence . It is a respite from my busy life in city for me and my family. It is a unique place and it's classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is so justified.

I feel that the noise of constant helicopter flights from sun up to sunset will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment I will enjoy when and if I plan my future trips back to visit. Asides from the untold damage it could do to an already fragile world. And for nothing more than financial gain, seems very short sighted.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 12:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercial Lease of Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

As a resident of [REDACTED] valley I am writing to strongly oppose the possible commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. These are my reasons for opposing this development;

1.) The flight paths that Flyblue has presented are physically impossible. The winds at Katoomba airfield are predominantly southwesterly, which is why the main airstrip is oriented that way. Flyblue's inbound and outbound aeroplane flight paths approach the runway at a 45 degree angle. It is a physical impossibility to takeoff or land a fixed wing plane at this angle. A plane needs to approach and depart a runway in line with the runway, which is (in turn) oriented to the prevailing wind. This means that there is no way to avoid Mellow Bath being directly overflown, with a massive impact to residents. The flight paths drawn, which currently avoid overflying populated areas, bear no relation to the actual direction of takeoff and landing. Furthermore, they do not describe the climb and descent altitudes as takeoff and landings are in progress. Any attempt to bypass Mellow Bath will be impossible or highly dangerous.

2.) Flight paths go through paragliding airspace.

There is a long established and well used paragliding ramp at Mt Blackheath. Paragliding traffic is high all around the Hargraves and Mt Blackheath cliff line. Flyblue is proposing to fly helicopters through this airspace, which will either be highly dangerous, or shut down this area to paragliders.

3.) Airtraffic is a safety risk to climbers and horse riders.

Immediately adjacent to Mt Blackheath is Centennial Glen stables, a long standing horse riding establishment for tourists and locals. It is located in a natural amphitheatre surrounded by cliffs. The presence of helicopters reverberating off these cliffs not only compromises the peaceful enjoyment of riders but poses a very real risk of horses spooking and injuring riders.

The cliffs under Mellow Bath and along Shipley are also a mecca for rock climbers, with a plethora of established climbing areas in the immediate vicinity. The presence of fixed wing and helicopter traffic approaching and leaving an airstrip as close as 4km away not only interferes with the climber's peaceful enjoyment of their sport but interferes with their safety as it interferes with the ability of a climber and a belayer to hear each other's instructions.

4.) Degradation of World Heritage Area

The noise pollution caused by the proposed airfield will affect the peaceful enjoyment of the bush along Blackheath, Mellow Bath, Grose Valley and Megalong Valley bush walks. The Blue Gum Forest (the genesis of the Blue Mountains National Park) will be directly overflown as will the Govett's Leap Lookout and the clifftop track, The Grand Canyon, Nellie's Glen, The Six Foot Track, and the historic walks around the iconic Hydro Majestic. The pleasure of the very few in the air will interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of the very many in the bush below.

5.) Property Devaluation and loss of amenity. The residents of the Blue Mountains place great value on their peace and quiet. The residents of Mellow Bath, Blackheath and Katoomba deserve to continue enjoying the serenity of their surroundings. People who live between these towns and in the communities of Shipley, Megalong and Kanimbla are even more remote and give up the convenience of towns and cities for the peace and quiet of remote living. To have this shattered by regular aircraft noise defeats the purpose of living in these areas, devalues their dwellings, and imposes only costs with no benefit.

6.) Nuisance to farming operations

Overflying low populated areas does not mean they are unpopulated. I own and operate a cattle property in the Kanimbla Valley, and my southern boundary is on the proposed flight path. I have recent experience with helicopters in the area, as Macquarie Council recently undertook aerial spraying of blackberries and serrated tussock

by helicopter both on my own farm and neighbouring ones. I experienced first hand the considerable noise generated by a helicopter in my area. The approach of the machine could be heard from a great distance even when it was several kilometres away and at a high altitude. My horses were unsettled and it stirred up the cattle, who were already stressed in drought conditions. Having helicopter joy flights come in to give tourists a look at what is happening on my farm would cost me my privacy, my (and my animals') peace and quiet, and my safety.

7.) All costs and no benefit to the local community In conclusion, the local community, the tourists and the environment stand to lose considerably if the airport is operated as a commercial lease. There is no benefit. They lose access to a quiet area they are currently enjoying to exercise dogs etc. Who wants a scout camp or a bush track next to a fenced runway with planes and helicopters constantly taking off or landing? Who benefits from Flyblue's remote carbon offsets? No-one in the community affected. The airfield currently operates as a base for operations in bushfire or emergency, so there is no additional benefit in this regard. There is only one party that is benefitting from this commercial lease, and that party is Flyblue.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Ref No 602686

Date: Tue, 9 Jul 2019 13:32:09 +1000

From: [REDACTED]
To: airfield.submission@crowland.nsw.gov.au

I wish to object to this public land being used for commercial purposes especially aviation tourism. I am happy if a working dirt strip at the airfield be keep for emergency use only.

--

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 10:39 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objecting to the commercialisation of Katoomba airfield LX602686

To who it may concern

As a resident of Blackheath I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield.

The reasons for my objection are many.

My partner and I bought our house in Blackheath ten years ago in order to be able to enjoy peace and quiet after living under the third runway in in the inner west of Sydney for many years. We love listening to the birds and the wind in the trees...and the silence. Silence is a precious commodity these days and one not to be given away lightly. Every visitor we have to Blackheath we take to Anvil Rock. We sit quietly and gaze at the wonder and beauty of a world heritage national park. Every visitor says 'this is so beautiful, so quiet, so peaceful, you are so lucky'. When my partner was diagnosed with ovarian cancer four years ago, the peace, the quiet, the birdsong, became even more important. It is healing, it is soothing, it is life affirming. It gives us joy. We do not want to lose it. And we are not alone in this.

Overwhelming when we collecting names for the petition against this proposal, people agreed with us. What we have is special, they said. It cannot be given up lightly, they said. And certainly not so that a small handful of people can make money from it. This is not a good enough reason.

It makes no economic sense either. Tourists come to the Blue Mountains because of what it currently offers. We know this- they tell us. If we take away the reason they come they will no longer come. Why would they? They will go somewhere else. Having a picnic on Anvil Rock with a helicopter buzzing overhead is not the same. It just isn't. The mountains relies a great deal on tourists coming here and contributing to the economy. They buy local food, wine and art. They stay in local cabins and cottages. They go home and they spread the word. Instagram is full of amazing photos of people enjoying the peace and beauty of our mountains. If it noisy and there is no quietness, they won't come. We will lose that income.

The impact on the environment will also be huge. Birdlife will diminish.

It is fantastic to live here and to visit here now and if this proposal goes ahead it will no longer be fantastic. It, like the birdlife, will be diminished forever.

Fly blue have said they will 'fly neighbourly'. This reminds me of politicians who promise the world then, when voted in, say they can no longer fulfil those promises. Once the lease is signed, that's it! Out of our hands.

I am asking that the airfield is transferred into the hands of the national park and that it can be maintained as a working strip for emergencies only.

I strongly object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

Please do not agree to this

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 4:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ref 602686 The Future of Katoomba Airfield.

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,
The mooted long term lease of the old airfield at Meadow Bath has serious concerns for residents of the Blue Mountains, tourists and patrons of the Blue Mountains and its National Park.
Allowing the use of this site for aviation tourism may satisfy a few high paying tourists but alienate a much larger proportion of New South Wales and interstate residents and tourists who live or love this area for its sustainable natural beauty and World Heritage status. They will not want this compromised by greed and Government indifference to National Park and the surrounding communities' unique qualities.
The NSW state government would be better served developing eco-tourism rather than turn the Blue Mountains World Heritage area into Gold Coast mess with ridiculous theme parks and gauche crass money making ventures. This airstrip should not be used for commercial purposes.
Sydney already looks like a poor equivalent of the Los Angeles slum city. Do we have to trash the surrounding natural beauty as well?
The existing dirt strip at this airfield should be kept solely for emergency use only. Alternatively this crown land should be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
Best Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 5:17 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

To Whom It May Concern,

My words are simple. I attended the small group meeting on day one of the public engagement process. I did not expect much and got what I expected. Fair enough it is a tough gig. This however is not an excuse for a serious lack of information. These sessions were funded by my taxpayer dollars as will be all forthcoming activities related to the proposed lease application.

I hope this forum of communication yields a more prolific outcome than the small group meetings.

I have three key areas that I am most concerned about, the rest are by-products of the three.

1. Economic Impact
2. Environmental Impact
3. Residential Impact

Economic Impact

The Blue Mountains is a microeconomic entity intertwined and inseparable with tourism. The bulk of this economy is dependent on tourism; day trippers and weekenders, largely Sydney siders looking for a day out or a weekend escape somewhere quiet.

Destination NSW (one of the other departments in your cluster) publishes a report annually detailing the monetary gain of this tourism. The link to this report is <https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/travel-to-blue-mountains-snapshot-dec-2018.pdf>

I trust you have read the report and so will simply highlight that even as little as a 10% reduction (i.e.: 500,000 tourists per annum) in this traffic will push many small businesses out of business thereby reducing employment and cause economic disaster for the region.

I question why the Department is spending taxpayer dollars on a business case that has not been substantiated to the community prior to community engagement.

Additionally, no independent economic impact study has been undertaken by the department, yet you continue to push for a new lease irrespective of the disaster it would create economically.

Process is not an excuse for incompetence.

Environmental Impact

This is simply another example of wasting my taxpayer dollars on engaging the community about a plan that has no limits and no consideration or understanding of the impact to the environment.

Why on earth would anyone consider putting a commercial airfield in the middle of a national park let alone a World Heritage Area?

I was surprised to see the flight paths publicly displayed at the drop-in venue for two reasons. First, the worst impact is not where the aircraft fly to, it is where they take off and land from. Helicopters have the highest rate of emissions when taking off and hovering, the impact of this occurring within the National Park (also a World Heritage Area) is a high risk. Second the flight paths go over prime scenic aerial views and local water supplies.

The area within a 5km radius is home to many endangered species, a simple perusal of the EPBC Act of 1999 (<https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about>) will expand on this point. This partnered with being a National Park

and World Heritage Area ticks the three necessary boxes of why this is an environmentally unsound idea. Additional legislation that defines acceptable impact of adjoining lands on National parks include:

1. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/guidelines-for-developments-adjoining-land-managed-by-the-office-of-environment->
2. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/greater-blue-mountains-world-heritage-area-strategic-plan>

A simple read of the above or discussion with the relevant department will expose the short comings of not just a process that considers a lease application prior to clearly understanding the environmental implications but also that the lease applicants need to make money to support growth and investment at the cost of the surrounding environment.

Why has an independent environmental impact analysis not been commissioned, evaluated and presented to the community for comment as a part of the community engagement process.

The process is flawed, and the Department is privy to the business case and claim commercial in confidence when questioned regarding its content.

I would also like to speak to the marketing spin of the lease applicant's website which is riddled with greenwashing as well as whitewashing. None of which state anything conclusive and in the end are unsettling as to what the real plans are.

Local Issues

Medlow Bath is at the heart of the local issues that will need solving. It is not enough for the Department to say that if a lease is granted the next step will be for local government to approve a DA or compliance to local noise and industrial business.

Grand Canyon Rd is narrow impassable in many places by two vehicles. It has a plethora of wildlife crossing the road and already the current traffic related to the airfield do not abide by the speed limit even when transporting aviation fuel. They do not even give way to the plethora of walkers, runners and cyclists who use this road. The Licensees are one of the worst offenders for speeding down this road with zero concern for locals using the road.

It is a misnomer that the airfield is essential for emergency services. In fact, it is only one of several helicopter staging areas and is the most likely one to be cut off due to the remoteness of its location. It is wrong that your lease applicant is scare mongering the community into submission of their business case on the premise that their solution is the only solution to protect the community were a bushfire to come through. This is a complete fabrication and should cease!

There is also the issue of the flight circuit, a 3 nautical mile (5.5km) radius around the airfield wherein an aircraft can fly at any height and any direction irrespective of a fly neighbourly or ERSA instructions. This flight circuit encompasses at least 10km of the Grose wilderness and the villages of Medlow Bath, Blackheath, Katoomba and Wentworth Falls.

Whatever the lease applicants say they will do, they have already shown that their words are not to be believed. On February 3rd 12 flights came and went and they promised all flights would come in from the Grose and not over any homes or villages. I have photos of four of those helicopters that did not do this and instead went almost directly over my home and across Blackheath at approximately 100 ft. I am in that flight circuit and according to CASA they can do whatever they want, which is what they did.

There is also something called creep. For the location to be viable there will need to be thousands of helicopters taking off and landing each year. There will be multiple businesses and operators operating from the airfield (being a hub and spoke model). With this location being so close to the Three Sisters despite the unreliable word of the lease

applicants any of these operators can and will likely do as they wish and there will nothing anybody can do. The bottom line is that Crown Land will be out of their depth trying to manage a full-scale commercial airfield.

Closing

No matter how I look at the issues I keep coming back to my tax payer dollar paying to fix a problem best solved by just allowing the land to be incorporated back into the national park as should have occurred since 1988 and requested by Blue Mountains City Council on two occasions since.

The cost to incorporate the land into the national park partnered with minimal maintenance for emergency services would be far less than the extensive environmental and economic impact analysis required to progress. Additionally, the cost to develop the surrounding community to support the increased road traffic and heavy-duty trucks carrying aviation fuel and passengers all would come at the cost of reduced house values. No thank you. This is Crown land, the peoples land I should not have to suffer for its existence.

Please publish my submission and **keep my name and address confidential.**

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 4:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I write to express my **total objection** to the current proposal to allow a Commercial Development of Katoomba Airfield - this in the middle of a National Park, within a World Heritage Area.

* The noise from the constant taking off and landing of helicopter scenic tours/joy flights would impact negatively on, not just our native plants and animals, but also the local residents and the many thousands of tourists who come to this beautiful area to bushwalk and enjoy the scenery and serenity.

* Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and they should not be allowed to start again.

* Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency.

* The impact on animals could include disruptions to bird migrations, and fauna who are reliant on hearing for the very survival of their species - in feeding, mating and caring for young.

* I object to not just this specific proposal, but **any commercial lease of this area**, now or in the future. The airfield land was intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park, and this is what should occur. A commercial development such as this, within the World Heritage area could put its very status in jeopardy.

* Our World Heritage area needs to be kept in public hands.

* The Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park, still allowing the continued use of the airstrip for **emergency purposes ONLY**.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Government People, I am writing about the proposal of Katoomba Airfield.

Although having the airfield might bring economical growth, it will certainly bring negative impacts to our community, vegetation and wildlife.

The airfield will bring noise pollution to our community, even if you think it won't the engines will rumble and those sound vibrations will bounce off the canyon walls echoing throughout Katoomba, Medlow bath, Leura and many other towns.

After living the majority of my life in Hazelbrook and moving to Shanghai I have learnt that tourism can have negative impacts on the community by bringing a disgusting amount of pollution to the environment. The noise spread from helicopter tours will effect the locals who are merely trying to live their lives without being disturbed by the horrible growl of helicopters.

I know that there are many of us whom are writing to you to try and prevent the destruction of peace (Opening of Katoomba Airfield). So please listen to our plead to protect our community, wildlife, vegetation and beautiful home.

Please return the Airfield to NSW national parks so the blue Mountains can be treasured for many years to come.

Warm Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 3:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield for the use of helicopters for tourism purposes.

I moved to the mountains to get away from excessive noise. I already struggle with the relentless sound of trucks hurtling up the highway.

It's annoying enough in bushfire season hearing the helicopters overhead, but I totally understand that this is necessary. Flying tourists

over our world heritage listed National Park would be devastating to many people in the mountains....and not necessary.

I vote NO!

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

29 June 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated in Medlow Bath, near the Blue Mountains National Park.

I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I've lived in Blackheath for four years and have had a family holiday home here for 20 years. I've now chosen to raise my young family here in the peace, quiet and magic of this relatively undisturbed natural environment.

I feel that the noise of constant helicopter flights from sun rise to sunset will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment my family and I enjoy. This is not why we moved to the Blue Mountains from the inner west flight paths of Sydney.

The flight paths set out by Fly Blue will also I feel, disturb the migration of thousands of yellow faced honey eaters that migrate every year in their thousands. The flight paths will ruin the tranquility of the area and impact the quality of life for the community and animals and bird life. I'd be interested to know if any long term studies show the impact of this kind of development on the wildlife of the area.

I'm not anti-development and understand the positive impact SOME tourism brings to an area but the noise disturbance will negatively impact the tranquility that tourists enjoy in the Blue Mountains. I own a holiday rental in Blackheath and benefit from the tourists in our area but have grave concerns about the impact this commercial lease will have on the surrounding areas.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 3:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686

We live in Blackheath. We are very unhappy with the prospect of commercial aircraft conducting tours or other flyovers in the area where we live, and in the broader National Park and Crown Land areas of the Blue Mountains, as this is not in keeping with the natural and quiet environment for which the area is esteemed.

We wish to say NO to the possible commercial lease of any area for use as an airport or heli-port.

We wish to say YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 2:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference number 602686

1 I OBJECT TO ANY COMMERCIAL LEASE FOR THIS PUBLIC LAND.

The helicopters and small planes will be flying over world listed heritage areas. – Visitors come to the Blue Mountains for a quieter , pollution free area where there is a respite from the main traffic roads and general noise of the cities and suburbs. Bushwalkers who venture into the Blue Mountains National Park make even more of an effort to obtain a silence and peace of the forests.

2 THIS LAND SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN TO THE NATIONAL PARK, IT IS SURROUNDED BY WORLD HERITAGE BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK.

An increase of vehicles driving to the Katoomba airfield on a dirt road will be another addition of noise , pollution and general disturbance of the Blue Mountains National Park.

3 THE AIRFIELD SHOULD BE KEPT FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY .

Bushfires , searches for missing persons , emergency landings for planes or helicopters with mechanical problems.

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains, I pay I think substantial council rates , for this visitors can see and visit many areas and lookouts and use walking tracks in the Blue Mountains with out charge. I live on a road which can be very busy at time because there are two lookouts, and one of these includes areas for hang gliders and Para gliders to take off over the valleys. My rates covers the upkeep of these visitor areas , maintain roads for this area all at no cost to the visitor. Any visitors to the Blue Mountains we need on the ground to spend money in our local shops and cafes, not visitors who have the money to spend on a helicopter flights to view the beautiful bush at a great distance. We need any visitors who are interested in maintaining the beautiful heritage bushland to see it close up and appreciate how unique this area is and why is has been World Heritage listed.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 2:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX No. 602686 (airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to add my voice to those of stake-holders and residents of the Blue Mountains who seek to prevent an increase in helicopter and recreational air-flight activity in the city within a National Park. I say NO to the proposed commercial lease and YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

I agree with the position taken by Katoomba Airfield Community Group that to say No to the proposals by the Lease Applicant, is to "help protect our town, tourist economy, wild valleys and escarpments from helicopter noise."

As a resident of Katoomba, I am in a position to offer comment from my personal experience of helicopters flying overhead. During the past two to three years I have been aware of a significant increase in helicopter flights above my home, in a suburban setting. My experience has been that helicopters arrive with great noise and without warning. They move fairly slowly, engulfing us in noise for a prolonged time. They may circle, hover and quite often return to complete a second sweep of the area. I don't know who operates these flights. I have considered that they may be related to fire-risk. However, the vehicles are unmarked.

They seem simply to intrude, flying so low as to render every feature of the vehicles clearly visible. I am mindful that I and my environment must also be clearly visible to the occupants of these helicopters - in that spirit, I experience a significant intrusion on my privacy.

Recently, I participated in a ten-day Meditation retreat at Dhamma Bhumi (Blackheath). Twice a helicopter flew overhead. I was inside a building on both occasions. The penetration of motor noise gave me to understand that the flight was not high in the sky and far away; rather it seemed to be quite close, a little distance above tree tops.

Regarding the proposed height restrictions - 300 meters over houses and an even lesser level of protection of only 150 meters over wilderness - I would like to offer the comment that "wilderness" is not empty or vacant space, but the habitat or home of living creatures whose hearing and environmental sensitivity is greater than those of human beings. I would also like to stress the caution that it may prove impossible to control flight paths and frequency of flights because ability of government to regulate practice is likely to prove to be minimal.

Approval of helicopter flights seems to be a thin wedge. The FAQ sheet published by NSW Government clearly states that if recreational flight activity, is approved, FlyBlue will apply for expansion and diversification of activity: "Subject to all necessary approvals, FlyBlue proposes to seal one of the two existing runways, to allow recreational, fixed-wing aircraft to use the airfield". I wish FlyBlue well, however, its proposal seems detrimental to the "wilderness" nature of the Blue Mountains.

I would like to see Katoomba airfield integrated into the National Park and flights restricted to those that respond to emergency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 5:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; mark.maloney@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed Lease for Katoomba Airfield. Ref # 602686

Objection to Proposed Lease for Katoomba Airfield Ref # 602686

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to a private entity.

Apart from the issues that have been widely expressed by others (limited community consultation, use of public land for a commercial lease, impact on a World Heritage area etc etc), I wish to also make the following points:

1) Any limitations on flights will be ignored. A precedent has already been set.

To allay concerns about intrusive flight numbers and flight paths, limits will apparently be imposed. Due to a precedent, it is extremely unlikely that this will be adhered to.

When the Wolgan Valley Resort was opened, it was given permission to run four helicopter landings per week. Over a two year period, they repeatedly breached this, running up to SEVENTEEN weekly flights. When they were discovered to be blatantly ignoring this and other environmental conditions, they promptly applied for a variation on the number of allowable flights. Therefore, it is almost certain that this will happen with this airfield.

It should be noted that agreeing to strict conditions and then breaching them and applying for a variation appears to be the standard business model for many new ventures in the Blue Mountains. Examples are the Wolgan Valley Resort in Newnes, the Fairmont Resort in Leura, Centennial Coal in Lithgow etc. See the links below for details.

<https://www.bluemountaingazette.com.au/story/4268434/wolgan-valley-resort-fined-for-excess-helicopter-landings/>

<https://www.bluemountains.org.au/lep-information.htm>

<https://www.bluemts.com.au/news/council-concern-at-centennial-coal-pollution-potential/>

2) It will NOT be beneficial to tourism

One of the justifications is the benefit to tourism. The only tourists benefitting will be the handful of tourists who will be looking at (but not truly experiencing) the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains. The tens of thousands who visit to experience the Blue Mountains either through bushwalking or by visiting the lookouts will have their experience degraded (both visually and audibly).. Therefore the net effect on tourism will be negative.

3) The Blue Mountains World Heritage Listing is under threat

The World Heritage listing is already under threat due to the proposal to raise the height of Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation purposes. Add to this, the impact of 24/7 flights over the area when Badgerys Creek airport is complete and the increasing construction of medium density housing in the Blue Mountains and it appears that the Blue Mountains are seen by many as purely a money making concern and not as a refuge for and protection of native flora and fauna. This death by a thousand cuts has to be stopped.

I urge you to refuse the application for a private lease and to retain the airstrip for emergency operations only.

Sincerely

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 6:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I would like to object to Katoomba airfield being operated as a commercial concern.

I feel that the quality of life for myself, living in Medlow Bath, and other residents of the Blue Mountains, will be greatly impacted by Katoomba airfield operating as a commercial venture.

There will be increased noise from helicopters and light fixed wing planes, flying in and out of the airfield. We are already experiencing helicopters flying low over our home and I have seen at least one large helicopter flying in circles over Medlow Bath and out over the escarpment..

There will be increased traffic using our local roads travelling to and from the airfield. Railway Parade in Medlow Bath, is barely wide enough for two cars to pass in some places as it is.

There will be an increased number of tourists visiting the Blue Mountains to access the commercial flights. Tourism is already impacting on many mountains villages, making it difficult for local residents to find parking and being affected by long traffic queues at the weekends.

There will be an increased risk of plane and helicopter accidents which could start bush fires in hard to access places.

Increased pollution is another concern. The airfield is not far from Medlow Lake which is our local water supply.

The impact on wildlife, particularly birds, which would be affected by increased noise levels is another worry.

There will be an impact on the beauty and peace of the natural environment of the Blue Mountains which tourists want to experience and locals want to preserve.

I would like to see Katoomba airfield maintained for the use of emergency services only and for the safe landing of aircraft in the event of an emergency.

I would like to see the airfield maintained by National Parks and if necessary for the government to allocate extra funding.

I would like the local Aboriginal people to be consulted about the use of the land and to investigate whether they would have a claim on the land. I believe that a claim has been made previously.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 1:26 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Reference: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

Hello Department of Crown Land,

I understand you are considering a lease application for a parcel of land know as Katoomba Airfield that is going to absolutely destroy the Blue Mountains.

Please accept my submission opposing this lease application. I am disappointed that Crown Land did not consult tourists to the area so we could tell you why we travel to the Blue Mountains. I can assure you having a joy flight or listening to helicopters intruding on my experience is not the reason I travel so frequently to the Blue Mountains. In fact, if this goes through the Blue Mountains will no longer be my destination of choice for visiting and bushwalking.

Most weekends I enjoys the Blue Mountains, I have lunch there, I shop at the markets, one of my favourites is the Growers Market in Blackheath, I buy gifts for friends made by the local artisans. Why wouldn't I it is in my backyard and home of incredible talent and the most gorgeous scenery and clear blue skies unmarred by helicopters in Australia.

My favourite walking track is the Grand Canyon Walking Track. I hope I can one day take my children there (assuming you do not destroy this place by allowing this lease application to be approved). There is no way to explain the sounds of nature you experience when walking along this track. There is no way to explain the stress of aircraft especially helicopter noise if you are walking along this track. The reverberating thump, thump, would forever mar the experience. This track leads to the Katoomba Airfield, the flight paths also go right over the Grand Canyon, this is mental and totally inappropriate.

I also love to visit and relax at the Minnehaha Waterfall in Katoomba. Do you realise this is like 1.5km from the airfield? This lease application will destroy the experience. Shoot I go there to listen to rushing water, not helicopters and aircraft taking off and landing 1.5km away!

I am also concerned that this plan will impact our World Heritage status. This makes a big difference to the economy and number of tourists that visit NSW as it is our number one tourist destination. If I do not want to travel there others will not want to either.

I understand that Crown Land cannot do something that impacts World Heritage Values that this is a decision for the Federal Minister for the Environment, for this reason I have cc'd her into my submission.

I also understand that UNESCO relies on the voice of the community to protect and dob in people who put World heritage locations at risk. For this reason, I have also cc'd the two relevant contacts at UNESCO into my submission.

I understand in 1988 you were supposed to return this land to the National Park, why did this not happen?

I submit that this parcel of land should be included in the surrounding national park, let NPWS manage it and leave it for emergency services only. This in my opinion is a no brainer so not sure why we all have to go to so much trouble to do what is incredibly logical.

I say **NO** to the proposed lease application a million times over.

I am happy for this submission to be published but **do not** use my name and address.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield lease

I am writing to express my concern at the proposed use of Katoomba airfield for helicopter tourist flights.

I am a long time visitor and now resident of the Blue Mountains, also have many overseas visitors who love the area.

The appeal of the region is the peacefulness and unspoiled nature of the area. To pollute this with noise would be sad indeed and a backward step given our growing recognition as a nation of the need to preserve our unique environment.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Blackheath



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.
This email is confidential. If received in error, please delete it from your system.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 8:35 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I object to Crown Land being used for commercial purposes for the following reasons : I have lived in the upper Blue Mountains for 43 years and have steadily seen the erosion of this location's beauty and peaceful amenity due to commercial interests where the Big End Of Town with the Big Bucks get their way to extract profits at the expense of we local and caring residents.

The airstrip should be donated to The National Parks for protection (the same as the Radiata Plateau, I might add) and only used in an emergency. When you live here in summer, as soon as helicopters start flying incessantly overhead you wonder" where's the fire ? And just as drones should be controlled to protect resident's right to privacy, commercial sticky beakers should be stopped equally.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

 Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 9:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Future use of Katoomba Airfield Ref no. 602686

To the Department of Industry team

I would like to give a submission to the consideration of the future use of the crown land where the Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath is situated.

I very strongly object to the granting of a long term lease which would allow this crown land to be developed for aviation tourism, including helicopter use.

I am a local resident of Katoomba and a business owner in Blackheath.

The value of the World Heritage listed National Park that surrounds the upper Blue Mountains townships is so very important to me as a regular bush walker and cliff top vista viewer. The beauty, grandeur and tranquillity of our Blue Mountains is enjoyed by the majority of the local residents and the millions of visitors that come each year. So much would be lost if helicopters were allowed to fly in the Grose and Jamieson Valleys! The noise generated by the helicopters would not only wreck the whole natural experience of the human visitors but also cause immeasurable damage to the local fauna.

I think this crown land should be transferred to the National Parks and a working dirt airstrip be kept at the airfield for emergency use only!

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 4:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Referebce No 602686

I am writing about the Department of Industry's consideration that the crown land on the old airfield at Medlow Bath should be granted to a private company for aviation tourism, including helicopter use.

I am writing in opposition to this proposal.

I have lived in the Blue Mountains for the past 36 years and I have seen the slow degradation of this World Heritage listed National Park through insufficient funds in maintaining the landscape, increased traffic pollution, aircraft noise which will continue with the new proposed air pathways and now further noise with low flying helicopters. It is the helicopters which produce most sound pollution especially since the greater use of helicopters used for surveillance and the transporting of visitors to the Resort at Newnes over the past 10 years.

As an avid bushwalker the sound of air traffic is a regular distraction from the tranquil beauty of the bush land and may even deter visitors from the Blue Mountains.

The proposed site is an important public space and I object to it being used for commercial purposes. Once this site is lost to the public it can never be regained.

I have no objection that the strip at the airfield be used for emergencies, but for emergency use only.

Do not further destroy something precious for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 1:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield proposal

July 31. 2019

I wish to oppose the plan to use the airstrip at Medlow Bath for commercial joy flights.

I believe the airstrip should be used exclusively for emergency situations, not a business with potentially negative impact from noisy helicopters.

They would affect both the peace of the National Park and reserves, but also the amenity of residents and visitors in the built environment of the many towns and villages on the interface of the wilderness.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 1:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I believe that the department should not grant a commercial lease to Flyblue in relation to Katoomba Airfield. The airfield is not an appropriate site given its proximity to nearby residential areas and the fact it is surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The excessive noise would result in a significant loss of amenity. Helicopter noise travels huge distances before one even sees the craft. This would degrade the area for residents and tourists. The Blue Mountains is a beautiful and peaceful place to live and it would be a tragedy to allow a licence such as this.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686-Katoomba Airfield-Proposed lease

Dear Mr Maloney,

This is a formal submission for your consideration concerning the proposed 50 year lease of Katoomba airfield, situated on Crown land, to a commercial company proposing joyflights.

My concerns are as follows;

Commonwealth is not a term often used these days perhaps due to the cultural shift favouring individual gain. This proposal would appear to favour the profit motive over the shared heritage of the Blue Mountains Wilderness area. Joy flights are incompatible with wilderness areas at any time due to the noise generated and the facilities required for operation.

Wherever there is public access there is the strong risk of environmental degradation. A commercially operated airstrip will be vastly different to an emergency landing area for helicopters. There is a more suitable location for emergency helicopters at Lomatia Park Springwood and Richmond airbase. This land could conceivably be incorporated into Blue Mountains National Park to further shore up the integrity of this wilderness area for future generations.

This lease is for 50 years which means there is no possibility of redress in the likelihood of negative environmental consequences for a very long time.

I thank you for your consideration of my concerns

regards [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No commercialisation of Katoomba airfield

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 4:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: mark.maloney@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern

This submission is to register my objection to the granting of a commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield.

The airfield site is a public land inholding in the Blue Mountains National Park - part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA) - close to the Grose Valley and the iconic Grand Canyon walk at Blackheath.

The leaseholder is going to be running a scenic helicopter (ie joy rides) business. A business must make money to survive so it is highly likely that the operators will conduct as many flights as they can each day. Helicopter flights currently in the Blue Mountains region can be quite loud but one accepts it as such flights are few and far between. The focus of a money-making business will be to provide flights as often as possible. Looking after the environment and local wildlife will be a distant second.

The noise from take-off and landing will certainly disturb the serenity of bushwalkers, particularly in the Grose Valley region, as well as residents, especially those in the area to the north of the airfield between Blackheath and Wentworth Falls.

In regard to noise, the current licence holders have stated a Fly Neighbourly Agreement. As there is no regulatory authority to monitor or enforce such an agreement, it becomes, in effect, a self-regulating agreement which is hardly ideal and is open to however the leaseholders wish to define it.

A ecological study of the site undertaken earlier this year included information relating to the effect of noise on bird life:

Helicopters are particularly associated with lethal rotor downwash and brownouts: high velocity wind vortices are generated by helicopter blades when the machine is hovering above a runway or bushland. This generates smothering blankets of airborne dust particles, reduces habitat values and exposes vegetation and wildlife to lethal wind velocities. Tiny birds like the 11g Silvereye and the equally small Red-browed Finch would not survive this force and

First-hand accounts from participants in the autumn honeyeater migration counts indicate behavioural impacts that occur when birds encounter machines in the Blue Mountains. In 2018 helicopters involved in the site preparation for the Mt Solitary hazard reduction fire had an New Holland Honeyeater P9 Red-browed Finches P10 5 immediate negative impact on some migrating flocks. Birds 'disappeared from the sky' and numbers counted dropped when the helicopters flew by. Flocks of birds rising from southern Mountains valleys have also been seen to turn back when trains or heavy highway traffic created noise, and visual and air current disturbance across their flight paths; whether these birds return to continue their preferred flight path is not known. During the June survey morning at the airfield a light aircraft circled the facility a number of times and the noise drowned out the bird song; when the aircraft left the bushland remained quite silent and bird activity had noticeably declined.

I believe the best outcome for the site would be to add it as part of the Blue Mountains National Park and for NSW Parks & Wildlife to manage it.

The airfield should, of course, be available for us in the case of an emergency such as medical, small aircraft mechanical issues and, of course, bushfire.

Thank you for taking time to read this submission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 5:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686

Hello there!

I really don't like the term 'crown land', because that land was stolen from Indigenous people.

The Blue Mountains national park cannot be used for commercial flights. You'd be destroying what is a peaceful, beautiful place.

Really, what should happen is that the land be transferred to the national parks. It should be protected always.

The airfield should be used for emergencies only.

This is such a beautiful, magnificent piece of land.

Please, please don't create an airfield.

Why would you do it?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 7:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

This is my submission against the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield now and in the future.

The land should be put into the National Park and kept for Emergency Use only.

I am worried about the noise of the taking off and landing of joy flights and scenic tours. I live in North Katoomba which will be impacted greatly.

The reason visitors come to the mountains is for the quietness of the World Heritage Area. They do not want to hear the noise of aircraft echoed and amplified through the valleys.

There are also international studies that show significant impacts on native fauna, especially the disruptions of migrating birds.

We must protect our World Heritage Area.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Decision-makers,

I have been made aware that the airfield at Katoomba in the blue mountains is being considered for commercial use as a helicopter joy flight pad.

I live in the Blue Mountains and have visited places where such helicopter joy flights are prominent, consistent and extremely annoying presences in the sky (for example in Rome; have you been there?). I am also an economist and see this issue as concerning negative externalities. The external cost to people on the ground, including visitors and residents, is enormous and not taken into account by the producers of the joy flights or the consumers of those flights. In essence, people are either getting rich or some cheap thrills at the expense of many other people and I am sure like me that you do not want to live in a society where such behaviour is encouraged.

I would like to see the cost benefit analysis for this proposal. I specialise in cost benefit analysis and I would like to see the assumptions being made that could possibly support this proposal. I am sure they are very simplistic and very wrong. Will you send me the cost benefit analysis? The impact on tourism in the area will be negative, the impact on residents will be negative, the impact on wildlife and nature reserves and potentially world heritage listings will be negative. Who exactly gains from this proposal?

I hope that you will see that such a proposal is wrong and refuse any applications to commercialise helicopter joy flights in the mountains.

[REDACTED]

--
Boycott cruelty at every meal ... go veg.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 5:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield - proposed lease.

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my sincere and deep concern about the proposed lease of the crown land at Mellow Bath for a commercial airfield.

My understanding is that it is a 50 year lease for a commercial operation with the development of an airfield on land which is wholly within the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park. I believe there is a conflict with the public interest in the proposal. It makes no sense and we stand to loose a lot considering the impact it will have on the longer term preservation of this very important area ecologically, for the feel, SOUNDS and PEACE of the area, nor for the needs of the community.

The noise from helicopters overhead, doing joy flights and small aircraft or even bigger aircraft will be a disaster for the community not only the residents but millions of international and local tourists who visit and use the mountains specifically to take in the natural environment. I do not believe that a commercial operation involving an airfield will provide benefit to only a few wealthy visitors to the mountains but will cause great damage to the greater proportion of tourists who see the mountains by foot, train, bus and car. Part of the appeal of the mountains is the ambiance, points of difference to urban areas and nature.

Using public land for a private recreational development profit which causes such harm to the ambiance of the area, the environment and tourism more generally is a disgrace.

We would all like to see this made an extension of the Blue Mountains National Park.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 10:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

I am writing to express my concerns regarding a proposal to add commercial flights to the Katoomba airfield, Medlow Bath.

Any use of the airfield that is likely to have an impact on its World Heritage values would breach the (Commonwealth) Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

It would require a full Environmental Impact study and the approval of the federal Minister for the Environment.

No such study has been done, nor any such approval given.

The major impact would be noise, especially from helicopters and low-flying aircraft. This not only affects all those who wish to enjoy the park in all its grandeur and spectacular scenery, but also the wildlife. The park protects a large number of threatened, rare and restricted species.

It is my understanding that as of today over 12,000 people have signed a petition objecting to the airfield use and I would respectfully ask that you consider the matter carefully.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 4:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Flag Status: Flagged

Regarding the potential granting of a long term lease at Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism

I wish to include my comments to the discussion

- 1 I object to public land being used for commercial use, particularly noisy aircraft which will affect the public amenity of local residents and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area
- 2 This piece of land which is surrounded by National Park should be sold or gifted to the National Park as per previous plans for this land
- 3 The airstrip should be kept for emergencies use only

The process that has been undertaken to date appears to me to be intentionally underhanded or in the very least poorly executed

The local community deserved to have a say in the process way before it got to this point

The process seems to favour the commercial operators at the expense of the local community

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:35 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission, Proposed Katoomba Airfield Lease

This submission is my written objection to the potential increase in aircraft flights over the Blue Mountains from the proposed use of Katoomba Airfield as a tourist “joy flight” operation. This is Crown Land and therefore owned by all Australian citizens. Usage should be limited to emergency situations only, for example air ambulance and bush fire management, not used for private commercial benefit.

I live in Winmalee in the lower Blue Mountains but I am not immune to the noise from a range of aircraft including helicopters. Operators fly over my home regularly day and night as they travel to and from Sydney to the Upper Blue Mountains and beyond. I can only imagine that a commercial airfield operating in Katoomba would be used as a pick up and drop off site and as a consequence ALL Blue Mountains residents and visitors would experience a massive increase in aircraft noise. Commercial interests would dictate an increase in the number of flights and those with money would see this as a way to avoid road transport which would ultimately mean more aircraft travelling over the Blue Mountains with all the associated noise.

Importantly, the environment and natural soundscape is fundamental to the Blue Mountains experience and has been a major factor for those who choose to live here. The noise created by helicopters as they hover over scenic spots and fly over homes is intrusive and no so-called measures to limit this would be effective. A helicopter makes so much noise that it can be heard long before it crosses over and long after it disappears.

Tourists are attracted to this World Heritage Listed Region because of this environment and increased aircraft noise would only deter people from coming here. Many Sydney people use the Blue Mountains as an escape from the noise and pollution in Sydney and come here for the outdoor activities. Why would anyone want to go bushwalking or linger outdoors with aircraft overhead intruding on their experience?

Importantly, our World Heritage listing is already at risk from Badgerys Creek airport and the proposed raising of the Waragamba Dam wall and the proposed Katoomba Airfield lease will be just another nail in the coffin. Our tourist industry has grown markedly since we achieved our World Heritage listing. I read recently that in Peru, aircraft flights are not allowed over Macchu Pichu as it is a World Heritage Listed site, albeit man made. Yet we in Australia, supposedly more environmentally aware, are expected to accept aircraft noise over this World Heritage Blue Mountains Region. Why is the Blue Mountains with its natural environment not being given the respect that it deserves?

Added to my concern regarding this whole public submission process is the lack of information on the number of flights and flight paths associated with the proposed lease. Also the length of the proposed lease which suggests a life time of noise pollution. I can only surmise that withholding this information from the public is an attempt to minimise opposition. This is not acceptable and no amount of spin on the “benefits” of this proposal or the “altruism” of the proposed lessors in offering access during emergencies makes up for the impact of this proposal on the day to day lives of those living and visiting the Blue Mountains. The future enjoyment which should be preserved for future generations is also at risk if this commercial lease is approved.

Therefore I am asking that this lease proposal be denied and Katoomba’s Airfield be solely used for emergencies, not commercial interests.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 2:37 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686, Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am making this submission in **support** of the proposed long term lease.

I live in [REDACTED], Blackheath approximately 3.5 kilometres from the Katoomba Airfield and 2.5 kilometres from National Parks and Wildlife Service helicopter heliport.

My **support** is for the following reasons.

- **Rights of aviators.** I am a supporter of light aviation even though I do not own or operate light aircraft. I believe pilots and other small aviation operators have a reasonable right to fly aircraft across the Blue Mountains and have access to an appropriately managed airfield.
- **Private Lease verses Public Ownership.** I believe that the success of the Airfield is much more assured if Lessee operated rather than by a Government instrumentality. Government budgetary situations are such that its limited financial resources should be services driven and it would be difficult to make an argument for NPWS or RFS for example to maintain and operate the Airfield. An example of an airfield going into private ownership is The Rylstone Airpark. This once neglected Council owned airstrip is now an established and well maintained facility with installation of a aircraft fuel facility and a number of privately owned aircraft hangers now in use. I refer to this as an example of success and in no way envisage that Katoomba Airfield would be used in the same way.
- **Community Benefits.** Upgrading of the Airfield and having it available to other services such as NSW Police, NSW Rural Fire Service and other emergency services creates a genuine asset which will be beneficial to the whole community. Climate change, increased population growth and development indicates the increased need for emergency services in the future.
- **Fly Blue Proposal.** The proposal that Fly Blue presents, as it currently stands, is a responsible plan for the Airfield that takes into account potential effects on local residents, recreational users, tourists and the environment.
- **Further approvals.** This proposal is for a long term lease which I support. If the lease is granted than I understand further approvals such as Development Applications need to be approved by Blue Mountains City Council, flightpaths settled, etc. This gives further opportunity for examination and refinement of the proposal.

- **Safety.** I recognise the airfield as an important asset for light aviation travelling between the Sydney basin and Western airfields, such as Bathurst, Mudgee or Rylstone. For safety reason a landing strip between the two regions is major safety resource.
- **Noise Issues.** My home location is regularly overflown, multiple times daily, by light aircraft with only sporadic helicopter activity. Pilots maintain the appropriate height above residential areas and this does not cause me irritation or concern. The occasional aircraft noise is a pleasure compared to the almost constant noise of the use of compression breaking devices used on truck travelling on the Great Western Highway through Blackheath.
- **No prolonged air activity.** The proposal by Fly Blue, involves aircraft landing and taking off and rules out, joy flights, pilot training and repeated circuits of the airfield.
- **Adjacent Helicopter Activity.** The National Parks and Wildlife Service maintains and uses a heliport behind its depot on Govetts Leap Road, Blackheath. This facility is within several hundred metres of the residential area. I am not aware of any complaints of noise from helicopter activity at this location.

I Would appreciate my submission be taken into account and am happy to receive further correspondence or be contacted regarding the proposal.

██████████.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 3:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to expansion of Katoomba airfield to commercial helicopter rides: LXC 602686

To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my objection in the strongest terms to the proposed commercial operation of Katoomba airfield to allow for helicopter rides etc. I am a frequent interstate visitor to the iconic and incredible Blue Mountains. I visit there as it is a place of incredible beauty, tranquility and natural wonders and it is the perfect place to escape the every day and to fully relax. There are very few places like it in Australia. Many millions of tourists from all over the world do exactly the same as me. I am horrified at the thought that this peaceful and beautiful place could become the subject of helicopter and joy flights for a wealthy few tourists, at the detriment of everyone else who currently loves this place just as it is.

This world heritage area is home to many unique and vulnerable species and they are a tourist attraction in their own right. The disturbance of airspace could lead to their down fall.

Please return the airfield to National parks to be used for emergencies only.

Please leave the Blue Mountains in peace and without the aerial intrusions of joy flight aircraft. This beautiful place deserves to be fully protected for generations to come. It is best explored on foot to appreciate its unique wilderness, scenic outlooks, Flora and fauna and tranquility. Please do not jeopardise its future!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 11:04 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: crownland proposal for Katoomba airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to object to the use of the old Katoomba airstrip (Medlow Bath) for commercial purposes. Horrors !! Although I don't live close to that area, I can understand how the immediate residents must feel about the prospect of commercial aircraft especially helicopters taking off and landing on that piece of land which is so close to the World Heritage listed National Park. I live in [REDACTED] and already I see and hear an increase in the number of helicopters flying over my home. Sometimes they fly so low, the noise is deafening. If I am out in my garden, I can see the people in the aircraft.

I believe that crown land at Medlow Bath should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever, keeping a working dirt strip at the old airfield for emergency use only.

I strongly believe that tourism is having a very negative impact on our World Heritage listed Blue Mountains in many ways - e.g. road traffic numbers, parking problems in many areas, lack of courtesy on the part of many tourists causing disruption, disappointment and frustration for local residents.

I say a big NO to the use of the Katoomba Airfield for commercial aviation tourism. NO NO NO.

REGARDS,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 4:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Commercialisation. Just Say NO.

Hi,

As a long standing member/user of the Grose, I've been climbing in the blue mountains for many years., Indeed, i'm even considering buying a house in Blackheath. The commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield would make me think again about this choice, and I'm strongly against it's use for commercial purposes.

It would be great if you could consider transferring this to the National Parks service, so that it can be preserved, for others to enjoy. At a minimum standard, a working dirt strip should be kept at the site for emergency use.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 11:37 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Importance: High

To Whom It May Concern

Katoomba Airfield - proposed granting of long term lease for private helicopter use

I've enjoyed the outdoor amenity of the Blue Mountains since university days in the 1970s - busk-walking , canyoning, camping and rock-climbing - and raised my children to similarly appreciate, respect and enjoy with the responsibility that goes with being guardians of this land.

To visit the likes of Blue Gum Forest, Asgard's Swamp, Ikara or Narrow Neck, to enjoy this peaceful serenity, has to be experienced to be truly understood.

30 years ago I experienced similar serenity in the Himalayas of Nepal, have returned several times, including just two months ago, when the escalating use of helicopters became obvious. Choppers were overflying Namche Bazaar, not far from Mt Everest, perhaps every 5 minutes, and the noise echoing through the valleys requires no description. Paradise lost one might say.

I believe we are at similar risk.

Yes there is a need for emergency services - I have personally benefitted from these - but joy flights for the privileged few are another issue.

A "benefit" for so few, at such cost to so many.

And with little or no significant benefit economically to the Blue Mountains community.

As a general practitioner I encourage people to go bush, for the sake of their health.

Many choose to move to the Mountains to escape the big smoke for a healthier way of life.

Similar efforts with helicopter enterprise were defeated by popular public engagement and vote, in 1995 I think, thanks to Bob Debus, then Minister for Environment.

Return of this Crown Land to National Park status, with reservation of Katoomba airstrip for emergency use only, seems to me a most reasonable and responsible decision under the circumstances.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 4:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba/Medlow Bath Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Judging by my letterbox today, opponents of the above project certainly appear to be creating a great deal of 'noise' around the above decision, so much so that it occurs to me the other side of that noise may be obscured.

Accordingly and subject to appropriate consideration of community safety and environmental protections, I write to express my support for the Airfield. At the very least an upgraded aviation facility must be a great benefit to the local community *vis-à-vis* activities like air rescue and fire-fighting, two activities that are essential in the Blue Mountains and almost certain to increase. Then further, the commercial use of an airfield should bring more jobs; greater tourism revenues; and greater public revenues by way of the lease arrangements...all of which should benefit local residents.

With terms that recognise and protect both community safety and the environment, an upgraded, active airfield appears to me to be a 'win' for all involved.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 12:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I'm writing to voice my strong objection to the proposed commercial use of crown land for aviation tourism.

The Blue Mountains is a unique and precious ecosystem which I believe, is managed well by the national park. Since the early 1980's my husband and I have enjoyed numerous adventures in the mountains with friends, family, scouts and international visitors. I could say much about my experiences, but overall the Blue Mountain's pristine, majestic wilderness revives my soul and gives me a feeling of calm and optimism. To think that visitors to the area may soon have to endure noise pollution from aircraft, used for commercial joy flights, upsets me. I am against this activity not only for myself, but for future generations of bush walkers, residents and equally importantly, for the creatures that live in the bush. Noise stress will affect them too. Now, more than ever, our young people need to know we care about the quality of their future. We must take action to preserve our natural heritage.

Please help to protect the special heritage value of the Blue Mountains by transferring the crown land, which is the old airfield at Medlow Bath, to the national park.

I agree with KACG's advice to keep the dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 3:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686 (the old airfield at Katoomba/Medlow Bath)

Re: The old airfield at Katoomba/Medlow Bath
Ref No. 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I oppose the resumption of commercial flights at the old airfield at Katoomba/Medlow Bath. The peace and quiet of residents in the upper Mountains and further afield, will be lost for the benefit of just a few tourists and private operators. While the old airfield could be retained for emergencies, this public land should be incorporated into the surrounding national park for its permanent protection.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 9:54 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF # 602686 - FUTURE KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: REF # 602686 - FUTURE KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

It is most distressing for our family, as local Blue Mts residents, to hear of these profit-driven plans to develop the crown land at Medlow Bath for aviation tourism. Some of the **important reasons that this development should not go ahead:**

1. it is **unreasonable and unacceptable that public land is being used for commercial purposes.**
2. This area, completely surrounded by World-Heritage-listed National Park, is unique and part of an international treasure of precious wilderness that would be overwhelming negatively impacted by the significant noise, visual and air pollution of a commercial venture such as this. **This crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever.**
3. it is reasonable to assume that the dirt strip at the airfield could be retained **for emergency use ONLY.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref no 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I strongly object to the use of this airfield for aviation tourism largely because of the noise pollution it would cause. People live in the Blue Mountains so that they can enjoy the peace and quiet. The thought of helicopters using our airspace other than for emergency use is horrifying - they sound like airborne whipper snippers! This is Crown Land that should be part of our national park. If a working strip is needed for emergency use that is fine - we can all understand that.

Thank you for adding me to the list of people who enjoy our way of life as it is,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 3:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Feedback. Ref No 602686

We are writing to express our deep concern about the proposal to approve a long-term lease of Katoomba Airfield to commercial enterprise. We reside in Wentworth Falls and prior to moving here regularly stayed in a family owned holiday home in South Leura for over 35 years. We recall the 1980's when joy flights from the airstrip were permitted. The noise of those aircraft was disturbing to residents, wildlife and anyone enjoying the great outdoors. That was prior to the exponential rise of tourism from China, Korea, India and other countries due to cheaper travel.

Please leave the airstrip under the protection of the National Park Service and keep the dirt strip for Emergency Services use only.

I list below our main points of opposition to the proposal and request that common sense and protection of the environment for future generations prevails over greed.

1. This airstrip is surrounded by World Heritage listed National Park. Allowing commercial flights in and out of the airstrip will have detrimental impact to the surrounding flora and fauna from noise and air pollution, not just from the aircraft but from the increased buses and cars entering the area ferrying tourists.
2. The noise impact has been assessed to impact everyone residing anywhere near their flight paths. They may fly up the Grose Valley, but the sound carries to all the residents nearby. In north Wentworth Falls we can hear planes and helicopters day and night that are flying along that valley and they are at much higher elevations than these aircraft will fly. People seek to live in the Blue Mountains by choice. It is a clean and quiet environment. Introducing extra air traffic in the local area will only be a step backwards and degrade what is a peaceful oasis still within reach of Sydney. We moved here permanently from Sydney to escape the endless sound of planes and traffic. If there are planes and even worse, helicopters buzzing over us we will have wasted our money.
3. Guarantees from the lessee that flights and aircraft will be restricted is nonsense. They will say whatever they have to in order to win the long-term lease and then who will police them? What guarantee will there be that in a few years they don't sell it on to an overseas consortium from Asia who will then fly day and night? These people are in business to make money, and if there is an increase in demand from tourists, they won't say no. The local environmental impact will be of no concern to them. It will be out of the government's hands and out of control. There is far too much risk in passing this land across to private enterprise.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 1:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference No 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I would like to make a submission regarding the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba airfield. I live at [REDACTED] Medlow Bath and consider that commercial use of the airfield is not appropriate for the following reasons:

1. The airfield is surrounded by the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park. Of note the airstrip is located geographically close to major and popular access points for the park including Evans Lookout, Govett's Leap, Pulpit Rock, Anvil Rock, Perrys Lookdown and the Grose Valley. Any landings and take offs would certainly impact on the solitude and beauty currently experienced at these locations. The area is also unique in that the Grose Valley is untouched right down to Grose Gorge near to the junction with the Nepean River. This is in contrast to the valleys such as Jamison and Megalong on the other side of the ridge.
2. Commercial use will inevitably lead to increased plane and helicopter use for joy flights that will impact the surrounding area.
3. There is no need for a commercial airstrip in this area. Joy flights could be operated from strips located within the Sydney Basin e.g. Richmond, Bankstown and Camden. There is no demand for commercial use other than joy flights. I believe the airstrip has not been used for over 10 years.
4. The roads leading to the airstrip are not suitable for increased traffic associated with commercial operations. Railway Parade, Rutland Rd and Grand Canyon Rd are all narrow and unformed. They are not suitable for increased tourist traffic, fuel trucks or buses.
5. Current residents of Medlow Bath have chosen to live there because of its solitude and quietness. There are houses that will be directly impacted by the noise of planes taking off as well as helicopters landing and taking off. Residents are more than happy to put up with this noise for emergency reasons, but it is unfair to impact on their amenity so that wealthy tourists can fly, for example, from Katoomba to the Wolgan Valley.
6. Even if the current proposed lessees, Flloyd and Derek Larsen, have noble intentions regarding caring for the environment and reducing impact on local residents, I feel concerned that future lease holders may further develop the airstrip and further increase the impact on the Blue Mts National Park and surrounding townships.

I strongly suggest that the airstrip be taken over by NPWS and maintained for emergency use. NPWS would be best placed to determine the need for an airstrip versus a helicopter only facility.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 8:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Opposition for commercial helicopter flight license LX 602686 operating from Katoomba

Dear Crown Lands Committee,

I live in [REDACTED] in the Blue Mountains and oppose the proposal to allow to commercial helicopter tourism to operate because the operation will benefit a small few to the detriment of the many, who will have to endure the noise pollution. Furthermore, the airfield is on public land. It is better to remain as an occasional emergency airfield rather than a disruptive commercial airfield.

I urge you to turn down the proposal to permit commercial helicopter tourist flight operate from the airfield.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 11:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Katoomba Airfield Lease

I am writing to you to voice my concern about the potential lease of crown land to a commercial enterprise.

The land at Medlow Bath is surrounded by National Park and should not be used for commercial purposes. The noise and disruption joy flights create are outweighed by the loss of peace and quiet expected in a World Heritage area. It is public land and I object it being used for commercial purposes.

This land must be transferred to the National Park and protected. The dirt airstrip should only be used for emergencies.

In the current environment it is common for public property to be sold or given away to private interests. This has to stop! Or our children and grandchildren will be left the poorer for it.

With great concern,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 1:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I strongly object to this airfield project. It will destroy the beautiful BM environment and kill the tranquility of the Mountains

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 5:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Our Names/Address:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

We strongly object to this public land being used for any other purpose than as an emergency airfield. As the climate becomes more extreme there will be even more risk of fire hazard from extreme tourist influx. This precious area should be part of the National Park with ongoing protection.

Concerned citizens of our majestic Blue Mountains.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To whoever this may concern,

I am writing to ask that the Katoomba airfield not be leased out commercially. What a pity to ruin the peace, quiet and tranquility of the Blue Mountains. It is this long held reputation of peace and tranquility which is its biggest draw card for tourism in the first place. If the airfield is leased it will disturb wildlife, residents and tourists alike. Not to mention increase air pollution in the area.

Please consider these important issues.

Kind regards from a very concerned citizen, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 11:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Submission about Katoomba Airfield (LX 602686)

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to advise you, that as a resident and ratepayer of the City of the Blue Mountains, I welcome the proposed redevelopment of the Katoomba airstrip for commercial purposes.

I also advise that I object to being dictated to by small but vocal minority of residents (I doubt many of them are ratepayers) of regressive luddites that interfere in the economic advancement of the Blue Mountains LGA.

Of course, I am referring to the **Katoomba Airfield Community Group (KACG)** who have been lobbying for signatures to support a petition calling for a ban to the airfield redevelopment. On two non-consecutive occasions, I was asked to support the ban but when questioned about why there should be a ban, both members of the above group were unable to articulate any reason that made logical sense. Take a look at this group's website, the top three reasons for objecting to the airfield's redevelopment are:

1. We object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
2. This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
3. Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

None of these bullet points are reasons for declining the re-development of the airfield. The first "reason" is ludicrous and is simply a statement of position, the second reason is illogical as the land the airfield is located on will always be there and has already been developed as it was a working airfield with regular light aircraft flights. The third "reason" will require regular maintenance to ensure it is fit for purpose for emergency use. The commercial redevelopment proposal can be designed to ensure that the airstrip is maintained and can be used for emergencies.

I will now outline my reasons for supporting the redevelopment of Katoomba airfield using headings usefully provided by the KACG.

Gain in Local Amenity

A commercial redevelopment will increase the already high esteem that tourists have for the Blue Mountains LGA. Helicopter flights proposed by the redevelopment will be popular with tourists wishing to enjoy a truly unique experience of viewing a world heritage sight from the air. The proposal is not without precedent given that the Morrison Government approved a helipad with up to 30 flights a year on Lake Malbena in Tasmania, a world heritage sight in August 2018. The Federal Environment Minister's delegate determined that the proposal was unlikely to significantly impact a matter of national environmental importance and did not require federal assessment or approval, although this determination is disputed by the usual anti-development luddites. However, there are scenic tourist flights over Kakadu National Park (I've taken one), as well as Shark Bay and Monkey Mia. These initiatives have resulted in no loss of amenity to the local areas servicing tourists.

Economic Impacts

The proposed redevelopment of the airfield will bring an economic gain for the upper Blue Mountains area. Tourist numbers to the Blue Mountains continues to grow year-on-year. Figures provided by Destination NSW shows that the "Blue Mountains received over 1.1 million domestic overnight visitors "up by 9.2% on YE Dec 17. Visitors spent nearly 2.6 million nights in the region - up by 8.0% on YE Dec 17." In addition, "Eat out, dine at a restaurant or cafe" (61.8%) was the most popular activity undertaken by visitors to the region, followed by **bushwalking or rainforest walks (49.5%) and 'visit national parks or state parks' (46.6%)**." [my emphasis]. The primary purpose of visits to the Blue Mountains is for a 'holiday' according to Destination NSW and, speaking as an accomodation provider for said tourists, many of these are searching for unique experiences in this world heritage area. Helicopter rides of the area will be one such unique experience.

Further from Destination NSW, "Domestic overnight visitors spent \$406 million in the region - up by 6.9% on YE Dec 17. On average, they spent \$158 per night - down by 1.0% on YE Dec 17." This spend will likley increase with the commercial re-development of the airfield and will benefit the local economy immesely. There will also be opportunities for the Council to extract revenue from both the lesees and tourists to provide improved community services, and ease the financial pressure on overburdened ratepayers.

Environmental Impacts

As usual with regressive luddites, these impacts are never articulated into logical arguments. On the KACG website is the usual un-scientific mumbo jumbo about climate change and CO2 (plant food) that no-one in that group has the qualifications to state.

Tourist flights, and other commercial aviation activity, has taken place at the airfield previously and over extended periods of time. There does not appear to have been any environmental degradation to the area, and KACG admits that no (reputable - meaning a study that determines findings acceptable to KACG) study into the impacts of helicopter noise has on the environment. In any case, the lease can be structure to limit the number and duration of flights to appease the envrionmentally sensitive souls that **inhibit** economic growth in the area. It should also be pointed out that in high season, the police rescue helicopter makes several flights a day over the Jamison Valley looking for lost tourists and this activity does not seem to be objectionable from an environmental perspective. Furthermore, commercial flights from Sydney Airport regularly fly over the Blue Moutains heading westward so the area already has a significant aviation footprint that will not be significantly altered by the commercial redevelopment of the airfield.

I do have an **real** environmental concern regarding the redevelopment of the airfield and that relates to the storage of aviation fuel on site, its correct storage and risk mitigation factors needed in the event of a bush fire in the area. If the avaition fuel was to ignite then the resulting devation would be significant and an irreprable loss of world heritage is possible. The Department (and the lessee)would need to satisfy the community that the aviation activities on site have a robust risk management plan in place is adequate for the risks that exist and that the plan is approved by the Blue Mountains City Council emergency management team and the local area emergency crews.

The Consultation Process has been fine from my perspective. In fact, the KACG were kind enough to deliver leaflets that raised awareness of the proposal which motivated me to write this submission.

I am happy to discuss my submission with you further if you desire it and my contact details are below.

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 7:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au;
airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba airfield submission

Hi,

I'm a resident of the Blue Mountains (Faulconbridge) and I object to the airfield being used for commercial purposes.

As public-land I don't believe it should be leased for commercial gain, ultimately the leasing of the airfield would benefit few (operator and tourist) at the detriment of the many (noise pollution for residents and 'ground' tourists). I don't believe this is just.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED].

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 11:45 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref # 602686

To the Department of Industry, Crown Lands

Ref # : 602686

In relation to your consideration of Crown Lands being used as an airfield surrounded by world heritage National Park Blue Mountains, that is to be leased for commercial purpose.

My wife and I have recently moved to Wentworth falls in the Blue mountains, we have dreamed about leaving the noisy hustle of the city, for the quiet slow pace of the Mountains for years.

When we first read about this radical shortsighted concept we were in total disbelief and are both outraged and completely reject this proposal.

The National parks and Wildlife has been doing an exceptional job in conserving our World Heritage Listed National park, and it is our belief this crown land should be placed in their custody, so they can continue to conserve and protect it for generations to come.

Conservation is the key to its future, the idea of hundreds of planes and helicopters carving up the skies thrashing about and polluting the tranquility of this unique asset is "hideous"

Given there is major issues with climate change, pollution and over consumption to say the least, it is a frightening thought this concept should even be a conversation.

Our suggestion in to keep a dirt strip at the airfield strictly for emergency only.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 11:06 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I would like to make a submission against the new commercial lease of Katoomba airfield on the following grounds:

I OBJECT to any COMMERCIAL lease for this PUBLIC land.

This land should be PUT INTO THE SUROUNDING NATIONAL PARK.

The airfield should be kept for EMERGENCY USE ONLY such as fire fighting.

NOISE from joyrides and tourist flights disturbs the peace and tranquillity of the Blue Mountians for the benefit of the few who can AFFORD it.

--

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686

Dear Department of Crown Lands,

I wish to register my strong opposition to proposal ref No LX 602686.

As a Blackheath resident who hikes weekly on local trails near Katoomba airfield, I couldn't possibly be more opposed to the idea of regular helicopter and fixed wing flights in the upper Blue Mountains.

The natural beauty of the Blue Mountains canyon system, such as the Grose Valley, provides unique viewing for tourists and locals alike. The canyon system also has a unique effect on sound from passing air traffic. Occasional flights over the upper Blue Mountains are not uncommon, rescue helicopters and NPWS are often carrying out work in the Grose Valley. Helicopter noise reverberates in the Grose Valley and can actually be heard from my house, some 2kms distant. If one happens to be hiking in the Valley while the aircraft is overheard, the noise becomes an echoing feedback which dominates experience until the aircraft has passed.

The Fly Neighbourly policy offered by the submission is not enforceable and flight height and route can be bypassed by pilot decisions due to weather and safety. I've not been told of any reliable method this policy could be enforced. In any case, all flights on the proposed route would have significant noise impact within the Blackheath area, and Grose Valley in particular.

If this proposal was granted, it would be a disaster affecting the experience of thousands of visitors to local lookouts such as Govetts Leap, Evans Lookout, Pulpit Rock and Perry's Lookdown. Hikers on the many trails in the area and local residents would also be seriously impacted. The number of visitors to Blackheath has steadily increased over recent years and is orders of magnitude greater than the small number of tourists who can afford scenic flights.

I am convinced the Department would find it very challenging to describe a case where this proposal benefits the local community and tourists on the ground. The proposal appears to disproportionately benefit the commercial operator and a couple of local tour companies.

Additionally, I believe regular flights to and from Katoomba airfield may seriously jeopardise the existing Blue Mountains UNESCO World Heritage listing. The cumulative impact of losing World Heritage status would far outweigh any business proposition for commercial use of Katoomba airfield. Safety is another major concern for the Department as the airfield is bordered by high voltage power lines.

I sincerely ask the Department to reject the proposal and work with the NPWS to incorporate Katoomba airfield back into the Blue Mountains National Park, restricting air traffic to emergency use only.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 11:45 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I am making an objection to the proposed leasing of Crown Land to a private company for the following reasons:

1. The land was excluded from Blue Mountains National Park for a period of time and was then intended to be returned to the Park. It should not be available for lease, as it is public land and already has a greater value as bushland. This land should now be returned to NPWS to be managed as part of BMNP. I have no objection to the current gravel runway being maintained for use by emergency aircraft.
2. The proposed use of the land by the proponent is substantially unknown as to the types of aircraft and the frequency of flights. It is likely however that commercial reality will require frequent aircraft movements: this is unacceptable close to and over National Park as well as neighbouring townships. Light aircraft, in particular helicopters, are extremely noisy and will have a great adverse impact on quiet enjoyment of the mountain environment.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 8:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Ref no: 602686

Submission from:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to strongly object to any proposal to grant commercial leasing or any move that would allow for the commercial use of the Crown Land at Medlow Bath, known as Katoomba Airfield.

Firstly, this would be a misuse of public land, especially given it's location surrounded by what is not only National Park, but World Heritage Wilderness Area. Our governing authorities and legislators at all levels have a responsibility to protect the integrity of these areas from pollution and despoilment.

Commercial aviation or "joy flights" would simply lead to unacceptable noise in the surrounding wilderness areas, and despoilment of their unique character and enjoyment by all.

I must add that beyond our obligations to protect wilderness and national park areas such as these for their own sake, there is the issue of the rights to enjoyment of this wilderness area by not only local outdoor lovers, but massive numbers of Australian and overseas tourists who access the Blue Mountains National Park, as the biggest and most accessible from Sydney.

There is also the issue of noise generated affecting local residents and business operators which again would make commercial aviation use unacceptable.

I therefore ask you to ensure the protection of this critically situated piece of land and it's surroundings, by incorporating it into National Parks, and ensure appropriate protection indefinitely. This won't ever be secured under Crown Land designation.

Under this move, there should be provision for a functional airstrip to be retained, for Emergency use only.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, and look forward to a positive outcome for the Blue Mountains community, our environment, local and national wilderness protection and tourism, as well as our greater national and international obligations and interests.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 3:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Department of Industry, Crown Lands
PO Box 2155 DANGAR NSW 2309

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
! August 2019

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed lease of the old airfield at Mellow Bath.

It is Crown Land that is completely surrounded by National Park, and as such should NOT be leased for commercial purposes. Particularly for such an invasive use, with the prospect of aviation tourism and helicopters used for joy rides disrupting the acoustic peace of the area.

It should be handed over to National Parks and included in the World Heritage area. It could be kept as a working dirt strip airfield for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 9:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I am writing to urge the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) not to grant a lease for the development and commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield.

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes as it is surrounded by the National Park. Any such development, and the ensuing noise from traffic to and from the airstrip and from aircraft will impact on the natural and peaceful environment not only immediately around the airstrip, but also in the valleys and tablelands and towns in the upper mountains. There would be increasing pressure to maximise the number of joy flights per day.

This crown land should be transferred to the National Park and protected in perpetuity. Once an area like this is developed it can't be reversed.

It would make sense to maintain a working airstrip for emergency use only.

Thank you for your attention

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:45 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Hello, I'm writing concerning a proposed commercial airstrip intended to be built on lands that need protection & preservation! I very much object to this public land being used for commercial purposes!!

This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever. The human citizens & wildlife living in the area deserve no less.

If an airstrip is necessary, keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only! Please preserve our lands!

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S® 5, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 9:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 NO to the Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am saddened by the recent developments permitting heli-charter flights to leave from and arrive at the Katoomba Airfield. I urge you to repeal the license granted to the leasee, Fly Blue, and to work towards legislation ensuring the airfield remains 'Emergency Only'. I believe that this opposition process follows on from a successful process, stopping joy flights from this airfield between 1992-1995 which was supported by extended community opposition.

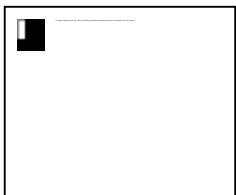
My business, based on yoga, often takes students for Walking Meditations on the Grand Canyon and Evans Lookout paths. These walks highlight the pristine quiet and peace of the Blue Mountains and see people return to the city re-invigorated. In so many more instances than my humble walks, the Blue Mountains provide the perfect re-charging that Sydneysiders and tourists from around the globe need.

Please listen to the voices you hear requesting that this decision be reconsidered. It would be a travesty to allow the noise of helicopters to become more frequent, reverberating in the valleys and canyons of the Blue Mountains. The listing of this area as World Heritage is entirely justified and represents the importance of protecting the natural flora and fauna. Maintaining and utilising this airfield is at total odds with this classification.

I therefore ask you to put that land back into the National Park and utilise it for emergencies only

Thank you for your attention,

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:34 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield. Your reference: 602686

To whom it may concern.

We have visited the Blue Mountains regularly to bushwalk and rock climb for over 25 years and have lived permanently here since 2014 in order to experience the peace and quiet all year round.

As residents of Blackheath we would like to lodge our fiercest **objection** to the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. Our reasons for this objection are as follows:

- This airfield is in the middle of The Blue Mountains National Park. This is a world heritage listed area that millions of people come to enjoy every year. They do so for the peace and quiet that being surrounded by nature provides. People are able to experience the bush and listen to the birds in peace and quiet. Having helicopters and planes flying over these areas will seriously impact the enjoyment people have in coming to the park.
- The Blue Mountains is a world heritage area. All levels of government, as well as the people who live here, have a duty to protect world heritage areas for the reasons they are listed. One of these is for the wilderness values of the Blue Mountains. Allowing a commercial airfield within the park will seriously damage the very reasons it is listed.
- The proposal says that there will be no joy flights but scenic charters. This still suggests that flights will still be for sightseeing and therefore will produce noise over areas that people are walking in. In addition no where in the submission or the website of how many flights per day are proposed. It seems that this will be left to the proponents and therefore residents and visitors could be subjected to all day noise.
- In the submission it states that commercial flights will be allowed to use the airfield at commercial rates. This means helicopters and planes from anywhere could be landing within the Blue Mountains NP. There seems to be no restriction in the application on numbers of flights.
- Proposed flight paths say that they will miss residential areas but those proposed seem to fly over Shipley Plateau. There are hundreds of residents of Blackheath living in this area so we will be affected by low flying helicopters, and planes. Even if these aircraft fly adjacent to residential areas the noise from them will still be heard many kilometres away so this idea does not mitigate the noise affects on residents and visitors.
- Having numerous flights flying over an area like Blue Mountains National Park increases the risk of accidents especially given the fact that the mountains can be in cloud and fog art any time of the year. This not only carries a risk to the plan but could spark bushfires which is a constant threat to people living in the mountains.

We would like the proposal for a commercial lease to be **rejected** and the airfield to be only used for emergencies, such as bushfires.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 5:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au
Cc: northshore@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686 - commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Ph: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you in reference to the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield and possible allowance of joy flights over the Blue Mountains

This is very concerning to me, as a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains, and in particular to the Dhamma Bhumi meditation centre in Blackheath. The peace and tranquility of this area, and its close proximity to Sydney make it a very important resource for local people, nature lovers, bush walkers, AND meditators

It would be a terrible shame to allow noisy, polluting commercial flights to take place in this area for the benefit of a few tourists and a commercial interest, to the detriment of everyone else.

I have personally experienced the negative impacts of helicopter joyrides in nature. I was hiking the spectacular Kalalau Trail in Kauai, Hawaii and helicopter rides were a constant loud annoyance marring the experience of being in peaceful nature.

I appreciate your time in considering my submission, and hope to see the Blue Mountain remaining a tranquil and quiet place, befitting it's natural state, to visit in the future.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 9:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

01 August 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Australia

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath which is adjacent to the Blue Mountains National Park. This airfield should be used for emergency use only managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

I live in Clovelly, Sydney and go to the Blue Mountains regularly for walking as a member of the Sydney Bushwalkers Club. Walking around the clifftops above and below the Grose valley and the Heads around the Asgard Plateau nearby are a particular favourite and its intrinsic beauty and significance is due to its seclusion and protected status. This is classified by Unesco as a world heritage site for obvious reasons and must be protected at all costs.

The impact on sites such as these with the advent of helicopter joy flights all day long would greatly reduce the beneficial effects one feels when partaking in activities such as walking in this unique and special environment. The reason for it being in a national park is to protect it from human or industrial impact upon the flora and fauna. The flight path set out by the Fly Blue may also impact the migration of yellow faced honey eaters that migrate every year in their thousands.

I feel it is imperative to preserve the special nature of the Blue Mountains for all that enjoy and live in the area, including wildlife which would be greatly disrupted with the joy flights if they were to proceed. Please consider this request.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 1:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield land (REF# 602686)

Hello,

I am writing to state my objection to the possibility of the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) granting a long term lease of the Katoomba Airfield to private interests.

The possibility of this public land being used for commercial purposes such as aviation tourism, including helicopter use, is not appropriate or in the interests of the greater community.

I object to our public land being used for commercial purposes such as this.

The land is surrounded by World Heritage listed National Park, and should be protected as such. Additionally, it would seem appropriate to maintain a working air strip on this land for emergency use only.

Please protect our public land from invasive commercial interests, which benefit a few, and look after our World Heritage listed National Park, and the quality of life of Blue Mountains citizens and our many visitors (who can visit by car, bus, train etc).

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:22 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba-Medlow Bath, Blue Mountains Airfield Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you to object in the strongest terms possible regarding the submission to allow the use the old airfield ant Medlow Bath for aviation tourism and commercial purposes.

I strongly object to this land being used for commercial purposes. This land is completely surrounded by World Heritage National Park, home to many species that have no other home but this. These species include the endangered Tiger Quoll, the yellow bellied glider, the green and golden bell frog, and the very vulnerable and endangered Blue Mountain water skink. The National Park is also home to the critically endangered Wollemi Pine.

But it is not just a matter of protecting and caring for these endangered and rare species, which alone is a sufficient reason to reject the submission, but there is the broader context to consider as well and that is the knowledge that in our world of climate change and mass extinctions, that we now are at a point where we have to protect every area of life giving bush and forest, and every endangered species, because we are now seeing clearly that are not separate from it. What we do to our environment, we do to ourselves and that has never been truer and more obvious than in these times of climate change. We are part of the same living system and the loss of even one more of these precious species brings us one step closer to our own extinction. This is the hard truth the scientists like Dr. David Suzuki have been trying to get through to us for decades.

So with these very real, pressing and essential concerns in mind, I also strongly urge you also to transfer this land so that it is managed and protected under the National Parks now and for the future. This land should always have been under the protection of the National Parks as it is part of the ecosystem and environment of the park and should be protected as such.

And therefore, I also strongly urge that if this airstrip cannot be closed to protect the park and environment, that it only be made available for emergency use and that way minimise the impact to the environment.

It is no longer time to be putting profits before the very dire concerns of our own planet and indeed the future of our own human species. So please, I urge you to oppose this application in the most vigorous way, not only on it's own undesirable and untenable character, but also as part of the broader concerns of protecting the dwindling and ever more precious resources that our climate-challenged earth is now facing.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 9:52 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Please accept my submission about the proposal to allow a lease for the commercial use of a piece of crown land known as the airfield at Medlow Bath.

I strongly object to the commercial use of this land for the following reasons:

1. it is crown land and should not be leased for commercial activity
2. the proposal to introduce aircraft activity, other than for emergency purposes, is contrary to what the people want
3. the National Park which surrounds this land should be protected at all costs
4. the people of Medlow Bath and Blackheath, particularly those in the eastern side of Blackheath, will soon be subjected to excessive and unwanted noise with the opening of Sydney's 2nd international airport at Badgerys Creek. That noise will be 24 hours a day. Additional noise, particularly from low-flying aircraft including helicopters, would be unbearable
5. aviation tourism is not what tourists to the world heritage-listed national park want, they overwhelmingly want an eco experience and quiet.

Please listen to what we want, we live here.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 9:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I object to the proposal to lease the Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator for the purposes of conducting joy flights - or tourist flyovers - in the Blue Mountains.

People choose to live in Blue Mountains for the quiet, the serenity, for a love of nature and wide open spaces. All of that is under threat from any increased aviation activity to and from Katoomba Airfield. I live near there - in Fifth Avenue - and I don't like the idea of vastly increased aircraft traffic in my local area.

Living in a gully, I well know the racket a helicopter makes flying over, such as the ones that check the power lines - the sound reverberates around the gully and is really loud and distracting. Am I supposed to put up with that several times a day?

As a keen bushwalker who often goes into remote areas - I don't like the thought of my enjoyment being shattered by helicopters clattering overhead, or through the valleys while I'm walking the ridges and cliff tops.

Helicopter/aircraft joy flights over the national park and world heritage areas is just a grotesque and perverse attack on not only what the national parks are set up to protect, but also our responsibility to protect and respect our World Heritage status. This government has already shown they are willing to destroy our World Heritage status with regard to the Great Barrier Reef (dredging the reef for the Adani mine) - now the Government is proposing to wreck the Blue Mountains National Park as well.

This proposal in my view detracts from the tourism allure of the Blue Mountains - as areas reserved for nature will now be subjected to the noise of aircraft traffic.

I have checked out Fly Blue's Info Pack - it is a smokescreen, an insult, there is no information about what is actually being proposed. The Govt has a business case for the lease, but has not seen fit to share that with the public. So how are we supposed to make an informed decision? We're forced to speculate about what this operation might be like.

The so-called community consultation process has been badly handled. This issue affects all residents of the Blue Mountains. If I hadn't been a member of a bushwalking group I probably would never have heard of it.

I wrote to Mark Maloney, the response I got stated 'no joy flights are being considered'. But that is exactly what is being considered. So the department misled me, and no doubt others that wrote in with concerns. So how many of them had their concerns allayed by the department, and will not follow up with a submission? And their letters will not form part of the 'consultation' process. I have been along to one of the drop-in sessions too, where lots of great comments were made - but these were not recorded and will not be part of the consultation process either. In my view, this is paying lip-service to the idea of community consultation.

In summary - the proposal has the potential to adversely affect my enjoyment of living in the Blue Mountains. It has the potential to disrupt the peace I feel both from where I live, and my primary recreation, which is bushwalking. It is completely inconsistent with the purpose of the National Park, World Heritage status and wilderness areas.

I implore you to reject the proposal and use the airfield for emergency aircraft only.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 4:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. no. 602686

Would like to take this opportunity to add to the voices of the people of the Blue Mountains who are adamantly against the reopening of Katoomba Airport for commercial tourist flights.

I cannot think of anything that would do more to disturb the peace of the bush retreat that is the upper mountains than a hovering helicopter.

The enjoyment of the area would be destroyed for hundreds, tourists and locals alike, for the sake of a tiny handful of high rollers and the company making money out of them. I think you can see the irony there.

While I'm here I'd like to voice my astonishment that you do not have to pay any attention at all to petitions submitted by the public. Why not??? It's the voice of the people trying to be heard and, excuse me, but isn't it your job to listen?

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 10:15 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter tour flights near Dhamma Bhumi

To - Department of Planning Industry and Environment – Reference Number 602686
From – [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Department,

I am wanting to express my opposition to Helicopter tour flights near Dhamma Bhumi the Vipassana Meditation Centre in Blackheath.

Presently, the airfield is used only for bushfire fighting, and medical evacuations which is appropriate and necessary.

The noise of flights taking off and landing, and flying overhead at Dhamma Bhumi, would seriously impact the Centre's silence and privacy. Silence in the local area and around the Centre is paramount and a integral aspect of what Dhamma Bhumi has to offer students.

I have been attending Dhamma Bhumi on a regular basis (once a year since 2007 and since 2017 twice a year). Dhamma Bhumi is my spiritual home. To meditate effectively without interruption and stay focused is something that can be learned with practice and it is hard to achieve so having a quiet and still environment is essential.

So I am strongly against proposal to add commercial flights to the airfield.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 8:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No joy flights

Ref no.602686

To whom it may concern

I have lived in the Blue Mountains on and off since 1944 and I have now retired to Leura to live here for the rest of my life.

I have walked most of the valleys.

During the 1980s there was quite a lot of use of scenic flights over the valleys, Jamison, Megalong and Grose and it was a real intrusion of the peaceful pursuit of bushwalking whether in the valleys or on the escarpments.

I would hate to see a return of aviation tourism in this environment it would severely take away from what this unique area has earned in its World heritage listing.

There is a time and place for commercial enterprise but a balance has to be considered.

There are buses which bring large numbers of tourists to the favourite viewing places of the magnificent valleys and cliffs.

But for those who love the tranquility of the less used bush tracks and paths they need to be considered too.

Also those who have moved here for a quieter life do not like the prospect of not being able to get away from the overhead noises of light aircraft and helicopters.

PLEASE DO NOT AGREE TO LEASE OR USE THE CROWN LAND AROUND THE OLD AIRSTRIP AT MEDLOW BATH FOR COMMERCIAL FLIHTS OVER THE BLUE MOUNTAINS WORLD HERITAGE AREA.

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No: 602686 - Proposed leasing of Katoomba Airfield

To Whom it May Concern

My name is [REDACTED] - I am a private citizen who has lived in the Blue Mountains for the past 9 years. During this time, I have worked locally in the hospitality industry coming in contact with many visitors to the area and have had the privilege to appreciate the local environment by bush walking to many of the beautiful areas in the Mountains.

I am extremely concerned to learn of the proposed granting of a long term lease to a commercial leaseholder of Crown Land, i.e. Katoomba Airfield, which would allow aviation tourism, including the use of helicopters

I object strongly to the commercial leasing of public land which is surrounded by World Heritage area. In 2000 the then Department of Land and Water Conservation recommended that this land be joined back into the National Park and it has been expected by the local community that this would occur at some point.

The airfield is located only 5km from surrounding towns including Blackheath, Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Leura and North Wentworth Falls. The noise of helicopters would be most intrusive to these villages, particularly landing and taking off.

There has been a dramatic increase in visitors over the years, from international tourists to those coming by car, train or bus for the day, which also means greater management issues of traffic, waste, lookouts and tracks. This is now a matter of delicate balance between maintaining a thriving tourist economy, a residential environment which locals can still enjoy and appreciate and protection of the wilderness areas that make this a very special place.

This is a World Heritage Area declared so by the world body UNESCO and as such, protection should be the first priority, although there are proposals to change parts of this National Park by developers and government. There have been four information sessions (of 2 hours each) by your Department, but there has been no community consultation or feedback taken from concerned residents.

The purpose of any commercial undertaking is to develop to a point where a profitable return is made. Not only that, expansion of the business is desired to make more of a profit. We have all seen the result of governments outsourcing to private business without strict measures in place to protect the general population, e.g. freeways being constructed by companies placing a road toll which private citizens pay and the tolls increasing, even after roads are paid for and a reasonable profit returned.

Long term leaseholders may be in a position to expand use of Crown Land to further their own gains over a long period of time and, in such a critically balanced environment, this would be a disaster for all. CASA has set out the terms of the Fly Neighbourly Agreement, suggesting that local communities and commercial interests can work together. However, CASA has no authority to enforce any agreement which means that the onus to prove wrongdoing or accountability is on the community, making it harder to bring the leaseholder to comply with community needs.

CASA has also agreed that the noise factor of regular helicopter use in this delicate region is a serious one, affecting ALL wildlife and the pleasure that 1.25 million bush walks per year give to those coming to this area.

There is, therefore, only one solution to this proposal: No to commercial leasing of Katoomba Airfield which should be incorporated into the National Park - a World Heritage Area - and used for emergencies and community use.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:00 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the commercial lease you recently granted over Katoomba Airfield.

I wonder why you are conducting community consultation after you granted the lease and I sincerely hope this is not a hollow 'tick the box' exercise on your part. I trust that our concerns will be genuinely received and taken into account.

We moved from Sydney to the Blue Mountains to raise our family in the beautiful, peaceful natural environment. To live within a UNESCO World Heritage Area is a privilege we do not take for granted.

The natural surrounds of the Blue Mountains, valued and visited by over 5 million people a year, is the lifeblood of the local economy. Commercial activities that impinge on the serenity of the natural quiet of the bush will destroy the businesses and employment opportunities of many, for the profit of one single business.

This is unfair and unsustainable. This is made even more unfair when the business is located on public land. Crown Land should not be used to the private and personal advantage of a single entity, over the benefit of the public to which it belongs.

The Katoomba Airfield should be absorbed into the National Park with a working airstrip maintained for emergency use only.

Please reply to acknowledge you have received this submission.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 2:43 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - proposed use for Katoomba Airfield

Having lived adjacent to the Blue Mountains National Park in Leura for 15 years, I know only too well the effect of helicopters flying over both residential and national park areas. The noise from them shatters the peace and tranquility of the area, making it unpleasant for all in the vicinity, including residents, tourists, bushwalkers and wildlife. It would have the potential to seriously degrade the area as a national park as well as a tourist destination for Sydney people wanting to escape the city noise in favour of peace and tranquility. This would affect the many businesses, large and small, and their employees, that rely on the local tourist industry.

Katoomba airfield is surrounded by the Blue Mountains National Park and as such is particularly vulnerable to pollution problems which would be part of the proposed private usage. These problems would include fuel and oil spills. Because it is surrounded by the national park, it should be incorporated within the national park and used for emergency purposes by such agencies as National Parks and Wildlife, The Rural Fire Service, The Police and Fire and Rescue.

Regards,

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 10:27 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern:

With this letter, I wish to voice concern, and oppose, the proposal to lease crown land at Mellow Bath, known as 'Katoomba Airfield', for the purpose of recreational aviation.

I understand the Department of Industry is considering leasing the land to FlyBlue. I do not wish to see any commercial enterprise (FlyBlue or other) leasing the land with the purpose of undertaking leisure flights and helicopter rides, from the airfield and over the Shipley Plateau in Blackheath and beyond, or anywhere over the National Park.

Many of us residents have come here with the intent of living within a National Park, which in itself should be a guarantee of a certain amount of 'peace and quiet', in a green and well looked-after environment.

Here are the reasons for my disapproval:

1/ The applicant suggests that the flights and helicopter rides will be yet another draw card in attracting tourists to the Blue Mountains.

- Tourism has increased so much and so fast in the last 6 years, that the road infrastructure and the environment can barely cope with the increase in traffic and pollution as it is.
- Parking and road infrastructure in the upper Blue Mountains villages is at saturation, with locals deciding to stay indoors on weekends out of fear of the insane amount of traffic and related risks of collision. Tourism past the Blue Mountains (Lithgow and beyond) also has increased a huge amount in recent years, and the GWH being the thoroughfare, this is further congesting the roads from Wentworth Falls to the Victoria pass, and increasing accidents.
- The congestion on the Great Western Highway is of great concern in case of a major bushfire. It is not unusual to require 30 min or more to drive the 6km from Mount Victoria to Blackheath on any Sunday after lunchtime (unrelated to the current roadworks, purely the mass of vehicles clogging up the roads).
- Increased tourism from visitors coming for the day for a quick helicopter ride will NOT necessarily translate into dollars being spent in the local towns and the community (similar case to Scenic World Katoomba, where coaches from Sydney drop tourists off/pick them up at the gate).
- Noise pollution from the flights and rides would NOT benefit tourism, it would on the contrary reduce current tourism from visitors coming to the Blue Mountains to disconnect from noise and city-related pollution. The very reason so many tourists come to the Blue Mountains is to enjoy a quiet weekend in a National Park, not to stand at a lookout with helicopters and planes overhead.

2/ The applicant wants to make us believe that their activity is environmentally friendly and sustainable, and that they will enter 'a biodiversity agreement' by planting a few trees.

- The detriment caused to the environment by the very nature of their business far outweighs any amount of planting of trees they promise. No airfield operation is known to come near anything environmentally sustainable as the applicant would like us to believe.
- The Blue Mountains is a great getaway for outdoor lovers. Hikers and bushwalkers, paragliders, cyclists, rock climbers, canyoneers, birdwatchers and all-around nature lovers live or come here to enjoy the surrounds and practice their recreation and sports in a beautiful, quiet environment. As if the increase in drones flying around wasn't a matter of great annoyance already, you would now consider allowing helicopter rides from sunrise to sunset? This is not admissible. Anyone in their right mind knows that **the noise pollution would be catastrophic for residents and fauna alike.** The disturbance to both humans and animals (native and stock) would be beyond words.
- The sunrise to sunset operation hours requested by the applicant is a ludicrous concept. The noise pollution in general is unacceptable, let alone for so many hours of the days, and most likely on weekends when locals are supposed to rest from a work week. It has been shown that constant noise at that level is detrimental to mental health. The stress caused to humans and animals (think livestock in the Megalong Valley and on the plateau, native animals and pets) is difficult to measure but is undeniable.

I ask you to consider this pledge and give it thought -my words represent the feelings of many. Allowing helicopters and planes is denying the very identity of our surrounds.

Here is the Blue Mountains City Council description of our National Park:

'The Blue Mountains is a special place of ancient landscapes, towering golden hued stone escarpments, crashing waterfalls and magnificent eucalypts all set amongst inspiring panoramas, that will take your breath away. Visit the Blue Mountains - you won't be disappointed.'

PLEASE, DO NOT LEASE CROWN LAND 'KATOOMBA AIRFIELD' FOR RECREATIONAL AVIATION. IT IS YOUR DUTY OF CARE TO THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO THE RESIDENTS.

Kind regards,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 6:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Flag Status: Flagged

Air field submission:

To whom it may concern:

Please don't use the Katoomba airfield for anything other than emergencies.

It is Public land and should not be used for Private purposes.

We don't need any aircraft noise spoiling our World Heritage; protections should be in place and the area used for sharing, not monopolising!

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 7:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield developments Ref # 602686

To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of the Blue Mountains for 20 years, 11 of those being in the upper Blue Mountains in Blackheath. It is quiet and peaceful here, a place with which I, and my family, truly resonate. Having lived the first half of my life in the city, I can see the contrast of persistent, invasive aircraft and traffic noise. This is something I choose to avoid, because it is irritating and stressful. I am not only speaking on behalf of my family, but my community when we say we do not wish to disturb the idyllic environment provided by the National Park in which we live.

Please understand that our community does not have an exclusive attitude to tourists, in that we want people to come and enjoy ALL of the Blue Mountains and to treasure the value of this special place, the same way that local residents do. I would just like to see it happen in a noninvasive way. Why can't people who want to see the local environment drive here and view it from lookouts like everyone else?

The potential of constant helicopter noise, especially on the weekends, when local residents are unwinding from work, is serving a small part of the community whilst putting everyone else out. That is simply not fair and selfish. I understand the value of tourist dollars, but when it goes to one person in the community, does it truly benefit everyone?

Along with this, I am a mountain bike rider and frequently ride the fire trails around the Katoomba airstrip. The myriad of wildlife I see is amazing and I think it would be a travesty to see this altered all in the name of development of a niche market.

I object to the development of the public land at Katoomba airfield being developed for commercial use and wish for the land to be given National Park status, with a working dirt strip for emergency use only.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 6:08 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Katoomba airfields future used

Dear sir/ madame,

I have read the parliamentary transcript of yesterday's petition presented by Blue Mountains state member, Trish Doyle, against Flyblue's generations long lease proposal for Katoomba airfield.

I would like to point out to the member for Hawkesbury that the impacts of the airfield are far, far greater on the tourists and residents of the Blue Mountains than the Hawkesbury. There are very few Hawkesbury residents in the area effected by the proposed flightpaths of Flyblue over the Grose Valley in Blue Mountains National Park and World Heritage area. There are no villages or major tourist precincts in the Hawkesbury electorate on the north side of the valley of the Bell's Line of road.

By comparison the Blue Mountains villages of Woodford, Hazelbrook, Lawson, Bullaburra, Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Blackheath and Mt. Victoria will all be effected either to the north, east, south and west. The major tourist precincts and sites of Evan's Lookout and Govett's Leap Lookout will be directly effected by helicopter and light but loud aircraft noise, as will the numerous lesser known walks and sites.

To imply to those members of parliament unfamiliar with the Blue Mountains National Park geography that the Hawkesbury electorate is equally or even much effected is very misleading, hence noone/anyone from that area turned up to parliament to address the petition, unlike the Blue Mountains residents.

Many light planes already fly through the upper Blue Mountains to and from Sydney along with westbound Sydney Aircraft. It's the Great Western Flightpath through the National Park already. No doubt it would suit a minority of people who are country (e.g. Dubbo, Bathurst, Cobar, Orange, Parkes)and city recreational pilots to see the park the lazy, noisy, easy way, wighout spending ,oney in the local economy but that wou,d nkt be repesentative of tbe wishes of the majority of millions of visitors.

Superimposing Flyblue's proposed flightpaths over a topographic map of the Grose Valley lookouts and walks, including from the Mt. Hay rd., shows the obvious major impact of travelling helicopter noise over the majority of visitors who are quietly not disturbing anyone else, on the ground.

To approve Flyblue's proposal would change the atmosphere and ambience people love about the upper Blue Mountains experience irreparably, forever probably. It would be unlikely that if a 50 year lease was granted it wouldn't be renewed in future.

We could lose the high quality of our ecotourism experience on offer and never get it back. People would probably prefer cabins they could book on the site.

Fire risk always has to be a major consideration introducing high risk activities into the National Park. There are very few ways for 80,000 people to escape the upper mountains in a sudden bushfire emergency like the quickly dangerous recent fires of Winmalee.

Please consider our local tourism culture, the fact that this airfield is surrounded by bush and the majority of this major tourist destinations visitors activities when making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 4:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to the commercial lease of Katoomba landing strip

Dear Sir/Madam

I object to the commercial lease of this public land for helicopter joy flights On the following grounds:

1. These flights will occur over a World Heritage Site and in other developed countries such flights are not allowed over World Heritage Areas.
2. Such flights will have an adverse effect on tourism visitations as visitors come to the Blue Mountains for a quiet interaction with nature.
3. When Similar flights were introduced 27 years ago they had to be stopped due to the impact on tourism and any Fly Neighbourly Agreement is not worth the paper it is written on as it is self-regulated and we have seen how ineffective that has been in other industries.

I also strongly support the landing strip being included in the Blue Mountains National Park so that it may be used for fire-fighting and as an emergency landing strip

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 10:49 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Sumission (LX 602686)

Our views on the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield are:

- 1: We object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- 2: This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that is preserved forever
- 3: Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 2:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF - LX 602686

Lodging my vote for the airbase to be used for emergency services.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:59 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Madam/Sir,

The upper Blue Mountains will always be a tourist area due to the beauty of the place and the accessibility to Sydney.

Tourism of course provides much needed income and employment to the region. When the World Heritage listing is considered it can therefore be an attractive lure for people to reside, work and visit the region.

With all these factors at play the question must be asked “What, Who and Why will benefit from helicopter flights over the Upper Mountains towns and Villages?

When looking at the “What”, the answer is no to the benefit of the physical places because do the operators of any future helicopter tourist flights sincerely believe that a resident standing in their backyard in Leura will appreciate waving at a helicopter hovering over them. Then if an international tourist sitting in their suite at the Hydro Majestic viewing the panorama of the Megalong Valley is stunned as a helicopter flies by and a couple of passengers peer into their suite? Or finally the many tourists that stand at Echo Point each day ask why is a helicopter hovering over the Three Sisters and ruining their selfies?

As to the “Who” and “Why” it is irrelevant as there will always be tourist operators that will see the dollar value in exploiting pristine areas without seeing the consequences for the local populations and their amenity.

Which comes to my circumstance as a local resident living in direct line of the Airfield. Where I live myself and other residents accept helicopter flights to the Katoomba Hospital must occur as do various other Emergency Service flights over the region. But they are sporadic, and to give an example as to why there is opposition to this tourist venture, every few years the

oligopolistic power companies, without notifying residents, survey the power lines in each village and township, using helicopters. It lasts a couple of weeks

and suffice to say I can definitively advise crown lands that these surveys are very low and you can see the inhabitants of the helicopter, and the noise is pretty overwhelming too.

Hence in this brief submission it is obvious that any tourist flight business is exploiting a World Heritage area and effects all groups in the region with no benefit to the region. I accept that a small airfield can exist with small aircraft landing, as has been the previous usage and history of the site. As residents we can accept the odd small winged aircraft coming in but an 8 hour a day helicopter pad is not acceptable.

As crown lands is aware there is a lot of groups opposed to this venture and I am just a ratepayer who would like to continue to live in a quiet place. Finally will the operators subsidise me if their venture gets up? Meaning say a flight is \$300 a pop can they please send me say \$200 each day for loss of amenity and the constant inconvenience?

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield Submission

I am making a submission opposing the commercialization of Katoomba Airfield. by FlyBlue or any other private companies.

People come from all over Australia and the world to experience the peaceful and amazingly beautiful natural environment of the Blue Mountains. The bushwalking, sightseeing, rock climbing and canyoning are enjoyed in the Blue Mountains National Park and surrounding areas by millions of visitors and local residents every year. Much of the Blue Mountains National Park has been recognized as of such high value that it has been declared a World Heritage Area. The local economy of the upper Blue Mountains is tourism based in the form of accommodation, hospitality and outdoor recreation.

Helicopter and fixed wing Scenic Charter flights(thinly disguised joy flights) will destroy the tranquil atmosphere that is the Blue Mountains experience. Proposed flight paths over the Grose Valley close to the iconic Blue Gum forest and directly in view and earshot of the major lookouts in Blackheath i.e. Govetts Leap and Evans Lookout and will fly directly over the spectacular Pulpit Rock Lookout. This area is extremely popular with sightseers, bushwalkers(both day walkers and overnight hikers who camp in the Grose Valley). This flight path also passes close to the popular walk to Lockleys Pylon from Mount Hay road. The northern Grose Valley is popular with bushwalker's, canyoner's and rockclimber's who will also lose their wilderness atmosphere to noisy helicopter and fixed wing overflight. Departing flights according to the proposed flight paths will also carry ascending(therefore noisier aircraft) close to the Grand Canyon track on the South East edge of Blackheath. Grand Canyon track is probably the most popular half day walk in the entire Blue Mountains with hundreds of thousands of visits a year. This form of aerial tourism is totally incompatible with the outdoor experience sought by the vast majority of visitors to these areas. Many other outdoor recreation area's of the Blue Mountain's will be affected no doubt.

The proposed flight path to the south of Mount Blackheath is also very close to a popular paragliding and hangliding area at Mount Blackheath. Can pilots flying joy flights and being expected to take to entertain customer's take full care in areas where they are required to give way at all times to unpowered aircraft i.e. paraglider's and hanglider's?

Residents on the fringes of Blackheath, Medlow Bath and Katoomba will be very close or under these flight paths and their inevitable droning noise. Most people in these areas would say that their choice of dwelling is largely because of it's peaceful quiet environment. The upper Blue Mountains is at an altitude of 1000m or more and the flight altitude of 4500 feet AMSL(1371m) for fixed wing aircraft and 5000 feet AMSL(1524m) for helicopters would put these aircraft at an effective altitude of 371m or less for fixed wing and 524m or less for helicopters. This is a totally unacceptable imposition on the residents lifestyles and environment.

Why put local economy of the upper Blue Mountains based almost totally on tourism at dire risk for joy flight's to be available to a wealthy few? Why destroy the lifestyle of local residents for the profit of a small private company? This development should be stopped as it will ruin the beautiful wilderness experience that the Blue Mountains has to offer. This ethereal Declared Wilderness area should not be turned into some sort of Gold Coast theme park.

The Katoomba Airfield has been suggested in several government reports as a suitable and desirable inclusion in the Blue Mountains National Park. Emergency airfields are maintained by National Parks in other areas of NSW for firefighting and evacuation. This is the best outcome for the Katoomba Airfield for all concerned.

Yours Sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686

Save our skies!
No commercialisation of katoomba airfield !

I am a Norwegian citizen with permanent residency to Australia. I love the Blue Mountains and all Australian land and wildlife.

So I am hereby submitting an official complaint based on the following reading how the planned airfield will damage our environment in the Blue Mountains:

- o Loss of local amenity for example due to noise, visual impact, privacy
 - o Economic impacts such as effect on local businesses and property value
 - o Environmental impacts including pollution, flora and fauna impact and world heritage status
- Concerns with the bureaucratic process

For more information on how to prepare a submission, you can check out ourblueys.org

Also, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society has submitted an [extensive submission](#) if you would like to further understand the myriad of concerns.

With heart,

[REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 12:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 : Katoomba Airfield Submission

Dear Crownlands,

As a Blue Mountains resident, I wish to express my objection to the proposed arrangements for Katoomba Airfield that would see it used for commercial purposes.

Alternatively, I would like to see the airfield transferred to NSW National Parks as land managers and to keep the airfield used for emergency purposes only.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my feelings,

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 12:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Regarding the proposed granting of permission for the old airfield at Medlow Bath be opened to aircraft, including scenic flights.

I am not in favour of this happening for the following reasons:

- This causes further pollution to the National Park area with noise pollution in particular.
- The area should be part of the National Park and not used for commercial purposes.
- There are rare birds and other species that will be affected by the noise and there is an increased likelihood of bird strike.
- Having scenic flights affects the quality of life for the residents of the Blue Mountains with noise pollution.
- Having these flights could have a negative affect on tourism. Visitors come to the Blue Mountains for peace and quiet, not for noisy aircraft to be flying over all the time.
- I do not mind the airfield being kept for emergency use only.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 11:22 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Our reference: 602686

To whom it may concern

I am gravely concerned about this proposed use of the Katoomba Airfield.

The negative impact on the area from overdevelopment is easily imaginable. The enjoyment of the area by residents and visitors alike will be destroyed by the visual and noise pollution impact. Visitors come to the area to enjoy the peace and quiet and far horizons – not to be haunted by aircraft noise. We need to maintain undisturbed areas of the State where you can get away from it all - this area is advertised to visitors as somewhere to relax. This Airfield development will destroy the basis of the local tourist industry for no reason at all.

Residents, of course, long term and new do not live in this region because it's convenient to "mod cons" – they live adjacent to the beauty and peace within the Blue Mountains for exactly those qualities. There's no justifiable reason to destroy the views and quiet forever. We need to be guardians of our natural resources – not to exploit them for short term gain and long term horror.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 6:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

I am writing to express my concerns regarding plans to grant a long-term lease to a commercial aviation company. The airfield is in the Blue Mountains National Park, and a national park is no place for such an enterprise, as it would compromise the integrity of the Park, threaten its World Heritage status, and compromise the local tourist trade, as well as disrupting the peaceful way of the lives of local residents.

The Crown land comprising the airfield should be transferred to the management of National Parks and a working dirt airstrip maintained for emergencies.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686 submission as an objection to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Mr Bunny,

I have an objection of approval of any commercial lease on the Crown land containing Katoomba airfield.

It is absolutely necessary to preserve the Blue Mountain World Heritage Area and surrounding land from any types of pollution and disturbance to the native flora and fauna due to frequent low flight over the region.

I suggest adding this piece of land to the greater Blue Mountain Heritage Area.

Let's preserve our environment for the generation to come.

P.s. The emergency flight should only be allowed in this region

Thanks for your attention,

With heart,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir or Madam of the Department of Primary Industries, I am writing to express my absolute disapproval of the proposed lease of the Katoomba Airfield. In all honesty, I find it hard to imagine that we are even discussing the approval of an airfield right in the middle of a National Park, a World Heritage Site. The Blue Mountains are known for their natural beauty in Australia and beyond, Echo Point the most visited tourism site in Australia. It is clear that tourism is the major income for the Blue Mountains. This tourism however is based on 'nature tourism' not commercial helicopter tourism where people come and go and don't appreciate the nature, the stillness with their senses. I am originally from the south-east of France, an area that hugely relies tourism as its economic activity. Also a region that is known for its natural beauty from mountains to beaches. In one of the snow stations in the southern French Alps, a helicopter joy flight company opened for business to the resentment of both residents and tourists. A community petition resulted in the closure of the airfield. This example shows that this kind of tourism is not wanted in areas that are known and loved for the landscape and nature, areas that have enough to offer without commercial, short-term entertainment. The proposed lease of the Katoomba Airfield is not acceptable and I urge you not to let it go any further. Kind regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 July 2019 3:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX 602686

Our submission for the go ahead of the airport in the Blue Mountains.

It will encourage more tourists for local businesses and be more easily accessible for emergency service and medical help including quicker response time.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 4:02 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: LX 602686

> On 27 Jul 2019, at 1:35 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

- > 1. the granting of a new lease provides" financial environmental and social benefits" (Crown Land). Who to ?
- > 2. " the responsible management of the 36HA site" is going to be left to a commercial operator with a definite objective -TO MAKE MONEY
- > and with rights to on SELL THE LEASE. AND A 50 YEAR LEASE. !!? How much is a 50 year lease worth?
- > 3 the site is PUBLIC LAND. OUR LAND and should not be used for ANY person for personal gain
- > 4 As a Public Service you should be dedicated to looking after the PUBLIC not a small group of WEALTHY air enthusiasts. (Where is your conscience?)
- > 5 Where is the FNA. Its NON EXISTENT. An agreement between the operator and the community! The community was NEVER CONSULTED
- > 6. So the community relies on the goodwill of an operator who who abjectly ignores their objection
- > 7 the airfield belongs in the National Park

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference No: 602686

We write about the future use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath; we've heard that there is a possibility of granting a long term lease which would allow the airfield to be used for aviation tourism.

We strongly object to this idea. This Crown Land should instead be transferred to the National Park in perpetuity.

We've lived permanently in Katoomba for years and have seen and heard that there is already a marked increase in air traffic noise pollution, with many flying with transponders turned off. Quite a percentage of helicopters fly extremely low as well.

We realise that the airstrip must be kept working, but as a dirt strip, for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 10:48 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may Concern.

I wish to express my absolute support for the Fly Blue long term lease application.

I am a former Blue Mountains Resident of 58 years and was an employee of the Blue Mountains City Council for 30 of those years and of which 20years I was a [REDACTED].

I consider I have a well informed knowledge of the City area as a whole and especially the historic use of areas such as the Katoomba Air Field.

I am most concerned that this important safety facility to the aviation community and indeed for the mountain residents safety during bush fires, may be lost and become another dumping ground in this magnificent world heritage area.

The National Parks and Wildlife or the Council will never have the funds to maintain this area. They hardly manage to maintain the areas they are responsible for now.

The FLYBLUE Management Pty Ltd long term proposal for the airfield will bring important opportunities to the area and the whole Community which is in dire need of such foresight.

I appreciate the opportunity to state my support and trust your final decision will take my observations seriously.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 11:30 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Objection RefNo. 602686

Dear Secretary

Re: Ref No. 602686

I would like to object to the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) about the future use of the Medlow Bath airfield.

My objection is threefold:

1. Noise
2. Privacy
3. Lose of public land

1. I am particularly concerned about the possibility of helicopters being used in the future for an aviation tourism business. The noise would infringe upon the peace and quiet that residents - ratepayers - expect in the Blue Mts. That's why people come here to live.

2. As we all know that once people are up in a helicopter they not only look at the beautiful cliffs but soon start looking at the houses. That leaves it right open to invasion of privacy - looking in people's windows and checking to see what goods might be in yards that can be stolen.

How would you like a regular service of helicopter noise and peering people going over your house every day?

3. I would also like to point out that as the airfield is on crown land it is public land thus needs to be used for and by the public.

Why doesn't the Lands Department in conjunction with the National Park set up an eco-tourism business on the land, seeing as it is already cleared. In this way, fees charged to visitors would eventually become an income stream for both.

The part of the land not used for the National Park's information-shop, cafe, toilets, picnic area and car-park could be re- vegetated thus becoming part of the surrounding World Heritage National Park.

As the old airfield is not currently in use perhaps provision for a helipad could be made but then only used for emergency medical and fire-fighting purposes.

The consideration of letting an aviation business use it in the long term is giving rights to one person instead of the general public being able to use it.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

As a consultant to [REDACTED] in Katoomba, I am well aware of the importance of tourism to the local economy. The area has much to offer, and the local community much to gain by increasing visitation.

After all, is that not why hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent (and are still being spent), upgrading the Great Western Highway with the objective to allow more people (locals and visitors) to safely access and enjoy the area.

This is precisely what the Katoomba Airfield will provide. Not to mention more local jobs and more trade for local businesses.

Speaking of locals, there will always be those opposed to change (even though the airfield already exists). Perhaps we should be instead listening to those who embrace positive change and growth and the opportunity to work and improve the community. Not those who want to hold it back.

From the proposal submitted I can't see how the improvements to the Katoomba Airfield with its vital infrastructure for safety and emergency services, new commercial and community facilities and ground breaking environmental initiatives will be anything but a great step forward for The Blue Mountains and its residents.

I sincerely hope you do too.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 No Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield

Please accept my email as my objection to any commercial use of Katoomba airfield.

I write this email with having lived in Katoomba during 1987 - 1989 when the commercial helicopter joy/ scenic rides were available from Katoomba and or Medlow Bath/ Blackheath Airstrip. I believe the location of the Airfield/ strip is irrelevant to the impact the helicopter joy/ scenic rides had in the Grose Valley or on Lockely's Pilon when experienced as a bush walker or as a sight see-er at Evans Look Out, or Govetts Leap Look Out. I experienced the impact on numerous occasions, regularly, during the period of commercial helicopter flights.

The impact involved the reverberating sound of extremely loud helicopter engine and propellers, from all directions as the helicopter hovered or traversed the valley, often level or below the cliff tops. The echoing of the engine and the propellers, off the walls of the cliffs, contributed to the reverberations. The sound was deafening. The sound waves could be felt while standing upon Lockely's Pilon.

This is a narrow valley, too narrow or a chopper not to sound intrusive. The initial sound of the chopper coming in to the valley was reminiscent of choppers from a war. Conversations with my nan stopped, we were unable to hear each other, and the period of time would take more than 3 - 5 minutes, and then, it would occur again, as the chopper returned. Usually there would be helicopters in the valley each hour, each one making a return trip, therefore a chopper would pass each half hour.

The interruption to either our walk or sight seeing was significant, turning a quite nature experience, into a shattering, jarring, loud, and extremely unpleasant while at times also physically uncomfortable on hearing and body, sound experience.

The experience of walking with, and taking to friends and relatives in the National Park was significantly diminished and tarnished by the presence of the helicopters. It was no longer peaceful, instead, it had become a 'fight' for a conversation before the next chopper flew by, or hovered close as it traversed the valley.

Flights would also pass in Jamison Valley, and with the valley being more open, the intrusion was less. However, the sight and sound of the passing helicopter flights still disturbed rather than complimented the tranquility of the National Park.

Please do not allow commercial use of Katoomba Airfield, to do so will significantly impact, in a detrimental and negative manner, the experience of wilderness in the Blue Mountains National Park.

Thank-you for reading my submission. I am happy to be contacted by email or phone.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: summerhill@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686 - commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

I am writing to you in reference to the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield and possible allowance of joy flights over the Blue Mountains

This is very concerning to me, as a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains, and in particular to the Dhamma Bhumi meditation centre in Blackheath. The peace and tranquility of this area, and its close proximity to Sydney make it a very important resource for local people, nature lovers, bush walkers, AND meditators

It would be a terrible shame to allow noisy, polluting commercial flights to take place in this area for the benefit of a few tourists and a commercial interest, to the detriment of everyone else.

I appreciate your time in considering my submission, and hope to see the Blue Mountain remaining a quiet place to visit in the future.

Regards
[REDACTED]

CC. Ms Jo Haylen, MP

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield submission

*Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield
Reference 602686
Crown Lands
NSW Department of Industry*

3.8.2019

I regard the Katoomba Airfield a public asset that should be maintained for non-profit and emergency use only.

I emphatically propose that :

1: The lease application of Derek and Floyd Larsen and Flyblue be rejected.

2: The airfield be transferred, as previously proposed, to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park.

3: The airfield be maintained with Federal and or NSW funding such as under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program or Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Funding Brigade Mitigation Support Programme.

I object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield as it would support significantly increased and effectively unlimited helicopter traffic over our community.

I believe the nature of a commercial operation is such that it would be economically incentivised to increase helicopter traffic. This would have detrimental impact on my Megalong Valley community in the following ways:

** Noise pollution would despoil the quiet rural environment that has attracted people to our valley for generations.*

** Noise pollution would create safety concerns for community members such as horse riders, working with animals in our valley.*

** Increased air traffic in our valley would undermine our natural privacy.*

** Increased air traffic will undermine property values and the local economy by countering the very reasons that attract people to our valley to live or to visit either as tourists or for other activities such as horse riding.*

** The noise and the low flying air traffic would put the wild life, including kangaroos and the huge and varied bird population under unbearable pressure and descimate the Valley's bird population.*

The entire upper Mountains would be most detrimentally affected by the lease as the above negative impact would also apply to the whole district.

There are a lot of fragile old people living in the Upper Mountains as well as people with Mental Health problems and a large Developmentally Delayed population. Peace and quiet is necessary for the mental health of all of these people.

Further, the integrity of Upper Mountains as part of the National Park of World Heritage would be severely compromised by this licence.

I strongly believe that if a lease was granted on the Katoomba Airfield for a commercial operation, there would be limited to no recourse for the community to prevent a future escalation of Katoomba Airfield related aircraft traffic.

I have been a landowner resident in Megalong Valley for the last 33 years together with my family.

██████████

██████████████████

██████████████████████████████

Mobile: ██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 5:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Noise Katoomba from Helicopter joy flights Ref No 602686

I have strong concerns re Proposal for use of Crown land for Helicopter joy flights. **Ref No 602686**

I live in the beautiful blue mountains, it is bad enough that in 6 years, 24-hour International aircraft will be flying over the Blue Mountains, with the constant noise, air pollution and aviation fumes emitted. Tourism is always welcome but NOT at the expense of the natural environment that is synonymous with the World Heritage Blue Mountains. These risks need to be taken seriously.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

26.08.19

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 2:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

I would like to note that I am quite disappointed with this proposal. There have been no studies done regarding impact to biodiversity & area wildlife. There is also a meditation centre that deserves its right for peace & quiet as do all residents.

[REDACTED]

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From: on behalf of [REDACTED]ing
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:33 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 4:03 PM
Subject:
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Reference: LX 602686.

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of the Upper Blue Mountains, I was appalled to hear that a proposal is in place to allow for even more noisy, polluting air traffic over our World Heritage listed National Park.

I wholeheartedly oppose [REDACTED] Catoomba Airfield to be leased for commercial purposes, and consider it a far more logical alternative to incorporate the airfield into the National Park and reserve its use for emergency purposes only.

The Blue Mountains National Park and Blue Mountains local community is already suffering from excessive commercial fire fighting (which destroys plant life and animal habitat, and pollutes our air), as well as excessive helicopter and other flight noise and pollution.

Please do not subject us, nor the significant flora and fauna of the area, to any further noise or chemical pollution.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 6:42 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Katoomba airfield objections reference number 602686

To whom it may concern:

I would like to put in this submission related to the Katoomba airfield:

1. I OBJECT to any COMMERCIAL lease for this PUBLIC land
2. This land should be PUT INTO THE NATIONAL PARK
3. Keep the airfield for EMERGENCY USE ONLY

1. NO COMMERCIAL LEASE now or in the future There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area. Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals. Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again. Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below. My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future. This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold? There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young. The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site. (BMRM Ecological Surveys - LINK BMCS website)

2. PUT THIS LAND INTO THE SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARK The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park.

This is the solution. A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy. We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area Keep this public land in public hands. Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency. They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future

. 3. MAINTAIN FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting! Management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a firefighting agency. In addition to it's other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 9:39 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - reference: 602686

PROPOSAL TO LEASE THE KATOOMBA AIRFIELD TO FLYBLUE HELICOPTER SERVICE

I am not a resident of the Blue Mountains but the area has been a favourite destination for me and my family for generations. For the following reasons I can only see the opening the Katoomba Airfield for commercial helicopter flights as detrimental.

1. The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is a unique natural beauty. Its fabulous canyons are a treasure attracting tourists from all over the world as well as Australian bush walkers, rock climbers, hang-gliders and others seeking simply seeking the tranquillity of this beautiful area. All are attracted to the area not only for its extraordinary beauty but also for the peace and quiet increasingly valued in our ever busier world. Helicopter activity would damage this value as well being potentially extremely dangerous to the cliff climbers and hang-gliders. Instead of bringing greater economic advantage to the area people will be deterred from visiting yet another place despoiled by modern development.
2. Many people relocate to the Blue Mountains for the beauty and quiet of the region. A helicopter service will damage this attraction and thus the value of property there.

I hope that the arguments opposing the airport lease prevail so that that Blue Mountains World Heritage Area retains its status as a peerless destination for Australians and our international visitors.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield RE: LX 602686 objection

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to register my objections to the proposed leasing of Crown land to commercial enterprise RE: LX 602686.

1. I believe the intrinsic value of the Mountains area, for residents and tourists, is due to the ambience of the natural environment.
2. This airfield would create substantial air-traffic noise pollution. Already an increase in low-flying light-planes and helicopters flying over my own home have negatively impacted on my peace.
3. As this is Crown Land it should be used for the benefit of all, not only a few stake-holders. Leave it only for emergency use. Protect it in the World Heritage Park.
4. The development of the site will necessarily impact negatively on the surrounding park.

I hope you will consider the over-all negative impact that such a far-reaching development will have on this magnificent area.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: LX602686 - Submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Mr Bunny

RE: LX602686 - submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I am writing to register my strong objection to the proposed commercial operation of Katoomba airfield to allow for helicopter rides. As someone who lives in Sydney and who visits regularly to this area, I can't believe that this commercial venture is being considered due to the noise pollution and threat to the beauty and tranquillity of the Mountains.

My frequent trips there mirror many other Sydneysiders – their desire to escape and relax in this beautiful extraordinary place. It's a UNESCO World Heritage site!! I am appalled at the thought that this peaceful and beautiful place could become the subject of helicopter and joy flights.

Please return the airfield to National Parks to be used for emergencies only. The Blue Mountains retains its relationship to its immense history and is a very important landscape for us all. To hear the birds and Nature itself is what drives people to visit. I would not go if the noise of helicopters was all I could expect to hear. Please reconsider.

Thanking you

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 1:51 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed leasing of Crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir

re: Proposed leasing of Crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield

We are strongly opposed to the proposal to upgrade Katoomba airfield as a hub for recreational aviation. We understand that the area has been intended to be added to Blue Mountains National Park for many years and that this has become an accepted part of the long term plan of the area.

We are residents of Katoomba and enjoy the peace and quiet of the place and do not want to see the increased intrusion of commercial tourism and low level recreation flights by helicopters and planes over the area. Indeed we believe the increased noise will have a negative impact on tourists' experiences for bushwalking and lookout viewing. There is already considerable intrusion from helicopter flights for management and safety issues.

We support the addition of the Crown land to Blue Mountains National Park with maintenance of the current low level airport use for emergency situations. The adjoining bushland as part of Blue Mountains National Park should be rehabilitated and available for public access.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 1:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686

I am a frequent visitor to the Blue Mountains World Heritage national park and am appalled by the proposal to expand the Katoomba Airfield to include helicopter and commercial flights, especially given it is on **crown land** — that is, land that belongs to the taxpayer, not to the government to dish out favours to wealthy mates.

From reading about the 20 years' worth of past assessments, it seems the process to proceed with a commercial lease directly conflicts with all those previous studies, not to mention commitments by previous NSW governments. **Those assessments of Katoomba Airfield have consistently recommended that the site be added to the Blue Mountains National Park and be used for emergency and bushfire air operations only.**

While Flyblue makes a big deal of not flying over residential areas, it totally disregards the noise impact on the National Park, the people that visit it and the wildlife that reside there. Furthermore, the flight paths are well within hearing from virtually all the residential areas on the north side of the highway and fly directly over some iconic bushwalking destinations, including Minnehaha Falls. The continual disturbance of habitat for local fauna doesn't bear thinking about, not to mention pollution from aircraft fuel.

I strongly disagree with this government's proposal to expand Katoomba Airfield, which is completely surrounded by the Blue Mountains National Park, to introduce commercial flights. It is completely unnecessary and totally antithetical to the nature, purpose and ethos behind a World Heritage national park.

--

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 11:14 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - reference no. 602686 PROPOSED LEASE OPPOSED

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to strenuously voice my opposition to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield for commercial operations.

The Blue Mountains are a popular tourist destination precisely because of the quiet majesty and pristine beauty of the area, as well as the vegetation, animal and bird life that call the Blue Mountains home. It is appalling that in it's quest for profit the Department is turning a blind eye to the legitimate concerns and opposition raised by the Local Community to the proposed lease of this Airfield for commercial operations. The noise and visual pollution from such operations will detrimentally affect and permanently change the world heritage natural environment. It will also significantly interfere with local residents quiet enjoyment of their homes.

I recently had the privilege of visiting Plitvice Lakes, a world heritage area in Croatia. The lines of tourists queue for hours to visit this beautiful National Park, and the silence is not disturbed by aircraft taking tourists on aerial joy flights. And that in an area much further away from residences than the Katoomba Airfield.

The Department's disregard for the local community and the environment will be a sorry legacy for this government in years to come.

I totally oppose the Katoomba Airfield lease proposal and request that my opposition is tabled and taken into account when Parliament debates the proposal on 1 August 2019.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 2:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your Reference: 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept the following submissions in relation to the future use of the crown land in Medlow Bath NSW subject to the above reference:

1. Use the land for a wild life habitat to maintain diversity and a sanctuary for flora and fauna;
2. Have a small landing strip for use in emergencies only;
3. Do not grant a commercial lease to any parties who wish to use the land for tourist flights. The Blue Mountains inhabitants (humans, plants and other animals alike) do NOT need the noise pollution and aviation fuel pollution that a consistent flow of aircraft would create; and
4. Please have respect for the peace and quiet that the Blue Mountains is intrinsically about; and
5. Ensure the land in question is kept in harmony with the beautiful National Park surrounding it.

Those are my submissions.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 9:44 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference: 602686

No thank you.

The Blue Mountains is a world heritage listed site and we are already stressing the environment enough with increased human impact including traffic, litter and pollution.

We do not require this.

The people of the Blue Mountains live here for it's reasonable peace, tranquility and natural beauty.

To open an airfield for chartered flights is to put at risk all that we love about the Blue Mountains. The people proposing this business do not live here and are borderline villainous in their dealings.

No to the leasing of Katoomba Airfield.
It is not required and it is not wanted.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 3:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear AirField Submissions Team.

My husband and I have been living in Katoomba now for nearly nine years. We moved up from Sydney and have never regretted the decision. Our love of nature, the quiet of the bush and a strong sense of community instantly made us feel at home.

I was therefore horrified to discover plans for the leasing of Katoomba Airfield to a company that wants to use it to make money by supplying expensive joy flights to rich tourists. Firstly, those rich tourists and indeed the owners don't have to live with that dreadful loud noise helicopters are renowned for. They all go home at the end of the day, the owners richer and tourists go back from where they came from. How does any of this benefit our community? This company's sole purpose is to do nothing but make money for themselves to the detriment of the community they live in. Quite frankly, I'm appalled. What about our World Heritage status? We are already in danger of losing that due to the Badgerys Creek Airport. There will be enough air traffic as it is. What about our tourist industry that already exists? Bush walkers won't want to come to the Blue Mountains just to hear the "thud thud thud" reverberating off the escarpments. Climbers don't want to hear the constant whirling of helicopter blades.

Don't misunderstand me. I have no problem with people making money through tourism. Indeed it brings business into our small towns. I realise people's livelihoods depend on it. However, this enterprise seems to me totally self serving, not considering the national park they will be flying in and out of all day long, the tourist businesses already here and the small close knit communities that they will be flying over. Please don't do this. The noise pollution it will produce is in no way conducive to where we live. It will only benefit very few but upset and distress whole communities.

In finishing, I would like to see the airfield returned to the national park and used for emergencies only.

Thank you for your time,
Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:38 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: I support the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jun 20, 2019 at 3:25 PM
Subject: I support the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

I am writing to provide my support for the lease of Katoomba airfield. I do not feel that the Larsen's, nor the community should be disadvantaged and left without an operating airfield due to a group of people who cannot see the potential risks this would pose. I also do not feel that people who purchased properties adjacent to an airport have the right to object when the airport has existed since 1965, buyer beware...

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:32 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to give feedback on the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

I do not support the proposal and would like to see the land incorporated within the surrounding National Park, for use by emergency services only.

Like millions of other Australians and overseas tourists, I come to the Blue Mountains to enjoy the serene wilderness and beautiful landscapes.

The Blue Mountains are a special place to connect with nature and meet friends. I met my partner and many close friends through bushwalking, and regularly visit for holidays and outdoor activities.

The national park is for everyone's enjoyment.
Recreational aviation is not accessible for the majority of us.

It is likely that the development will increase noise and pollution, and degrade the natural environment. These impacts will drive away tourism, rather than promoting it as stated in the proposal.

We need to protect the Blue Mountains for the benefit of present and future generations.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 4:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission regarding Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern regarding the Katoomba Airfield proposal

We are writing this submission to let you know we are opposed to a commercial lease being granted for any operator wishing to conduct Scenic Helicopter Joy Flights from Katoomba Airfield.

Firstly it will add unnecessary and unwanted noise pollution to the Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National park.

Tourists and locals enjoy the Upper Blue Mountains for the undisturbed environment and

to escape the noise of the Inner Sydney Region. The last thing they want on a weekend away is more intrusive noise.

It's a problem enough with Drones being used around The Three Sisters and destroying the ambience for many.

Secondly, Scenic Helicopter Joy Flights will only be mostly used for a small elite crowd of well off visitors, the majority of visitors would not be able to afford such an exclusive experience however the flights will impact everybody in the mountains area whether they like it or not.

Thirdly, it would be disastrous if due to noise pollution our mountains economy could be destroyed due to tourists staying away and going to other National Parks/World Heritage Areas instead.

A practical alternative would be for the airfield to be incorporated into the National Park and be used for emergencies. There are always late night Emergency Helicopters picking up inexperienced or injured hikers late in the evenings in the warmer months.

My wife and I are not alone in respecting the tranquillity, wildlife and natural surroundings of the area we live in, and this is why we are voicing our strong concern.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 3:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter tourism Ref. LX602686

DEar Sir/Madam,

Today, 16 of my friends and myself went on a lovely bushwalk at Mt. Victoria in an area overlooking the Grose Valley.

We all commented on how lovely and peaceful it was and are absolutely appalled at the thought that this lovely peace and quiet could be shattered by a business out to make a killing at the expense of everyone else.

We all love and care for this iconic area, effectively 2 national parks surrounding our various towns and are not under any circumstances , prepared to endure this looming catastrophe.

We trust that your department will do the right thing by the silent majority ,as well as the environment and reject this abomination outright.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:19 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I would like to express my strong support for the proposed new use at Katoomba airstrip.

There are no working airfields between Bankstown and Bathurst, which is far too large an area not be serviced by a local airfield. The obsession with restricting the use of Katoomba airfield is not logical - in a country the size of Australia every significant settlement needs an airfield.

Opponents do not want to keep the airfield for 'public' and 'emergency' use - they don't want it at all. However, in reality, it should be a vital public amenity - the reason it is not used it is not safe to use as a proper airstrip. There would be no problem extending the airstrip to make it safe for light aircraft. None of the trees around the airfield are endangered - there are millions of them. We cannot run a community on the basis that it was acceptable for people who came before us to clear land and build a city, but that suddenly it is no longer possible to do any development.

Noise from joyflights will be limited. Aircraft cannot operate below 500 ft and, particularly with helicopters, noise abatement on takeoff and landing is easy. All that is needed is departure protocols that avoid houses, aircraft to quickly ascend to above 1500ft and only descend when away from populated areas, for example over the bushland. The pollution from operating a few joyflights is absolutely negligible, especially given the number of commercial airliners that cruise overhead.

I recommend that approval be granted for commercial use, but also that the airstrip be extended to make it safe for light aircraft. Many, many pilots would visit the airstrip and spend money in the local community. It would be excellent for local residents to be able to learn to fly in the Mountains, instead of facing a journey of at least an hour to get to the nearest airfield. If the airstrip was safe, I would expect flight training to become available which would be a great benefit.

The reality is that development and use of the runway and airfield is not going to have any real environmental impact. The area is inaccessible and hardly anyone would actually notice. With appropriate procedures, the noise would be manageable. The Mountains tourist economy is badly undeveloped - other than Scenic World there are no major developed activities, and if we are being honest, Scenic World did not already exist there would be no chance of it ever being approved in the current environment. Joyflights over areas of natural beauty are carried out, under certain conditions, in almost all places worldwide. It is time to make use of a great resources for the Mountains.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 July 2019 8:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Regarding Katoomba Airfield and the possible granting of a commercial lease:

To the Department of Industry,

As a Blue Mountains rate-payer I would like to express the following:

1. I OBJECT to any COMMERCIAL lease for this PUBLIC land;
2. This land should be PUT INTO THE NATIONAL PARK;
3. I would like the airfield kept for EMERGENCY USE ONLY.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 9:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: "airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au" <airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au>
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Sat, 13 Jul 2019 19:03:14 +1000
Subject: Ref No. 602686
Dear Dept of Industry(Crown Lands)

I am writing to you in relation to the possible future use of Crown land, specifically, the old airfield at Medlow Bath. Apparently you are deciding on the possibility of granting a long term lease which would allow the use of the land for aviation tourism.

I wish to firmly state my opposition to this outlandish proposal. I totally object to this PUBLIC land being used for commercial purposes. This Crown land should be transferred to the surrounding World -Heritage listed National Park to ensure that it is protected forever.

If need be, a working dirt strip could be kept at the airstrip for emergency use only.

I would appreciate a response to my concerns for the future of a piece of land that belongs to all Australians, not some private company which will use and abuse it for profit, with the support of the government. I also object to an increase in noise and air pollution across the mountains that will be caused by the commercial use of this land. Please let common sense prevail and protect, not destroy, our precious land.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Phon [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 2:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RefNo 602686 Katoomba airfield

To the Department of Industry

This land should not be used for commercial purposes which will only benefit those with the money to hire private planes and helicopters.

The site should not be exploited in this way, but a part kept for emergency use only - rescue and bushfire helicopters.

It should be incorporated into the surrounding National Park, maintaining our World Heritage status.

PLEASE DO NOT DESTROY THIS AREA OF NATURAL BEAUTY FOR FINANCIAL GAIN

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom it it May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED], I am a [REDACTED] and I have lived in the Blue Mountains for nine years. However, my father has a ninety year connection with this beautiful place and my sisters and their families also live here.

Where I live is very, very quiet and I am sure that the sound of helicopters would completely ruin the wonderful peace and quiet we currently enjoy. In addition I am disabled and unable to work so I am housebound and noise would detrimentally affect my peace of mind. I am not just thinking of the next year or two ahead. I look at and think about a time when a joy flights operation wants to expand and sell to other interests. This will inevitably happen over a fifty year expanse of time. We need to protect the unique quality of this landscape and location. Everybody is so lucky to have access to this wonderful, World Heritage listed place. Please do not ruin it by allowing this lease to be granted to a private company on a publicly owned, crown land.

It is up to you to listen to the voices of the whole world in opposing this badly thought through proposition. In addition, I feel that it is unconscionable that we as a community have to do battle against a helicopter joy flights proposal, when this fight was fought back in 1992-1995. Back then, the community objected strenuously to the noise and invasiveness of that helicopter operation. Why do we have to do this all over again? Please look in the files and see that we as a community do not want this.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 12:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No 602686

The prospect of disturbing the peace and quiet of the National Park and residential areas with helicopter joy-flights is horrifying. The proposal should be rejected/

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 9:55 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission for use of katoomba airfield 602686

As a Wentworth Falls inhabitant, I am writing to give my very strong opposition to the prospect of a commercial lease being given on the Katoomba Airfield.

The points that concern me:

1. A very important aspect of the Blue Mountains is the enjoyment had by hundreds of thousands each year coming to appreciate the natural beauty of our region. This beauty is primarily visual, but an essential aspect of enjoying this is the soundscape: with artificial noise – whether you are at Echo Point or down in the Grose Valley – the tranquillity of the experience is diminished, even destroyed. If you cannot conceive of this fact, consider this: Think of sitting down to enjoy a delicious meal prepared over time by your host only to have him/her put on some loud house music. Unlikely heh - but effectively it is the guardians (hosts!) of our tranquil spaces who will be signing off on the destruction of that tranquillity. Yes, that dinner scenario is highly unlikely but the point remains even it was a neighbour playing that music a few doors down - distant but very disturbing none the less.
2. How the prospect that a few may commercially gain from our public land in the face of such strong opposition from the locals just baffles me - the whole process is about-face as the company have been given a licence to operate commercially on the airfield (while they await the prospect of a lease) BEFORE any public consultation. This defies logic and the principles of a true democratic process.
3. Has everyone but the opponents to this proposal forgotten that we are talking about noisy helicopter flights WITHIN a World Heritage area? We are obligated to PROTECT this area, and this must include it's soundscape. This clearly ties in with my point 1, but here I am stating that we, as a nation, have an obligation to UNESCO - we signed up in 1974 (45 years ago!). Two basic tenets found on the UNESCO website:
"World Heritage sites belong to all the peoples of the world, irrespective of the territory on which they are located."
"States Parties are also expected to protect the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed"
How can a proposal for a commercial lease for helicopter flights even get past the first gate when we have such a duty.....
4. My belief is that the only acceptable proposal for the airfield is to put it into the National Park, with funds to maintain it for emergency use.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 10:55 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Usage Ref No 602686

I wish to make a submission for the proposed use of Katoomba airfield:

The Katoomba Airfield, located close to Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains, is a useful government owned resource that must be retained for use by all peoples of NSW.

Its value lies in the ability to have aircraft of small to medium size, fixed wing or rotary wing, to be able to use it for a variety of purposes. These include commercial operations, private flights, FFR (flood and fire relief) or for emergency medical evacuations. The commercial benefits alone will be of great importance to the community of the Blue Mountains.

In order to maintain the airfield in a serviceable condition for all operators to use will have a financial impact on the owners, the NSW government. The airfield is currently closed to fixed wing operations due to the unserviceability of the runway. This is a tragic loss to the community and especially for emergency workers that require access from fixed wing operations.

In order to finance the upkeep of the airfield for emergency use, a lease arrangement with a private operator is sensible option.

In relation to noise issues, there are already procedures in place to ensure pilots comply with a Fly Neighbourly Advice as published in the Airservices Aeronautical document, the ERSA. This ensures the responsible use of the airfield and flight paths.

Therefore the continued operation and upgrade of the airfield for continued use is a major asset to the community and should be funded by either a lease arrangement or by funded by the NSW State Government from consolidated revenue.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 7:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear NSW Government,

I'm an avid bushwalker in the Blue Mountains National Park. If you put an airfield in it, I won't go there again.

In the last few months, I've heard of the Liberal Government threatening 2 national parks - the Blue Mountains National Park & the Murray Valley National Park.

If this continues, I'll use all my marketing experience (see LinkedIn profile) to generate a self-funded and crowd-funded campaign of what the Liberal Government has done to the environment since it came to power. I'll use a combination of creativity, existing statistics, new-survey-generated statistics and marketing flare to show how such decisions have impacted the environment and as a result of that, community well-being (i.e. not). I look forward to the project.

[REDACTED]

Politicians covet power because they think it signifies that they're special. But one's legacy is never determined by having built an airfield, a new carpark in Sydney or another high-rise development. In time, who cares. However the person who saves our precious natural resources - they really do leave a legacy. The carpark-builder is just another fool, just another common, totally unremarkable and thoroughly unimaginative builder. Their covetousness of power makes them as much of a fool as all such fools before them.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath Airfield Ref No. 602686

To Whom it May Concern,
I am a resident of the Upper Blue Mountains and have worked in Tourism in the area for over 20 years.

I strongly object to the former Medlow Bath Airfield, which stands on public land being used for commercial purposes.

I am happy for this to be an emergency airstrip (working dirt strip) to be available for the community BUT not leased for aviation tourism .

This is crown land in a World Heritage National Park and the noise pollution that would be generated by commercial flights in totally unacceptable.

This piece of crown land should instead be transferred to NPWS.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 1:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission regarding reference number 602686

1. **NO COMMERCIAL LEASE now or in the future**

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area.

Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals.

Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again.

Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below.

My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future.

This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold?

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site.

2. **PUT THIS LAND INTO THE SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARK**

The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park. This is the solution.

A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area

Keep this public land in public hands.

Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency.

They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

3. **MAINTAIN FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY**

Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting!

Management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a firefighting agency. In addition to it's other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of

emergency airfields.

Kindest regards

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 3:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KAT Airfield Submission

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Crown Land,

I am the [REDACTED]. Although we have not ever used the KAT airfield is it frequently used in flight planning as an emergency landing area. There are very few areas in the blue mountains that provide an emergency landing area for light aircraft and Gliders and the distance in an emergency to even a paddock to land is considerable. In the interest of safety for small aircraft including gliders I support that the KAT airfield be preserved as an operational airfield.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 4:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference No 602686

My name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the purpose of this message is to inform you that both my wife [REDACTED] and myself strongly object to the old airport at Medlow Bath being considered for use for commercial purposes, ie aviation tourism which would include everybodys pet hate, Helicopter use, (other than emergency use).

The dirt strip used for landing emergency aircraft should be retained BUT no more. If the Government does not want to pay for any further maintenance, the land should be handed to the National Parks (which surround the airfield).

Commercial aviation tourism will destroy the very nature of the upper mountains peace and tranquility. (the emergency flights are a loud enough intrusion into our quality of life, except that they are necessary for the preservation of life.)

Thank you, yours sincerely [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 1:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield proposal.

Sirs,
I am a resident of the upper Blue Mountains and am appalled at the proposal to again commercialise the use of the Katoomba airfield.
I am not a mad greenie who is against everything, I am simply someone who sees the stupidity of this whole situation.

- 1) What is the actual full proposal?
- 2) Is the Department preparing to negotiate a lease without releasing the complete details of the proposal to the public? I hope not!
- 3) Who actually is the proposed lessee?
- 4) If the Department is aware as to who the proposed lessee is, why is it being kept a secret, and who within your Department is keeping it secret?
- 5) If the department does not know, why does it not know?
- 6) What would be the actual cost of leveling and sealing the runway? (I already have a good estimate of the cost).
- 7) Given the extensive costs involved, how many aircraft movements would it take to make this a viable operation?
- 8) Will the number of flights necessary to make this a viable business form part of the negotiations?
- 8) The people involved in this lunacy have stated that there would be no 'joy flights', only 'scenic flights'. What is the difference?
- 9) Will a vigorous environmental impact study be undertaken **prior** to any negotiations taking place? If not, why not?
- 10) Is the Department aware that 'all hell will break loose' if this legal process is not followed to the letter?
- 11) Who will be expected to foot the bill for the widening and sealing of Grand Canyon Road? Not me, not my rates and taxes!
- 12) Is the Department aware that the airport does not need an upgrade to keep it suitable for emergency services aircraft?
- 13) Is the Department aware that no fixed wing emergency services will ever use this facility?
- 14) Is the Department aware that funding is available should this facility be handed over to NPWS for maintenance as it should be?
- 15) Has anybody in the Department taken the trouble to read the 'Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999', if not, why not?
- 16) Is the Department aware of the massive carbon footprint that even a small helicopter will leave on the environment?
- 17) Why is this sloppily prepared proposal even being considered?**

It is a given that should this lunatic proposal ever come to fruition, the airport will very quickly become a taxi service for people wishing to fly in and fly out.
There simply cannot be an economic benefit to businesses within the Blue mountains. The noise pollution, the visual pollution, the air pollution, the environmental pollution will simply drive other tourists away. Less money will be spent. The people coming in by helicopter and small fixed wing aircraft will not be spending their money in the Blue Mountains except in a very few of the much larger establishments. The

detriment to the health of people living within the Blue Mountains will be measurable. The damage to the whole environment of the Blue Mountains will also be measurable.

For the environment, the amenity and the people of the Blue Mountains, this proposal has no upside, only a vast downside.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please do not publish my name.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 1:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield 602686

I'm writing to oppose the granting of a commercial lease to open the Katoomba Airfield for private and tourist use, especially joy flights. In a bush fire prone environment near the traffic hazard Great Western Highway and near terrain where people occasionally require medical evacuation by helicopter, this airfield public land must be reserved for emergency services.

For the long term benefit of citizens the Blue Mountains Heritage National Park, maintained for the present citizenry and our children, the future beneficiaries, is urgent. It is too valuable to diminish for dubious business practices focused on short-term profit.

Against the advice of several inquiries to lodge the field within the national park and maintain it for use only in emergencies, the government/would-be licensee apparently see an opportunity to make a few bucks. Issuing such a licence would seriously undermine the integrity of the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park, as well as the amenity which draws locals, tourists, bushwalkers, and rock climbers from around the world to visit this tranquil country.

Businesses in the Blue Mountains thrive on providing quiet respite for its clients, most of whom come from Sydney. Helicopter joy rides in other districts have destroyed small businesses such as accommodation providers and restaurants. The constant flights create noise pollution.

There are schools, hospitals, aged care facilities, religious retreats and residents entitled to a noise free environment in the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park precinct.

Respect for the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park ought not be ignored.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 2:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

Dear Sirs,

I hereby wish to add my voice and submission with regard to the future of Katoomba Airfield and the leasing of land for commercial purposes.

As a resident directly underneath and in close proximity to the airfield noise is one of my main concerns. Whilst I can accept emergency helicopters or light aircraft overhead when there is a search, rescue or fire in the area, having experienced their noise, at times, over years, I am very much against any escalation of the noise factor.

We originally purchased our property with the specific wish to find a quiet setting, and, so far so good, but the threat of an increase of ambient noise is horrifying.

Furthermore, I am also living in the Blue Mountains because I value its unique beauty, flora and fauna. Additional noise and other pollution are most unwelcome and threaten a sensitive and fragile ecosystem.

I also believe that what nature has on offer should be *seen and experienced at ground level*.

A quick joy flight can only give a cursory overview of the magnificence and does not add in any way to protecting what is so precious.

From my perspective the leasing of the land around the airport is purely for commercial purposes of a small business holding and does not value add to us the environment or, in the great scheme of things, tourism..

Please consider not leasing the land for commercial purposes, include the land as part of the National Park and keep the Airport open for emergency use only.

Thank you,

yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 3:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission : Future Use of Katoomba Airfield

Attn : Department of Industry, Crown Lands

Re : Proposed Commercial Use of Katoomba Airfield

I wish to place on record my objection, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposed change to the use of Katoomba Airfield, to wit the proposed commercial operation for tourist flights. I chose to live in the Blue Mountains because of its peaceful environment. I accept being remote from city facilities as a worthwhile trade-off for quality of life close to nature. I bushwalk here regularly, at least once a week, for the same reason. And that is one of the main reasons for the Blue Mountains as a prime tourist destination. It is quite extraordinary, perhaps globally unique, to have such a glorious wilderness abutting against one of the world's great cities. For tourists, either domestic or international, the ability to be immersed in wilderness little more than an hour from Sydney is quite wonderful. It needs to be cherished and preserved, not sacrificed on the altar of a few dollars. It is public land. It is not appropriate to ride roughshod over the local community, as government is wont to do.

Being in natural bushland is more than a visual experience. For most people using the bush for recreation, there are other reasons to be there. Firstly there is the range of wildlife to see and hear. Secondly there is the sense of solitude, of communing with nature. Both these amenities would be lost with more flights, particularly given the manner in which sound rebounds around the cliff lines. In this modern society, beset by so many ills, there is the demonstrable need for more quiet reflection rather than more noise, particularly given that noise is increasingly recognised for its perverse impacts on quality of life. There is clearly great resistance to this proposal. Legislators need to recognise, to fully comprehend, that we live in a liberal democracy where the rule of law reflects the greater good; it is not a plutocracy (government by the rich for the rich). It is not appropriate to damage the quality of life for so many in the community for the sake of a commercial operator and a small number of cashed-up tourists who have little or no concern for the disturbance they cause. Of one thing we can be sure; if such an odious proposal came to fruition there would be intense pressure to inexorably increase the commercial return on investment by increasing flight numbers. Surely death by a thousand cuts.

It has come to my attention the suggestion that we the community will be protected by a 'Fly Neighbourly Agreement'. I would suggest that history shows us that such agreements are self-regulated and not enforced by any government agency. They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future. In fact the whole paradigm of self-regulation is a facetious charade in any commercial environment; money will always win.

How many more obscenities are to be thrust on this stunning and relatively untouched regions? Is it not enough for the government (for the commercial benefit of its benefactors, no doubt) to plan to destroy part of the World Heritage area with an enlarged Warragamba Dam reservoir (to enable their developer supporters to push more development onto the Hawkesbury-Nepean floodplain). Is it not enough to push a proposed West Sydney airport on us, with its flight paths either over our homes or over our quiet wilderness? Does this quest for growth and money have no limit? We are already made aware that the prized World Heritage nomination is in danger of being retracted because of the proposal to expand Lake Burragorang. This commercial aerodrome would likely be the nail in the coffin of that status.

I noted recently a suggestion from a proponent of this commercialisation that it would enhance the bush experience for hikers. Was something lost in the translation? That such a suggestion is laughable is clear; are the proponents so desperate that they are prepared to make such inane, almost insulting, suggestions? Are they so bereft of justification?

The best future for this facility has already been well discussed in the community, namely that it should be kept as a small strip for emergency services and otherwise subsumed into the national park estate.

On the basis of the above reasoning, I put on record my objection to the airfield proposal.



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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 5:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number LX 602686
Attachments: logo-full_bg-white_e86786e8-3134-4a7d-8512-78bf007d4d35.jpg

Hi

I strongly support FlyBlue's proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield. I am a GA pilot and often travel between Bathurst and Sydney. Katoomba Airfield is a great central spot in case of emergency and in the future, I good location for a tourist stop.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Ref 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find this email in regards to consideration of the future of the Katoomba Airfield – Medlow Bath.

I wish to object to the use of Public Land given to individuals for their own Commercial Purposes under the guise of development of Industry.

There is nothing Industrial about having an operating Airfield for the few and having Helicopters and associated noises flying over peoples backyards. Creating a precedence like this will mean that nothing is protected, and the well being of the greater communities are disposable if the price is right.

Our Community, it's Businesses and Tourism Industry will be badly damaged by an operation of this type – Helicopters flying everywhere, as if the Aircraft from Badgerys creek won't be enough. This sort of Industry takes everything that's good from the area and adds nothing.

The Airfield is integral for emergency services to the area and the wider community. A private enterprise operating under its own conditions will gravely jeopardise these requirements. It should be left as a cleared field for the times as required.

The Airfield should be transferred to the National Parks for protection and for our future generations.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 12:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Ref No 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the possibility of Katoomba Airfield being used for commercial purposes. I have been a resident of Katoomba for over 20 years and value what the Blue Mountains can offer not only us as residents but visitors to the area as well. My friends and family come up here and say how quiet it is up here. We want people to be able to come up for fresh air, bush walks and chirping of birds not the noise of helicopters in the air. It would completely change the area and disturb those who live here and those who visit.

I object to this public land being used for commercial use for the few when the many will suffer.

This is crown land which should be transferred to National Park and protected for the future.

The airfield can still be used for emergencies such as bushfires but if it develops any further it will completely ruin the lifestyle we all moved here for.

I hope you can take my views into consideration.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 3:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686

Submission against proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield.

It seems extraordinary that one of the most important national parks in Australia, listed as a World Heritage Area, could be compromised by commercialising the current airfield. To have helicopters and light planes flying up and down the beautiful valleys, sounding like an episode from Mash where rotating blades blast serenity away, is unacceptable and unbelievable. Who wants to escape from the city to walk in the mountains with helicopters flying overhead? I won't. Where will it be possible to just stare in wonder from a lookout without the possibility of unwanted noise. Is it a bird, oh no it's a plane?

There is no guarantee that these helicopters and small planes won't fly over residential areas in the blue mountains. Winds change or a wealthy passenger wants to fly over there right now. There may be a small increase in government revenue initially but there will be undoubtedly a loss of tourist dollars in Katoomba in the long term as people explore other national parks. Also, all wildlife will be affected by the disruption.

The airfield is public land, and as has been suggested before, should be incorporated into the National Park where its use would be transparent and accountable. The fragmentation, sale and in this case, lease of public assets has to stop. Preserving our natural environment is a priority with the advent of climate change.

The present airstrip can be maintained for emergency use and larger water bomb planes can be sent from Richmond when required.

Please consider the future of the park as a sanctuary for all who live around it, in it and for those who like to walk its tracks.
Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 5:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference number 602686

To whom this may concern

Reference number 602686

I wish to object to commercial use of Katoomba Airfield

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area. Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again. The noise from helicopters is echoed and amplified impacting on areas outside the area just below. This impacts on visitors and residents.

My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future. This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold?

There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site.

I would prefer that the airfield land was returned to its surrounding National Park as it was always intended .

A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area
Keep this public land in public hands and keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting.

Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self-regulated and not enforced by any government agency.
They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

Regards

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: ref. LX602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From:
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 5:11 PM
Subject: ref. LX602686
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

I most certainly do NOT want scenic flights run out of the Katoomba airfield.

In mount Victoria we have more than enough unwanted , obtrusive noise generated by noisy trucks travelling along the Darling Causeway, to happily accept additional noise which helicopters inevitably create [REDACTED]

The helicopters which already pass over this area, always send out long lasting, loud, unpleasant noise as they travel slowly past our home in Mount Victoria.

If scenic flights are wanted by tourists, then they can easily travel to Bathurst where there is an already established airport, capable of fulfilling their needs.

Many people who come to this part of the world to live, do so to avoid the noise of busy cities. They do not want noisy aircraft of any kind, interfering with the peacefulness of this area.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 7:03 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath (Katoomba) Airfield ref 602686

I am a resident of New South Wales, and a private pilot.

I frequently fly from Bankstown to Western NSW for personal pleasure. During any given year I will invest several thousand dollars into tourism and other industries in regional cities in NSW.

In the last 18 months I have overflown Katoomba to visit Cootamundra, Orange, Bathurst, Mudgee, Rylstone, Griffith, Wagga Wagga, Mildura, Dubbo, Cowra, Narromine, Temora and Parkes. I have purchased accommodation, wine, rental cars, restaurant meals, and other local services for myself and my passengers.

Since the closure of Katoomba Airfield, there are no usable emergency airfields between the Sydney Basin and Bathurst. If an aircraft I am flying falls into difficulty which requires a forced landing, especially over the Blue Mountains due to rapid changes in weather, it is very likely to be fatal to me and/or my passengers.

Katoomba Airfield used to provide an "out." Due to washouts and vegetation growth since it was closed, it's currently unsuitable as a safe landing area.

To restore its utility, it's necessary for it to be maintained. Nobody will maintain airstrips unless they can be used for other aviation purposes, thus it's necessary to lease it to someone who is willing and able to operate it as an airfield. For this reason, I commend and support the proposal to lease it to FlyBlue Management.

Airfields are an important community amenity. In addition to providing emergency options, they also draw airborne tourists, stimulate local businesses, inspire community activity in their vicinity, and a sense of "ownership" of a shared asset.

I very much look forward to attending a fundraising BBQ at Katoomba Airfield in the near future, especially if it's funding the construction of a walking trail into Katoomba township!

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 10:26 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference: 602686

Good morning,

As a long term residents of Wentworth Falls we are against this proposal as we feel the number of "joy flights" over residential areas will be invasive and detrimental to our and all the residents of the Blue Mountains quality of life. The so called benefits to the tourist industry are questionable, would it not be better to have tourists travelling on our upgraded highway to sightseeing points where they can support refreshment facilities and the many souvenir shops.

[REDACTED]

--

Sent from Outlook Email App for Android

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 10:52 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

LX 602686

Please do Not allow commercial flights in the Blue Mountains!!!

It is a disgrace and outrageous to even consider this noise and air pollution in this beautiful and peaceful area!

Too much greed on this planet !!

It is not always about money

Quality of life and looking after citizens and our environment is much more important !!

We would have to leave katoomba and move elsewhere if this goes ahead as my son has mental disorder and can not handle noise. This is why we chose katoomba to live and it would be terrible and impossible if we had to relocate.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS AIRFIELD FOR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS!!!!

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:35 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Feedback Re: Ref No 602686

Feedback Re: Ref No 602686

Hi team!

We manage an accommodation business in the Megalong Valley. Our guests specifically seek the quiet of the bush. For us and for many other businesses in the area (that cater for bush walking, horse riding, meditation, yoga retreats and rock climbing) this proposal represents a threat to the very thing that makes these businesses viable.

Noise pollution from regular helicopter flights will detract from community use and enjoyment for people across the upper mountains, especially for visitors who seek peace and quiet as an antidote to the city. Helicopter flights might be an experience that a few people seek, but it is not the experience that the majority of people who visit the mountains are after. We understand the importance of considering this proposal to understand if it will be of long term benefit to the area but the proposal has very little merit and presents a large risk to the amenity of residents and visitors and should not go ahead.

The best use of this Crown Land is to incorporate it into the Blue Mountains National Park which is the primary attraction for people in this area. Let's keep the sanctity of this incredibly special, World Heritage area in tact and do the right thing for our residents, visitors and our environment.

We appreciate you considering our feedback, thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 2:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To the Department of Industry (Crown Lands)
Re: Future use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath for aviation tourism/helicopters

We have been residents of [REDACTED] Blackheath for the past 16 years and wish to express our strong opposition to the proposal to lease this piece of Crown Land - known as the old airport at Medlow Bath - for the purposes of tourism aviation including tours by helicopter over the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park.

We object strongly to this public land being used for such commercial purposes. Instead, it should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever for future generations. The peace and quiet are an integral part of the Blue Mountains experience for residents and visitors alike. We do not want to have our lives and our bush walks shattered by the regular sounds of light planes and helicopters. It is unacceptable to monetise a place of such magnificent beauty in this manner which benefits only the operators and a few wealthy tourists at the expense of everyone else

If necessary a working dirt strip can be maintained at the old airport for emergency use only.

We ask that you take these objections into your consideration.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Submission Ref No. LX602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 5:15 PM
Subject: Submission Ref No. LX602686
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Department

As a resident of the Blue Mountains and bushwalker, I wish to register my total opposition to the proposed helicopter flights over the Blue Mountains.

These Unesco World Heritage listed landscapes are not the places to have the noise and visual pollution these flights will create. Most people who come to the Blue Mountains expect beautiful unspoilt nature, not an amusement park.

As a result of this project, much more tourist revenue would be lost due to these factors than be generated.

Regards
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your Reference # 602686 Re: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regard to the proposed commercial lease of public land at Medlow bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield, to which I strongly object.

This airfield should be retained for Emergency use only.

The NSW Government via the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) has previously carried out many studies of the site, culminating in a recommendation in 2000 that the area be added to the Blue Mountains National Park. I believe that this would be the most sensible option.

As a Katoomba resident in the Echo Point precinct, I am well aware of the impact of increased tourist visitation to the area & believe strongly that, although tourism is critical to our local economy, it should be well planned & developed in a sustainable manner. Tourists visit the Blue Mountains primarily because of this world heritage listed area's natural beauty. Aircraft noise from joy flights is already noticeable in this area, particularly on weekends. It is however limited due the distance (& therefore costs) from Sydney airports.

I note the following from the Office of Environment & Heritage website "The Greater Blue Mountains was added to the World Heritage List in 2000 in recognition of its significant natural values. It possesses unique plants and animals that relate an extraordinary story of the evolution of Australia's distinctive eucalypt vegetation and its associated communities".

The impact of the proposed commercial lease upon the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area ("GMBWHA") should not be underestimated, with noise & pollution bound to have a detrimental impact upon local fauna & flora. Having spoken to other concerned residents & community groups, I understand that an increase in noise levels, particularly in the vicinity of escarpment areas, would likely disturb reproduction patterns & increase stress levels of fauna in these sensitive areas.

I believe that granting a commercial lease for the airfield would be the "tip of the iceberg" as joy flights would prove popular & we would end up seeing increases in air traffic well above what may be initially proposed. With iconic walking tracks such as the Grand Canyon in Blackheath being within a kilometre of the Katoomba Airfield, I fear noise levels created by aircraft would significantly reduce the general ambience sort out by the majority of people who visit the area to enjoy bushwalking.

The airfield is also located in close proximity to the water supply for Katoomba & surrounding townships – increased aircraft activity would no doubt have an effect from air pollution regardless of proposed changes in flight paths. Flight paths addressed in the proposals only seem to relate to take off & landings. If joy flights are allowed it is obvious they would be flying in the valley areas close enough to view of our magnificent escarpments. The noise of aircraft echoes considerably throughout these valleys. Echo point is not named as such for no reason.

Aside from the environmental impact there is no infrastructure to support any such venture. The access road to the airfield is currently unsealed & not in a fit state for overuse by tourists.

I implore you to withdraw the interim lease & refer the matter to the necessary department in order to proceed with the area being included in National Park.

Your sincerely



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 2:25 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Submission ref #602686
Attachments: 1.katoomba-airfield-impact-of-helicopters-on-bm-world-heritage-values-summary.pdf; Untitled attachment 00053.html; 2.katoomba-airfield-birds.pdf; Untitled attachment 00056.html; 3.katoomba-air field-history-and-background.pdf; Untitled attachment 00059.html; 5. 15-155FAC_Helicopter-operations_WEB.pdf; Untitled attachment 00062.html; 5.CAAP_92_2.pdf; Untitled attachment 00065.html

Dear Minister Pavey
Minister for Crown Lands
NSW Department of Industry and Crown Lands
17-52 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2001
(PO Box 2155 Dangar NSW 2309)

Dear Minister Pavey,

RE: Proposed Commercial Lease of Katoomba Airfield

We strongly object to the proposed new commercial leasing of Katoomba Airfield for helicopter 'Joy Flights' over the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park, on the following grounds:

1. World Heritage National Park Use:

- There should be no commercial development in any National Park, let alone in our World Heritage Area. A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could put its World Heritage status in jeopardy. Please see PDF 1.
- Katoomba Airfield should remain as an emergency airfield only.
- Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the surrounding National Park. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.
- 2015 Blue Mountains LEP regarding ZONE E3 (Parts 2 & 3 p21) does not specify a commercial heliport as an acceptable development.[1]

2. Impacts of 'Joy Flights' on thousands of people, local native flora and fauna, and the environment for the commercial benefit of a few:

- 'Joy flight' helicopters have serious environmental and community impacts, and create unnecessary pollution and noise.
- Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals. Please see attached PDF 2.
- Lack of detailed information about the number of daily commercial helicopter flights, or possible future variability of flights paths.

- Helicopters strike native birds[2] and frighten native wildlife.
- Helicopters are allowed to fly as low as 500 feet. At this altitude they generate 78 decibels (db) of noise—way over the ‘acceptable’ limit of 65 decibels.[3] Additionally, 78db exponentially around 10 times louder than 65db.[4]
- That noise mitigation, known as a Fly Neighbourly Agreement[5], is voluntary, not enforceable and at the discretion of the Katoomba Airfield’s commercial leaser.
- Two official key planning and regulation documents published by Air Services Australia and the Australian Government Civil Aviation Safety Authority(attached PDFs 4 and 5), do not take into account the fact that helicopter noise triggers PTSD in war veterans. A veteran playing wheelchair tennis at last October Invictus Games, suffered PTSD episode caused by an overhead helicopter. See: <https://www.invictusgames2018.org/helicopter-triggers-emotional-scenes-at-wheelchair-tennis/>

3. Impacts of Previous Commercial Lease of Katoomba Airfield for ‘Joy Flights’:

- That during emergency use of the Katoomba Airfield, for example, during bush fire and rescue operations, tax/rate payers would likely have to compensate the leaser for loss of business during those periods of time.
- During the last 'Joy Flight' commercial lease from 1992-1995, community complaints about noise were ignored. Please see attached PDF 3.

4. Potential Future Expansion of Commercial Leases for Katoomba Airfield:

- That if granted, this commercial lease (of unknown length) may open the door for longer and larger commercial operations such as for fixed wing aircraft.
- Such a commercial lease can be sold on.
- We ask please that the Katoomba Airfield be added to the Blue Mountains National Park to be managed by the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) with specific funding provided to NPWS for management and maintenance of the airfield.
- Due to accelerating climate change and its intensifying weather extremes, more frequent and extreme bushfire emergencies are likely. Therefore, we urge all relevant authorities to please continue the use of the Katoomba Airfield as an emergency airfield only.[6][7][8][9]

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[1] <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/development/planning-rules/development-controls-for-land-zoned-under-LEP-2015/DCP-2015>
 [2] https://www.atsb.gov.au/media/5772313/ar2016063_final-report.pdf
 [3] <https://hearinghealthmatters.org/lawandhearing/2011/helicopter-noise/>
 [4] <https://www.noisehelp.com/decibel-scale.html>

- [5] <http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/monitoring-aircraft-noise/>
- [6] <https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/science-tech/australia-burns-while-politicians-fiddle-leadership>
- [7] <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/uploads/02401b8a369a37c7763b3c2b4171a517.pdf>>
- [8] <https://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/climate-change/very-dangerous-fire-season-forecast-as-research-suggests-two-cities-could-see-spike-in-heat-related-deaths/news-story/6bd65231e12cb0315fe9f9020b0d1448>
- [9] <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/blueprintforliving/extreme-bushfires-and-why-theyre-getting-more-frequent/7121452>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi,

As I am originally from the Blue Mountains and a current commercial pilot and aircraft owner, I have visited the airfield on numerous occasions both by road and by air in the past 50 years. It is the most convenient and logical airfield to fly to these days, when I fly to the Blue Mountains to visit the area and to visit my Mother. I have also been very grateful to have been able to use it as a waypoint and stop-over, during aircraft deliveries.

I consider Katoomba airfield to be a vital and necessary asset for the region for emergency, private and commercial use.

The removal of this facility would in my opinion be short sighted and expose the ever increasing numbers of flying traffic to unnecessary risk, in not having an "off airport" landing alternative, or in the event of an in-flight emergency while in the area, to be able to land safely as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 11:38 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: TITLE: Katoomba Airfield submission reference number 602686

TITLE:Katoomba Airfield submission reference number 602686

TO: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

CC: Minister Pavey Minister for Crown Lands Level 17 -52 Martin Place SYDNEY 2001

CC: MP for Blue Mountains Trish Doyle - via email

I have recently become aware that Katoomba Airfield may become subject to a commercial lease tender.

This is PUBLIC land.

I wish to object to ANY commercial lease being granted (now or into the future) as the location is inappropriate for commercial usage, being adjacent to a National Park and World Heritage Area. With consequent noise pollution that will result affecting local fauna populations

I am of the opinion that this land should itself be incorporated within the National Park, whilst maintaining the current dirt airstrip for **EMERGENCY situations only.**

Regards [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 1:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath

To Whom it Should Concern,

I am writing to express my strong objections to the possible long term commercial use of Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath which has the potential to impact negatively on the flora and fauna of this wilderness heritage area as well as on the status of the Blue Mountains National Park, on the Australian families who live in the adjoining towns and on the many tourists who appreciate the opportunity to walk in such wilderness areas. Helicopter flights over this area would completely change the enjoyment and experience of the bush. This area provides the 'lungs' for the Sydney basin. It should be public land; it should never be turned into a commercial enterprise.

I also strongly object to the lack of community consultation to date and the fact that consultation with the community occurred so late, **after** the decision to enter into commercial lease negotiations. The way the process has been managed to date looks like a jobs-for-the-boys situation. Please make all processes transparent and include all relevant players - namely, NPWS, RFS, and the community - in the negotiations.

Please incorporate the Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park and allow it to be used solely as an emergency airfield. Please also provide funding to the NPWS for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2019 5:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear NSW Government,

I'd like to express my support for Katoomba Airport.

As a long time pilot I realise the benefits to the economy that General Aviation brings. There are many satellite businesses that will profit from an open, well serviced and well run Katoomba Airport. An increase in hotel and food outlet patronage as well as transport and fuel spending will bring a welcome boost in economic activity in the Blue Mountains district as it helps to lift visitor numbers.

I commend the initiative that Flyblue Management P/L has shown in addressing both the good and contentious issues that present themselves whenever airports are mentioned. The growth rather than stagnation of aviation in our huge country should be lauded long and loud because these grass roots airports are where our next generation of both pilots and engineers will gain experience.

Please help the Katoomba Airport thrive.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

I object strongly to the granting of any commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield.

1. **This is public land, enclosed in a World Heritage listed National Park.** Why has this land, used by the Rural Fire Service during firefighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?
2. **Why was the community not consulted by the state government** about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a license by direct negotiation, and awarded it to a high-impact helicopter tourism business? Moreover, the government has not even given the general public basic information about the proposal, such as the number of flights and their frequency, and flight plans.
3. **Numerous government reports over the years have recommended or anticipated that the site should be returned to the National Park.** Why has nothing been done about this? Katoomba Airfield should be returned to the Blue Mountains National Park, to be used strictly as an emergency airfield.
4. A commercial airfield providing joy flights is the last thing this area needs. The tremendous racket of helicopters and other planes reverberating off escarpment and valley walls and floors would **adversely affect the enjoyment of tourists to the Blue Mountains as well as negatively impact Blue Mountains residents.** The natural topography of this area acts to magnify sound, and the area is already under intense threat from noise impacts from Western Sydney Airport.
5. **The Blue Mountains World Heritage status is up for review later this year.** Concentrated commercial helicopter activity would threaten this status, by its effects on the 3000+ native species within 5km of the airfield (including those listed as endangered), as well as other considerations.

I strongly urge that Katoomba Airfield be returned to the Blue Mountains National Park, to be used solely as an emergency airfield, so as to avoid any further degradation of this area for commercial profit, and to conserve this world-class world-famous Park for visitors and locals for many years to come.

Thank you for reading my submission. I trust that you will consider it carefully.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 6:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Please keep the old Katoomba airfield as public land

I want to tell you that I object strongly to the use of the airfield in Katoomba for commercial purposes such as joy flights.

This should be kept as public land, and should be used for the benefit of local residents and visitors. It should not be made available for commercial interests to operate for their own profit, and contrary to local interests and needs.

I believe that the land should be incorporated into the National Park, and that the airfield should be designated for emergency use only. In that way the airfield would be available for use in case of genuine need, without adding to air and noise pollution that would spoil the beauty and peaceful nature of the local area.

Visitors who come to the Blue Mountains are looking for something different from the usual home environment, and people who have made a permanent move to the mountains do not want to be followed by the noise and pollution they left behind.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 3:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref.602686

To whom it concerns.

I'm writing with regard to the proposed leasing of land at Medlow Bath.

The Blue Mountains is a unique place, which is why people are drawn from all over the world to visit it, and which gained it World heritage listing.

Already this status is under threat from the proposed Western Sydney Airport, the proposed raising of the Warangamba Dam wall which will see the loss of large areas of National Park, and mining ventures further west. It is imperative that we protect this natural icon, so that future generations can appreciate its beauty and diversity. Australia has one of the worst records in the world for the extinction of its native animals (ABC Four Corners).

Helicopters are a necessary part of life in the mountains, as we are in an area of huge bush fire risk, with only one major road traversing its length, which is already full to bursting especially at the weekends, with the increased tourist load..

National Parks use helicopters for maintaining tracks around the park and for the inevitable emergencies that come with, walking, climbing, canyoning that some tourists associate with this area.

Helicopters are also used to ferry people between Katoomba and Nepean hospital.

We are familiar with this and appreciate its importance, but enough is enough.

Helicopters are noisy, they spoil the value of getting out in the bush and in the peace and quiet, that people come to experience. They disturb, the native species, flight paths of huge numbers of birds that pass this way twice a year. And to what extent are these people going to add value to the community. We don't need fly in fly out tourists, we should be encouraging tourists who want to engage with nature, to stay a while and spend money on the ground.

I am completely opposed to any commercial lease for this land, it should be kept for Emergency use only. Some other method of funding needs to be addressed, State or Federal funding through Bush Fire Risk Management, National Parks, or Native Title. To make it a commercial enterprise is opening the way for disaster for this World Heritage area.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 3:15 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Submission by B.R. Lawson - Your Reference LX602686

Reference number LX 602686

Dear Sir,

I have been a visitor to the Blue Mountains since my childhood. I have walked the escarpments, the valleys and the canyons. Over the years they have been the places to visit with my many overseas visitors and I have now retired to Wentworth Falls for the peace and tranquillity of the wilderness, after many years of living with the noise and chaos of the city.

Helicopters are not machines of beauty. They are incredibly noisy, cumbersome bemoths. While they are a necessary evil for air ambulance, search and rescue and providing access to otherwise inaccessible areas, I know the noise is temporary, necessary and will come to an end.

This would not be the case for a Heliport. Katoomba airfield overlooks the Grose valley. Operating a heliport at Katoomba airfield will generate continuous unacceptable noise into the valley. It will destroy the peace, quietness and natural beauty of the area. People of all ages come to see this valley. Some will walk along the escarpment or down into the valley; others will just come to admire the view; all will leave refreshed, invigorated and restored. A heliport will destroy this experience.

Almost next to the airfield is a classic walk known as Grand Canyon. The walk off the Blackheath plateau descends into a narrow canyon of waterfalls. The air is filled with birdsong and shafts of sunlight glinting through the trees clinging off the sides of the cliffs. A sense of adventure takes over on entering a sequence of natural galleries cut into the cliff face, cliff on one side a precipitous drop on the other and the continuous sound of fast flowing water far below. National Parks have just spent several years repairing this walk for the enjoyment of many thousands of visitors. With a heliport next door, you may well ask why did they bother?

My understanding is that this piece of Crown Land would be incorporated into the surrounding National Park on termination of the current lease. This would make eminent sense. Retaining small land holdings within National Parks must be very inefficient. The original lease allowed a small group of aircraft enthusiasts to construct an airfield. The cost of maintaining this airfield by the owner of the lease became prohibitive and the various commercial enterprises operating on it have failed. There is no indication that a new operator would be any more successful. The site is totally surrounded by bush. There is only one road in and one road out. It will be difficult to protect in the event of a major bush-fire and the situation would be made worse by the storage of volatile aviation fuels.

It is doubtful a Heliport would be of any benefit to the local economy. The Blue Mountains are now recognised as having World Heritage status. Visitors come to see a World Heritage wilderness. The noise pollution of a heliport will have a progressive dulling effect on the visitor experience. They will no longer return; they will no longer recommend. World Heritage status could be lost. The Blue Mountains economy will suffer. Do you really want to “kill the golden goose”?

Operation of the airfield has left the area unsightly and degraded; open to weed infestation, has runoff issues and potential pollution problems from leaking fuel and engine oils. A new lease for a heliport will only

compound these problems. It is time for the land to be incorporated into the National Park for rehabilitation by the National Parks and Wild Life Service.

I am strongly of the opinion that the land should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 12:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield - proposed lease.

Subject Reference Number: LX602686, Katoomba Airfield - proposed lease.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing with concerns over the proposed lease of Crown Land at Medlow Bath. I am concerned that this proposal to grant perhaps a 50-year lease, for commercial operation and development of an airfield, on land which is wholly within the Blue Mountains National Park, is not in the best interests of our community and the protection of natural areas for future generations.

I believe this public land should remain under the management of a public institution, not leased to a private company to develop for their personal gain.

I would like to see Lot 550 DP 751657, Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath gazetted as an extension of our Blue Mountains National Park.

My main concerns with this proposal are

- Economic impacts such as effect on local businesses and property values
- Loss of local amenity for example due to noise, visual impact, privacy
- Environmental impacts including pollution, flora and fauna impact and world heritage status
- Concerns with the bureaucratic process

As an avid bush walker and firm believer in the importance of protecting wilderness areas I feel that from the airfield towards the NW, any increase in helicopter or light plane traffic impinges on the following areas in particular:

- The iconic Grand Canyon Track is under 1km from the airfield. Noise generated at takeoff and landing approaches would affect the experience of those walking in this area
- The Blue Mountains are a premier destination in Australia for canyoning. The track to Juggler Canyon is opposite the airfield. Arethusa Canyon, Alpheus Canyon, Fortress Canyon, Butterbox Canyon, David Crevasse, Orunga Canyon, Dalpura Canyon, Birrabang Canyon, Koombamba Canyon, Wotta Canyon, Better Offer Canyon, Yileen Canyon and Hat Hill Canyon are all within two kilometres of the proposed flight path. Rick Jamieson's Canyons near Sydney, 5th Edition, is a guide to around 100 of the Blue Mountains more accessible canyons. It is sold at Blue Mountains outdoor activity shops and at the NPWS Centre at the end of Govetts Leap Road. A significant increase in traffic on the proposed flight path has a potential impact on the experience in 15% of accessible canyons if sound levels are not minimised or eliminated.
- The sides of the Grose valley are the sites of a large variety of lookouts. Many are easily accessible by tourists in their cars, primarily Evans Lookout, Govetts Leap Lookout, Pulpit Rock, Perry's Lookdown and Anvil Rock. Paths along the edge of the Grose from Evans to Pulpit Rock exploit a cliff edge location with stupendous views. Walkers access views in the valley at Baltzer Lookout, Lockleys Pylon, Mt Banks and Fortress Ridge. At the magnificent lookout of Anvil Rock, the views along three arms of the bottle

shaped Grose Valley with the tower blocks of Sydney visible on a clear day are unrivalled. Helicopters and other aircraft will fly almost over the top of this lookout.

The bottom of the Grose Valley is the site of a remote camp site. Paths lead to the bottom of the valley, through the Blue Gum forest and on to Mount Victoria. Perry's Lookdown, Rodriguez Pass, the Horse Track and Pierces Pass all lead walkers into and out of the valley. Mt Banks overlooking the Grose Valley and the site of the one of the Blue Mountains largest cliff faces could become a large echo chamber magnifying any sound.

The birthplace of the Blue Mountains National Park is the Blue Gum forest below Mt Banks. Almost 100 years ago, a group of bushwalkers intervened before trees were cleared to establish a walnut plantation. "The NPWS makes the following comment about this special place:

The historical and natural significance of the mighty Blue Gum Forest can't be understated. It's spoken of in hushed tones by those who know of it, and once seen, is never forgotten.

Situated in Grose Valley, in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, this stand of magnificent eucalypts is a fine example of closed forest. A haven for birds and wildlife, it was saved from the axe by bushwalkers in the 1930s. These intrepid nature-lovers pooled resources and bought the forest to preserve it for future generations." (<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/historic-buildings-places/blue-gum-forest>)

Any increase in volume of traffic along the Grose Valley has the potential to have an impact on the area's conservation. That impact needs to be managed so that it is minimised or made virtually non-existent.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number: LX602686

Thank you for this opportunity to express our thoughts on the future use of Katoomba Airfield.

A number of helicopter pilots are known to us; most of these people are also owners of helicopters.

Not long ago, we read an article which described pilots as "sensitive, articulate and caring" persons - to which we agree. The article did not, specifically, refer to helicopter pilots and owners but we know it applies to the pilots known to us.

Please allow us to tell you about our friend, Jim, whose neighbour (Bill R) lived on a prestigious property, from which he operated and hangared his helicopter. Some neighbours protested - perhaps out of jealousy and other reasons - that Bill was able and allowed to operate his fine machine from his domestic property. Until one day. One day when a neighbour's little grand daughter went missing. After frantic searches, the local residents approached Bill for help. Bill, being a caring person, quickly agreed to join the search from the air. In his helicopter.

Much territory was covered in the fading daylight. When the little girl was located in thick bush - from the air - the attitude of the locals quickly changed to admiration and genuine, heart-felt thankfulness! The dislike of Bill had evaporated.

By the way, Bill did not accept any offer of payments!

A great number of rescues, involving helicopters, have been successful. Having an helicopter or two based in the Blue Mountains would be a tremendous asset. Obviously, quite apart from the value they would play in advancing Tourism.

I've heard how helicopters and National Parks happily and successfully co-exist in the Strahan (Tasmania) region. Recalling that Tassie is known for its care of the environment AND its need to attract tourists from all over the world.

The Larsens, in their desire to operate an Helicopter business in the Blue Mountains, have made great efforts to do so without casting a destructive shadow on the natural beauty of the area. This is where the (aforementioned) words come into play. "Sensitive, Articulate and Caring"; they would apply to the desire of the Larsens - to live happily with those who are fearful of progress and what it may mean. The helicopter business would be a tremendous asset to our area.

Let's face it; these helicopters would not be taking off and landing every every ten minutes - day and night. we're sure the proposed business owners are acutely aware

of the need to preserve harmony with animals and birds. The same fears might have been raised as train lines and highways were built across our beautiful Blue Mountains. We still have a superb environment.

Please take time to recall the minutes from a local Council meeting in October 1968, where it congratulated the new Katoomba Airfield project as an encouragement to tourism and visitors to fly to the Blue Mountains. (Realising that many tourists, today, are time-poor and want to see what they can in the time available. What better way than from the air?)

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

[Redacted address]

01 August 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 4:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned resident of Hazelbrook writing to you about the following issue. I understand that The NSW Department of Industry is currently considering issuing a long-term lease that will allow commercial operators to use Katoomba Airfield for helicopter tourism. I understand that this will mean scenic heli-charter flights or 'joy flights', landing in and taking off from within the national park.

- 1: I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- 2: This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever.
- 3: I believe it is important to Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

I have significant concerns around

- * The loss of local amenity
- * Economic impacts from fly in - fly out tourists.
- * Environmental impacts
- * The consultation process.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

I can be contacted at

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 11:38 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airstrip at Medlow Bath (Reference No 602686)

Dear Sir(s)/Madam(s),

I am writing out of concern about the proposed use of Medlow airstrip for recreational aviation. This would be an environmental disaster and highly offensive to other users of the Blue Mountains National Park, let alone local residents who value the little bit of peace and quiet left to us. Helicopters and light aircraft are fantastic when used appropriately ie for emergencies such as bushfire fighting, medical emergencies etc but NOT for joy flights, personal transport etc. They are just too noisy and intrusive.

I find it incomprehensible that you would even consider such a proposal. Please dismiss the proposal as absolute lunacy (or greed) and restore a little my confidence in your department's integrity.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 5:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to a Commercial Lease of Aircraft - LX 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

For over 30 years thousands of meditators have enjoyed the tranquility of the Blue Mountains while practicing Vipassana at Dhamma Bhumi situated in Blackheath. Now the silence is threatened by your proposed lease of Katoomba airfield to a commercial flying operator.

The airfield is only seven kilometers from the Vipassana Centre.

I understand that as the licence is unrestricted, the flight paths and frequency of flights is entirely up to the operator with no further oversight or control.

Meditators now have the prospect of low aircraft or helicopter flights directly over the Centre.

While flights are meant to be above 1000 feet (30m) above residential areas and 500 feet (15m) elsewhere, I believe there is no enforcement process and a pilot can claim safety, poor weather etc.

The impact on the Vipassana Centre would be enormous, not only because of the noise, but also the loss of privacy, with overhead viewing.

The Centre's solitude and natural environment could be invaded on a regular basis.

A commercial lease of aircraft would destroy the ambience that makes the Vipassana Centre a viable place for meditators to congregate.

In addition, the Blue Mountains is a listed World Heritage area, noted for the breathtaking beauty of its scenery, abundant wildlife and its peaceful silence.

It is rare to have such beautiful and unique wilderness so close to a major city like Sydney with approximately 5.8 million people living within it.

It is an amenity which needs to be protected.

A commercial lease of aircraft would destroy the tranquility of the Blue Mountains, the flora, fauna and wildlife within it which serves as a most important and necessary retreat by the local community, Vipassana meditation students, Sydeysiders, visitors from across Australia and those visiting from overseas.

At present, the Katoomba Airfield is used just for emergency services.

It is a known fact that between 1992-95, when a commercial lease was previously issued, it was **mis-used** and subsequently operations were closed down.

When that lease expired, it was agreed that the airfield be returned to being part of the Blue Mountains National Park, but this never happened.

This should have happened for the reasons established at that time, including the misuse of the previous commercial lease which now serves as a very real reason as to why a commercial lease should not be established now.

I understand that the proposed lease is to be granted by the NSW Government Department of Lands. The government's own guidelines require that before such a lease is granted:

- It's impact on the current community use and enjoyment of the land be considered
- Community engagement be transparent, conducted openly, fosters respect and trust, and is professional, honest and consistent
- Local communities have the opportunity to be involved and local voices heard

Yet to date, and in contrast to the above, no information has been offered about the flight paths, the frequency, and the number of flights.

Clearly this is inadequate consultation.

I urge you to reconsider the above proposal in order to avoid the catastrophic mistake you are now considering making.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference no: 602686

I, a resident of Blackheath, wish to voice my opposition to the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield for the following reasons:

1. NO COMMERCIAL LEASE now or in the future

There should be no Commercial Development in the middle of a National Park, let alone a World Heritage Area. Scenic tours/joy flights, taking off and landing in a National Park should not occur because of the impacts on park visitors and our native plants and animals. Joy flights were stopped in 1995 because of the noise, and should not start again. Because of the shapes of the valleys helicopter noise is echoed and amplified, impacting on far more areas than just directly below. My concern is not just with this specific proposal, I object to ANY commercial lease now or in the future.

This land is PUBLIC land. A private lease allows changes to be decided behind closed doors. WHO could take over the lease? WHAT could they do in the future? Could it be sold? There are numerous international studies demonstrating the significant impacts of helicopters on native fauna, in particular on disruptions to bird migrations; also on fauna reliant on hearing for feeding, mating and care of young.

The conclusion of a 2019 ecological study is that the aircraft activity will negatively impact on the internationally recognised migration of honeyeaters through the Blue Mountains. It could also impact other birds inhabiting the diverse bushland surrounding the site. (BMRM Ecological Surveys - LINK BMCS website)

2. PUT THIS LAND INTO THE SURROUNDING NATIONAL PARK

The airfield land was always intended to be returned to its surrounding National Park. This is the solution. A commercial development within the World Heritage Area threatens the integrity of the land, makes it more difficult to manage as a natural area and could even put its status in jeopardy.

We need to stop this threat ever arising again! Protect our World Heritage Area. Keep this public land in public hands. Fly Neighbourly Agreements are self regulated and not enforced by any government agency. They have not protected the National Park in the past and cannot in the future.

3. MAINTAIN FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY

Keep the dirt airstrip for emergency landings and firefighting! Management of the airstrip is best undertaken by a firefighting agency. In addition to it's other function the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is a vital firefighting agency already managing a number of emergency airfields.

Yours sincerely,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 4:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Saying No to a Commercial Airfield in Katoomba

Dear Sir/Madam:

I do not want a bloody commercial airfield generating joy flights and lining the pockets of some greedy [REDACTED] in Katoomba, thank you.

I've lived in the Blue Mountains since 1983, which now, in 2019, qualifies me for local status. When I first came to live in Lawson, there was practically no night time traffic on the Great Western Highway. If one were travelling from Wentworth Falls to Lawson then, between 11.00 p.m. - midnight, you'd be lucky to see one other car on the Highway. When I moved to Bullaburra in 1986, I bought a property that was two kilometres off the Highway. The same state of affairs blessedly prevailed; I could only hear traffic if the wind was coming from a northerly direction and again it was still only the odd lone semi trailer going through to Sydney in the small hours.

Since the Highway was upgraded (this concluded in 2015) the noise is now endless. The Highway never stops. The noise never stops. We also have the added discomfort of bloody HELICOPTERS going around the villages for hours on end every couple of months (and usually on a weekend) to check the power lines. There's no break - they just keep flying. There isn't even an arrangement of an hour on and an hour off to give the residents' ears and nerves a break.

We also have, on average, four helicopters a night going through to Sydney - they may be medical emergencies being flown from Katoomba to Sydney, I do not know. Some of them may be rescue helicopters heralding yet another idiot Sydneyite who has got lost or fallen off a cliff. Occasionally they are from the television stations, if something particularly good's happened in our neck of the woods. But there's certainly more of them than there were 20 years ago. By the way, that doesn't count the ones during the day. Day or night, most of these helicopters are flying so low the windows rattle and I can feel it through the floor.

Now there's a proposal for MORE bloody noise? Not only more noise - it'll be extra noise generated only for the purpose of lining the pockets of a greedy [REDACTED] or business who evidently abhors what he considers to be a vacuum. Who cannot stand to see good land apparently idle. Who thinks that building something on it and making more bloody noise and causing more irreversible damage is a good thing. Not to mention the loads of cash to be made. Who abhors a beautiful place and space, a WORLD HERITAGE place and space, which is already well on the way to being ruined for good. And once it's bugged, all the king's horses and all the king's men can't put it right again.

This proposal makes no account of environmental sensitivity; the wild life and flora of the area; any indigenous considerations; It is all about MONEY and how much the owner/operator of this ugly commercial enterprise will make and as any long term resident and ratepayer in the Blue Mountains City Council area knows, it is all about the **money**; how it's spent in the Blue Mountains, on what it's spent and which Council officer/Councillor's pocket the money goes into from the greedy sod who wants to operate helicopter joy flights. Everyone knows it, it's the worst kept secret in these parts. The locals all know this adage: Blue Mountains City Council is the BEST that MONEY can buy. If you've got the money, you can get absolutely anything - even the most stupidly bodgy and dangerous of buildings, the most environmentally damaging construction - approved by the Blue Mountains City Council. The Council will bleat sanctimoniously about all the money that the tourists coming for joy flights will generate, and pat themselves on the back for bringing yet another top earner to the Mountains; when in actual fact, VERY

FEW will profit at all. The environment won't profit, will it? Will the wildlife profit? Highly unlikely. By the time the construction has happened, you can wave goodbye to any indigenous sensitivities wrecked for ever; and is this greedy git going to compensate each and every home owner in the Blue Mountains City Council for the depreciation of their properties due to the excessive noise? Yeah, right, I bet he'll be just rushing to put his hand in his pocket.

The only ones who will profit - apart from the Councillor/s accepting the kickback for approval for this proposed criminal act - will be a couple of eateries and possibly some of the motels/hotels/accommodation. We heard this same bollocks when Sydney hosted the Olympics: "Oh, the money it will generate for AUSTRALIA and AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES!" Well, the Olympics didn't put in money in MY pocket and I've yet to meet anyone who was in business up here (still a part of AUSTRALIA, I believe) and did any good out of it.

Designate this airfield for emergency use ONLY. My husband's in the Rural Fire Service, a veteran of over 40 years. He holds the Queen's Medal for volunteer services. He's all in favour of an emergency airfield ready for natural disasters, rescues, etc. Apart from the business pushing for commercial usage of this place, no-one's in favour of it (Well, with the exception of the Councillor/s expecting the kickback.)

Do not let this proposal go ahead. There is enough noise in the world; we do not need any more. There has been enough damage to the beautiful Blue Mountains in the name of greed, money and fat backhanders in the appropriate pockets. And if this proposal does go ahead, with the aforementioned self congratulations from the Blue Mountains City Council, I will literally MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH for ICAC to open an enquiry into the corruption that is obviously endemic in this local Council, which - viz. to wit. the recent asbestos uproar and asbestos disposal contracts given to 'friends' of Councillors - has all the credibility of a Naughty Fido imitation dog turd.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 12:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Positive Feedback

Hello

I'm writing to support the Katoomba Airfield long term lease being granted to the new owners.

The airport needs to be retained for the growth of the mountains. Tourism is a large part of what makes up the mountains economy. We need to encourage more ways for income to be brought in. Helicopters flights is one good way of getting funds into the area. It will add extra employment in the area as well. We already have helicopters flying over on a regular basis and it all part of living in a community. The noise level of a helicopter is no different to a mower and we haven't abolished them!

On another note - My family use the airstrip for business in Lawson. If it was not possible to land a small plane this would greatly impact them being able to run there factories in the mountains. The mountains need every encouragement to progress the area forward and not listen to the minority that usually have the loudest voice but don't always represent the majority.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 10:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield - LX 602686

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,
Reference: LX 602686 - Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield, Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath (Lot 550 DP751627)
29 July 2019

I am deeply concerned that the Department of Industry is considering granting a long term lease for private commercial tourism of Katoomba Airfield.

I strongly object to this commercial lease application and my request is that this public land be gazetted as part of Blue Mountains National Park to be used for emergencies only.

These are my reasons -

1. These 36 hectares are public land. This piece of land is surrounded by Blue Mountains National Park which has World Heritage status affording protection for future generations. It needs to be under the management of a public institution to ensure this protection and not leased to a private company for its commercial gain. To allow this airfield to be used for commercial flights will have a detrimental impact on the national park environment and the wildlife. I observe the annual migration of hundreds of thousands of honeyeaters over the mountains, many over my home in Medlow Bath and near the airfield. Recently I observed a rare raptor, a Collared Sparrowhawk along the road just past the airfield. There is no way the continual noise and flight disruption of light aircraft and helicopters will not affect the nesting and feeding habits of birds and other wildlife. There will also be inevitable pollution of the environment from runoff from the proposed sealed runway, the storage and transportation of fuel, the building of infrastructure for the commercial ventures at the airfield. There has been very little information provided regarding the number of flights but to make it a profitable business there would need to be constant use. The proposed flight paths (just a chart at the drop-in community consultation) over the Blue Mountains National Park cannot be controlled.

2. Commercial use of Katoomba Airfield will have an adverse impact on the amenity of people living in the mountains, particularly the residents of Medlow Bath, Katoomba and Blackheath. As well as residents there are meditation centres, the RSPCA in north Katoomba and others who desire peace and quiet in their towns rather than the noise of helicopters and light planes. We have already experienced this and it is totally unacceptable noise pollution. Joy flights from the airfield will lead to increased traffic through residential Medlow Bath on a narrow road, unsealed in part. Fuel delivery through our village and fuel storage in a bushfire zone is dangerous.

3. Desirable tourism is that which brings people who wish to enjoy the natural peace and beauty of the mountains and have a low environmental impact on the national park. They improve the local economy by using local businesses. The very things they come to enjoy will be shattered by low flying aircraft. Helicopter joy flights in the early 1990s were shocking as the noise reverberates through the canyons. I personally experienced this while walking in the Grand Canyon in Blackheath which is very close to Katoomba Airfield. If this commercial lease is granted, people enjoying the wonder of the Grose Valley from Anvil Rock will have aircraft passing close overhead as shown on the the flight path chart.

4. If the airfield is commercially leased to a private company I have concern over what may be possible in future leases negotiated without public consultation. Public land should not be for private profit.

Will it cost the public if the Bushfire Service requires access to the airfield disrupting the private enterprise.

As a longtime resident of the Blue Mountains and having been a a resident of Medlow Bath for the past twenty years I am aware of the massive amount of time and effort spent gaining World Heritage status for the greater Blue

Mountains. Surely this status should not be placed in jeopardy. Put this land in the national park and protect it forever.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 7:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref 602686

To the Department of Industry

I object to Katoomba airfield being used for commercial purposes.

Commercial sight seeing would damage the integrity and reputation of this world heritage area.

This is public land which should be transferred to the national park and to be used for emergencies only.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:38 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No: 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sirs,

As a resident of Katoomba for almost 30 years, I wish to have my say on the proposed lease of our community airfield to private citizens (from outside the area) for the making of personal profit to the detriment of residents, local businesses, tourists from NSW, Australia and the world over.

I see no advantage to anyone other than the proposed lessees, other helicopter pilots they would no doubt enlist and the privileged few able to pay for their services.

Social Impact:

Noise! Having witnessed the previous helicopter tourism flights 25 years ago at Echo Point, I remember the horrified reaction from the many visitors at the look-outs when the sound of the rotors cannoned above them. I can only imagine how a former Vietnam Veteran would have felt, or someone affected by bushfire or medical emergency requiring airlift. Normal helicopter noise is bad enough but over the mountains and in the canyons it is magnified greatly.

Personally, I, like many others, suffer from hearing sensitivity to sudden loud noises. I have little faith that any "fly neighbourly policy" proposed would be implemented, not being enforceable in any way.

We don't know what they have planned for the airfield which is surrounded by World Heritage listed National Park. I firmly believe that the airfield should be transferred to National Parks and protected forever.

Environmental Impact:

Should the airfield, now public land, be given over for commercial purposes, it would seriously threaten the aforementioned World Heritage listing.

There would no doubt be plans to put in place roads to cater for refuelling trucks and storage facility for massive amounts of fuel.

Frequent flights over the water catchment area could easily pollute our drinking water.

Over 4 million tourists visit the Blue Mountains annually to bush walk, run, take in the scenery and the tranquillity that now exists. How long would it take for word to get around should the paths and tracks become as noisy as any built up area.

There are many birds and wildlife resident in the valleys. Already we are seeing the extinction of more and more species which are finding it impossible to exist in our modern, noisy, overcrowded conditions.

Cultural Impact:

In the current difficult economy many more Australian families are holidaying closer to home or looking for a low-cost day out close to Sydney. What a smack in the face for someone doing it tough to have their holiday experience ruined by helicopters noisily flying overhead, carrying one or two passengers at a time.

The Blue Mountains has been home to several Aboriginal communities for many years and the fame of the Three Sisters rock formation is born of Aboriginal beliefs. Have the local Elders been consulted about the proposed commercial lease of the land?

Economic Impact:

As earlier stated, I see no benefit for local businesses in helicopter tourism from the Katoomba airfield. The comparatively miniscule number of passengers will more than likely only be stopping for meals at the most costly restaurants and not wandering around the shops and cafes in town.

A negative economic impact would be expected if the number of day visitors and bush walkers was to drop off due to the complete change in atmosphere and amenity of the area.

I note that the applicants have requested a 50 year lease! They can only intend to develop and on-sell their lucky windfall. Future generations would know a very different place to what we now have if the granting of this lease goes ahead.

I understand the lease applicants currently have a license for the exclusive use of the airfield land for which they are only paying \$486 per annum. Can we expect the cost of the lease if granted to be so generous?

Surely the airfield can be kept for emergency use, as is now the case, for not a great deal of money allocated for upkeep. The NSW Government has only recently allotted large amounts for upgrades of walking tracks around the mountains. Peace and quiet is needed and expected for such activities.

Thank you for considering my concerns. This letter may be published but please do not include my name and address.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 2:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Katoomba airport.

Dear Sir/Madam.

I wish to register my protest against the proposal to turn the Katoomba airfield into a full on heliport. I live in Katoomba and understand when we have noise from emergency helicopters and planes. This is the way it is and I accept it. My understanding is that the current proposal for the airport will increase the number of low flying aircraft many, many times over. The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage area. If this proposal goes ahead, we can kiss that goodbye. It will destroy the peace and tranquility that people here and tourists seek. The airport will cause a vast increase in noise pollution, ground pollution, air pollution and visual pollution. It can only damage our wildlife and our way of life. Bird life and nesting seasons anywhere near the airport will be severely disrupted. I note that aircraft will almost certainly be flying over our main source of drinking water and over our RSPCA shelter. As if these poor animals have not suffered enough and they will not be able to get away from the air pollution and the noise. This is just a money making concern by people who care more about money than anything else. Why would you even consider it in our beautiful area?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(Please do not publish my name)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission: Reference No. 602686 Lot 550 DP 751627 Katoomba Airfield

Department of Industry,

Crown Lands
PO Box 2155

DANGAR NSW. 2309

Submission: Reference No. 602686 Lot 550 DP 751627 Katoomba Airfield

Thank for you for the opportunity for community members to be consulted on the proposed lease of Lot 550 DP 751627 (Katoomba Airfield).

I am opposed to a lease being granted for commercial use due to the high impact on the environment and enjoyment of people living and visiting the Blue Mountains world heritage region. In my opinion the proposed helicopter tours do not provide a significant benefit to the general public nor comply with public interest in conservation and appropriate management of lands within or adjacent to national parks and water catchment areas.

In addition I oppose the granting of leases of Crown Lands where the lease is a negotiable commodity that can be sold on to other parties, including foreign investors, rather than returned to the Crown Lands department for re-lease.

Therefore:

1. I object to any commercial lease for this public land
2. Agree that Crown Lands should be managed consistently with, and in a way that facilitates and furthers the objects and purposes of the Aboriginal Lands Rights Act 1983 (NSW)
3. Recognise that 'the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 is beneficial and remedial legislation designed to address past dispossession of, and injustice to, Aboriginal people'
4. Request the license granted to Fly Blue Pty Ltd be terminated according to Licensing of Crown Land Guidelines that permit 'licenses be terminated when an Aboriginal Land Claim has been made over the land'

- Propose that the land be transferred to Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Aboriginal Land Claim no. 49068 registered on 1 July, 2019 with the condition that the airfield is maintained by the Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council and available for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Minister for Natural Resources v NSW Aboriginal Land Council (1987) 9 NSWLR 154 per Kirby P at 157; Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council v Minister Administering the Crown Lands Act (2011) NSWLEC 95 per Pain J at [6].

NSW Department of Industry, Licensing of Crown Land Guidelines, July 2018, p.6
<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/165213/Licensing-of-Crown-land-guidelines.pdf> accessed 29/07/2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Petition

I am emailing on behalf of the Vipassana Centre near Katoomba Airfield.
The nature of Vipassana Meditation requires a quiet peaceful environment where participants can focus without visual or noise distraction.
This artful practice is over 2,000 years old, it provides thousands of people in many centres around the world. It is an extremely important individual health practice with many benefits for human kind.
In a world of mental illness, material values and much noise, it is of paramount importance we preserve environments close to meditation centres.
I believe this has been achieved at this amazing centre.
That is until recent proposals to develop practices at the Katoomba Airfield.

I want to see the meditation centre given precedence over the Airfield activities. I urge you to ensure this is done.

Thanks and regards, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 11:23 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Crown Lands

I am a private pilot resident in Victoria and writing to support the rejuvenation of Katoomba airport as a general aviation airport.

I flew into Katoomba when it was operational several times with my family. There is no other airport close that area of the Blue Mountains to make the area accessible. I did look at flying commercially to Mascot and then driving but the trip was too long to be feasible. In each case we flew there, we stayed in Katoomba or Leura, ate at the restaurants, and enjoyed the tourist facilities. But for the airport, we would have gone elsewhere. We haven't returned since the airport closed. It is rare to find an airstrip in Australia which is close enough to significant tourist attractions to be a short taxi ride away, as Katoomba is. The natural beauty of the area changes with the season and the weather - I would love to go back but won't unless I can fly in. Flying in makes it a feasible short 2 or 3 day trip from Victoria or southern Queensland, as well as rural NSW. It would be ideal for a group of 5-8 people. I am a member of national flying clubs - I understand what aviators are looking for.

Bear in mind, that when I fly in, I come down from a high level (out of earshot) and land with engines at idle as the airstrip is beautifully positioned. I then park the plane and spend all my time (and money) in the towns. The takeoff direction in the prevailing wind is over an unpopulated area, so this airstrip is one of the best located in terms of minimizing noise to local residents. I know from my own experience that neighbours with leaf blowers are much more annoying and noisy.

You have a unique asset in the airfield. I hope it becomes operational again.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 7:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I object to a commercial lease and ask that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use only.

The lack of consideration regarding negative community impact is shameful. Let us not put money above personal well being (mind you, I definitely understand that there are plenty of necessary trade offs because money will prospectively improve wellbeing; this is not such a case).

Regards

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:32 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE:airfield Medlow Bath

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to you about the proposed use of the public land at Medlow Bath, Blue Mountains , for commercial use. I am opposed to this as it will cause much disturbance to the residents of the mountains and disturb the peace and tranquillity will all value so much here. It is also an intrusion on the national park and wildlife and fauna and ought to be returned to as such and the airfield just kept for emergency use. I already experience the noise from fly over helicopters where I live near Echo Point and the constant stream of these flights eight times a day is unthinkable- even tourists come here to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life and to come to this constant disturbance is not desirable. As a ratepayer I think it only right that the wishes of the people of the Blue Mountains be adhered to and not that of few joyseekers.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 11:57 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Katoomba Airport proposal

[REDACTED]

On Tue, 23 Jul 2019 at 11:55 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

I think it is necessary for me to register the strongest objection to the proposed leasing of Katoomba Airport for commercial development.

I believe that this land is crown land and, therefore, should be retained for the use of the general public and not leased to a commercial operation.

I would also object to the plan to operate helicopter joy flights from this location thus jeopardising the expected tranquility of the area. Much of the population in the Upper Mountains moved there because of the peace and quiet that the area currently provides. The proposed helicopter operation will completely destroy the peaceful nature of the area.

I would also raise concern about the impact the proposed operation would have on the current World Heritage status of the Blue Mountains. It is recognised that such an operation would likely have such a detrimental impact that the World Heritage status could be removed. This is a situation that cannot be allowed to happen nor even considered.

It is essential for a variety of reasons that this proposed commercial development be rejected completely.

[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 3:33 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your ref 602686, Katoomba Airfield

Please refer your reference 602686
Katoomba Airfield

OBJECTION TO HELICOPTER SIGHTSEEING TOURS OUT OF KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

I OBJECT because of NOISE POLLUTION and the LOSS of SANCTUARY that makes the mountains unique. I do not want to happen to the Blue Mountains what has happened in Nepal. After husband and daughter having been to Everest Base Camp, I am now more concerned about

I live in Springwood about a half hour drive from Katoomba. Its beautiful here. Restorative. Historical. Beautiful. Quiet. Peaceful.

My husband and daughter recently returned from Everest Base Camp and our warning comes from there. In conversation with the guides and porters, talk would often turn to the impact of the helicopter on the lives of the Nepalese villagers.

The local Nepalese have learnt to hate the helicopter. They hate the noise. That doofing doof doofing, thumping, jarring sound that's so typical of a helicopter. The noise drives them mad. It makes the animals skittish and difficult to handle when a helicopter flies by. There's no peace. They don't know when the next one will come by. The helicopters disturb the rest and sleep of all, animals and villagers alike. Helicopters disturb the peace of the day with their continued deep doofing, thumping sound. There is no such thing as a quiet helicopter. The smell of the air has changed with the increase use of helicopters for tourism because of the fume emissions. The arrival of the 'tourist' sightseeing helicopter, from which so few benefit, has resulted in noise pollution lowering their quality of village life by destroying the peaceful environment in which these people lived causing anxiety, depression and anger.

The tourist are flying over rather than trekking through so there is not even a financial gain to compensate for this destruction.

No, I do not want sightseeing helicopters flying out of Katoomba Airfield. There is no benefit to me or the mountains themselves in fact, the opposite is true. Both my husband and daughter said, it's really off putting, you'll be consumed by the beauty, thoroughly spellbound by the view when, suddenly you are roughly jarred out of your wonder and awe, back to reality, by the roaring arrival of a helicopter destroying the moment. Tourist come to the mountains to experience the ambiance, the peace, the quiet, the green and the smell of the earth. They come to escape the smell and noise of city living. Helicopters completely destroy the quiet, the complete tone and ambiance of the mountains will be destroyed.

I support Katoomba Airfield being used by emergency services but I do not, cannot support Katoomba Airfield being use as a base for commercial, sightseeing ventures especially after hearing about the concerns of the Nepalese and seriously, planting a few trees will not fix the noise pollution.

There are likely more negative things about helicopter tourism of which I'm unaware that will only come to light after it is too late to object so, with my husband and daughter having been warned by the Nepalese villagers, I take their experience onboard as truth and so object to helicopters being used for tourism including sightseeing.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 11:09 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield Medlow Bath submission

Living in Lawson I am already subject to aircraft noise and don't wish to see it increase. I believe the Blue Mountains needs protection from further development to avoid any further damage done to it. Our protection today will reduce if not stop it's eventual complete disappearance. I don't believe anyone has the right to run a business that not only affects the area of physical development but also has far reaching consequences.

[Sent from Yahoo7 Mail on Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 9:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 re Katoomba Airfield

Hi - I wish to make the following submission

Katoomba Airfield Submission

I wish to object to a commercial licence being issued to Flyblue or another private operator for the Katoomba Airfield. My preference is that the land is handed over to the NPWS together with an allocation of funds to maintain it.

I do note that Fly Blue already has a licence to operate and assume that this is not an act of charity. If the NSW Government decides to flout community opinion on this matter, then the number of flights permitted should be no more than the existing level of operation. I am also concerned that a 50 year lease extends well beyond the working life of the proposed lessee. Over time this provides a toehold for less and less appropriate uses of the area.

My specific problems arise from my position as a resident of Blackheath and as a bushwalker who is an active member of a club with over 250 members from both the Blue Mountains and Sydney.

The flight paths from the airfield are a **major concern for bushwalking and related activities and will lead to a decline in the quality of the wilderness experience.** Although the proposed lessees pride themselves on not flying over built up areas, that in itself creates a serious problem. The blue line showing the path of the flights passes right over the Grose Valley. From the airfield towards the NW, any increase in helicopter or light plane traffic impinges on the following areas:

- The iconic Grand Canyon Track is under 1km from the airfield. Noise generated at takeoff and landing approaches would impact on the experience of those walking in this area
- The Blue Mountains are a premier destination in Australia for canyoning. The track to Juggler Canyon is opposite the airfield. Arethusa Canyon, Alpheus Canyon, Fortress Canyon, Butterbox Canyon, David Crevasse, Orunga Canyon, Dalpura Canyon, Birrabang Canyon, Koombamba Canyon, Wotta Canyon, Better Offer Canyon, Yileen Canyon and Hat Hill Canyon are all within two kilometres of the proposed flight path. Rick Jamieson's compendium of 100 canyons accessible from Sydney is sold in all the Blue Mountains Outdoor activity shops - a significant increase in traffic on the proposed flight path will degrade the experience in 15% of accessible canyons.
- The sides of the Grose valley are the sites of a large variety of lookouts. Many are easily accessible by tourists in their cars, primarily Evans Lookout, Govetts Leap Lookout, Pulpit Rock, Perry's Lookdown and Anvil Rock. Paths along the edge of the Grose from Evans to Pulpit Rock exploit a cliff edge location with stupendous views. Walkers access views in the valley at Baltzer Lookout, Lockleys Pylon, Mt Banks and Fortress Ridge. In my opinion, the best lookout in the Blue Mountains is Anvil Rock, the views along three arms of the bottle shaped Grosse Valley with the tower blocks of Sydney visible on a clear day are unrivalled. Helicopters and other aircraft regularly flying the proposed route significantly diminish the previously available experiences at these locations.
- The bottom of the Grosse Valley is the site of a remote camp site. Paths lead to the bottom of the valley, through the Blue Gum forest and on to Mount Victoria. Mt Banks overlooking the Grose Valley and the site of the one of the Blue Mountains largest cliff faces will become the mountains largest echo chamber magnifying the sound which will be manifest along the length of the upper Grose Valley.

The birthplace of the Blue Mountains National Park is the Blue Gum forest below Mt Banks. Almost 100 years ago, a group of bushwalkers intervened before trees were cleared to establish a walnut plantation.

The NPWS makes the following comment

The historical and natural significance of the mighty Blue Gum Forest can't be understated. It's spoken of in hushed tones by those who know of it, and once seen, is never forgotten.

Situated in Grose Valley, in the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park, this stand of magnificent eucalypts is a fine example of closed forest. A haven for birds and wildlife, it was saved from the axe by bushwalkers in the 1930s. These intrepid nature-lovers pooled resources and bought the forest to preserve it for future generations.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/historic-buildings-places/blue-gum-forest>

Spoiling this and other treasures of the Grose Valley by increasing flights and noise pollution to and from Katoomba Airfield is not in the best interest of the conservation values of the Blue Mountains. It also significantly impacts on the attractiveness of the area as an adventure tourism venue. It is my understanding that Blackheath village sees its future in more niche tourism as opposed to the big Katoomba mass attractions, for example the Three Sisters and Scenic World. Flight paths over Blackheath's diverse attractions unfairly impacts on the village economy.

The unfair impact on Blackheath extends to other dimensions of the proposal to issue a lease to Fly Blue. **Blackheath will experience a greater level of sound pollution.** A physicist friend of mine has produced a map showing the level of sound produced by light plane and helicopter flights. I hope she has included that map with her own submission. Based on US data, her map shows a shaded area where the level of sound would be the same level as conversation. Imagine talking in your own house, the street or garden and having a level of sound equivalent to a conversation added to your own interactions. According to her maps, three quarters of Blackheath would be affected by this level of sound. A greater proportion of Blackheath Village is affected than any other village in the Blue Mountains.

I am also concerned about the **impact on local fauna**. I have heard anecdotal reports on the effect of sound on wildlife. I myself, have watched an upset Eagle harrassing/being harassed by a NPWS helicopter assisting with track work. I have heard that there are scientific studies supporting this.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains, **I am also concerned about the increasing number of impacts on the wider Blue Mountains area.** The raising of Warragamba dam, mining impacts in the unprotected Gardens of Stone, the release of mine water into the Wollangambe River and the Western Sydney Airport are all potential impacts on the Blue Mountains. Enhanced commercial use of the Katoomba airfield is yet another impact

In conclusion, I object to any commercial lease. Commercial developments are not appropriate in a World Heritage area. Handing over public land for private profit creates a conflict that will have significant adverse impacts in the Blackheath area and its environment in particular.

I believe the best solution is to transfer this land to the National Park. That is the only way I can see that the people and animals of the area can be safeguarded from the impact of frequent flights of planes and helicopters.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 2:23 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Proposed Use for Katoomba Airfield.

Having lived adjacent to the [REDACTED] for 34 years, I know only too well the effect of helicopters flying over both residential and national park areas. The noise from them shatters the peace and tranquility of the area, making it unpleasant for all in the vicinity, including residents, tourists, bushwalkers and wildlife. It would have the potential to seriously degrade the area as a national park as well as a tourist destination for Sydney people wanting to escape the city noise in favour of peace and tranquility. This would affect the many businesses, large and small, and their employees, that rely on the local tourist industry.

Katoomba airfield is surrounded by the Blue Mountains National Park and as such is particularly vulnerable to pollution problems which would be part of the proposed private usage. These problems would include fuel and oil spills. Because it is surrounded by the national park, it should be incorporated within the national park and used for emergency purposes by such agencies as National Parks and Wildlife, The Rural Fire Service, The Police and Fire and Rescue.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:39 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your Reference Number: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield - Submission

Please consider my submission and objection to the issuing of a commercial lease over Katoomba Airfield, and the proposed helicopter joy flights over the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park.

I live outside the Blue Mountains but have been a regular visitor and supporter of the area for many years. For almost fifteen years I have worked as a volunteer with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Blue Mountains Bushcare, focused on remote bush regeneration in the Upper Grose Valley wilderness and its feeder catchments, such as Katoomba and Govetts Creeks. As such I have contributed directly to ensuring the long term health of the World Heritage area impacted by this proposal. I believe that I have demonstrated a level of stewardship over the area and need to speak up on its behalf and the many locals and visitors who enjoy the quiet, peaceful, passive recreation that it is renowned for.

There are major, unacceptable impositions of this proposal concerning noise, intrusion and environmental impact. These imposts will negatively affect the amenity of:

- residents of Medlow Bath and Katoomba
- bushwalkers in the Grose Wilderness, Govetts Gorge, Grand Canyon and surrounding locations
- the many visitors to Govetts Leap, Evans Lookout, Pulpit Rock, Perrys Lookdown, Point Pilcher, and Echo Point.

The likely environmental impacts of the leasing proposal are unacceptable including:

- the impact of flights on native fauna, especially birds, which are particularly sensitive to effects from the extreme force of helicopter rotor downwash
- soil erosion
- groundwater contamination
- weed invasion at the airfield site, including negative impacts of operations on the nearby hanging swamp and creek. As a volunteer over many years addressing this specific issue I find this particularly galling.

There seems to be no independent governance whatsoever over the number or duration of flights under the leasing proposal. The supposed “Fly Neighbourly” policy appears to give carte blanche authority to the proponent to do as they please. This is completely unacceptable.

Katoomba Airfield should be included in the Blue Mountains National Park, to be managed as an emergency airfield and specific funding must be provided to the NPWS for its ongoing management. Many studies of the airfield site have been conducted by the NSW Government (Department of Industry - Crown Lands). In 2000 it was recommended that the area be added to the Blue Mountains National Park; the airfield to be used for emergency purposes only. Blue Mountains City Council has opposed the continuation of a private lease over the Airfield, also requesting the land be incorporated into the National Park in 1999, 2000 and 2008. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has previously supported the Katoomba Airfield being incorporated into the National Park, with the airfield managed for emergency and bushfire fire-fighting purposes. NPWS manages a number of airfields within national parks for management and emergency purposes. For example, the small helicopter landing facility maintained at the NPWS Blackheath (Govetts Leap) depot, which is used regularly for park management purposes and also emergency use e.g. Police rescue operations. Specific funding to manage the airfield could be allocated to NPWS from the Bushfire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Program managed by NSW Treasury.

The process around this matter has been inherently unfair and biased towards the proposed leaseholders without appropriate consideration of the owners of the site – the citizens and taxpayers of NSW. An interim license has been issued with no community consultation on options for the future of the airfield. The appropriateness of a commercial airfield should have been considered, with community input, before any such license was granted. I would hope that both the NSW Auditor General and the NSW Ombudsman would have something to say about a process that allows the prioritisation of a single commercial interest over the interests and concerns of the NSW public, to whom the NSW Government is tasked to represent. An environmental assessment of the land should have been completed to inform any licensing decision and consideration given to transferring the land to the Blue Mountains National Park.

Thank you for considering my submission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 4:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 316 Blaxland Road Wentworth Falls.NSW 2782 Ref no 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express concern about the proposal for commercial use/ aviation tourism on the old airfield at Medlow Bath. Private use is one thing but such a venture will bring more traffic and noise which is just what myself and others who relocate from cities hope to avoid.

By all means keep a strip for emergency landings but the land would be better protected if it were transferred to the National Park.

Such air traffic would hardly be appreciated by residents and guests to the Hydro Majestic either.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 12:40 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au; lismore@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Ministers,

I write with serious concern re the proposed lease of the Katoomba airfield in Medlow Bath. Currently it is used for emergencies. Rightly so. Bushfire fighting, and medical evacuations only. The noise of flights taking off and landing, is loud. Hence not only is there environmental fuel emissions for the people of the area and the National Park non human animals and flora but there is noise pollution to boot.

Perhaps you have not visited nor lived in the area but the proposed site is in an area of a small village and the noise of planes coming and going will effect not only those there but in surrounding villages.

The unique qualities of the Blue Mountains are recognised by its status as a World Heritage Area. The Blue Mountains National Park's magnificent landform, the grandeur of its canyons, the variety of flora and fauna and birds, combined with the scenery, peace, and silence, make it a place of solitude and deep joy for residents and visitors alike. Flights overhead, or even nearby, would shatter all this. Feel free to access this link to [sample of helicopter noise](#) in the mountains.

12,000 people have signed a petition objecting to a proposal to add commercial flights to the airfield.

In 1999, the Blue Mountains City Council requested the Department of Land and Water Conservation to integrate Katoomba airfield into the National Park and restrict flights to emergencies only. This concept was reaffirmed by Blue Mountains Council again in 2008. Now a commercial operator, Flyblue, has been granted a licence by the Department to run joy flights and helicopter tours from Katoomba airfield, just a few kilometres from the Centre. There is no way of controlling flights paths and the frequency of flights, as the ability to regulate them is minimal. The height restrictions are (500 feet) 150m above wilderness, and (1000 feet) 300m over houses.

There has been no study of the environmental impact on birds, animals, or humans, especially with regard to noise impact. No details have been released concerning the tender process, and the deeply-flawed public consultation process answered few questions. Once granted, the lease will secure the operator's tenure of the airfield for 50 years, opening the way for further commercial development, or even on-sale to another operator or developer.

Clearly, this lease should not be issued. The Parliamentary debate is a unique opportunity to secure Katoomba airfield in its rightful place as part of the National Park. Otherwise, all who reside in, or visit and enjoy this part of the Blue Mountains, will have their peaceful amenity regularly disturbed.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 3:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Hi,
The community would be better served having access for RFS aircraft to use this airfield when fires are in the area.
Additionally-
This is a vital airport for small aircraft on cross country trips that may need to make an emergency landing in rugged country.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 2:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no. 602686

[REDACTED]

27.7.2019

To whom it may concern,

I would like to register my opposition to the commercialisation of Katoomba airstrip.

I have lived in the Blue Mountains for 35 years and cannot emphasise enough the importance to the environment and community of preserving the pristine natural beauty of this World Heritage area.

The quiet, beauty and the serenity of this area has earned it World Heritage listing and for this to be compromised for the sake of commercial gain by a few individuals is abhorrent.

Transferring the crown land the airstrip is situated on to the protection of the National Parks is a win for both the environment and local community.

The airstrip could then be kept in working order for emergency services only.

Issues such as compensation to residents for noise pollution, increased carbon emissions from air travel and increased risk of fire from fuel storage are all major considerations and deterrents to a commercial lease being granted.

I look forward to your response and further information on this matter,

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. L X 602686

I support to say 'No To Helicopter Noise -No Commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield '.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 9:31 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Katoomba Airfield

I visited the Blue Mountains for the first time over five years ago. I was really touched by its beautiful scenery and tranquil lifestyle. That propelled my decision to move to the Blue Mountains a few years ago – away from city pollution and hassles (where I have lived a large part of my adult life). I moved to Medlow Bath a bit over a year ago, purchasing our very own first home. I was shocked to learn that Katoomba Airfield, only a few kilometres away, was planned to be used for commercial purposes. There is a great bushwalk 'Bruce's Walk' from near the airfield to North Katoomba's Minnehaha Falls that would be lost with the airfield's commercialisation.

I am respectfully calling on you to make a decision to transfer the Crown land to the national park system so that it is preserved forever. A working dirt strip could still be used for emergencies, such as bushfires.

There are several reasons why commercialisation of the airfield would be detrimental to the Blue Mountains:

- Unbearable noise pollution for
 - wildlife
 - tourist, bushwalkers, climbers, canyoners
 - local residents from Medlow Bath to Katoomba and Blackheath
- Increased air traffic is a threat to wildlife, deterring animals and also in long run causing other environmental effects to plants. There are over 3000 native species within 5km from the airfield, including endangered species.
- Increased traffic on the local road (that would need upgrading if the traffic increased – costing millions of dollars to the council!). Not only regular cars, but also fuel tanks etc.
- Suggests that only rich people can enjoy the Blue Mountains – and by offering them a scenery from the air, it simultaneously diminishes everyone else's experience of the natural tranquillity of the area
- Unclear public information why the Crown land could not be included to the National Park
- People may start going elsewhere for peace and tranquillity

I am concerned of public land being used for commercial purposes. I believe that any private development on the airfield threatens its values, including loss and fragmentation of native bushland.

I urge you to make a defining decision and leave a lasting legacy for the NSW community by joining this Crown Land to the National Park.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

---end of message---

NOTE: EMAIL ADDRESS AND ADDRESS CONFIDENTIAL, NOT TO BE PUBLISHED ONLINE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 2:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 -submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Mr Glen Bunny
Department of Industry and CrownLands
airfield.submission@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Bunny

RE:LX602686-submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I would like to submit my strong objection to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield. As a long-time resident of the Blue Mountains I have always felt privileged to live in this unique place of beauty and quiet. My backyard stretches into the world heritage listed National Park which is now a proposed helicopter highway. To allow this to happen in such a beautiful quiet, peaceful wilderness is just shocking and strikes at the heart of why people visit and live in the Blue Mountains.

I am a bird photographer who runs a small business from home. I photograph wild birds from the deck at home that overlooks this proposed flight path and the threatened bush land. Besides it being detrimental to my work it is also detrimental to the various wildlife that are flying and on foot in the valleys. Life in the place that we live and we love will never be the same if we have to bear witness to the noise of joy flights flying past our family house and the homes of our native fauna. There are so many other ways to experience these beautiful Blue Mountains which respect their natural peacefulness and simplicity. The addition of helicopters in no way enhances this experience, especially for residents and those whose love for the mountains is founded on preserving its natural state.

Please return this airfield to NSW National Parks so the future of these mountains can be treasured.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 1:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Mr Mullen,

It was with a feeling akin to despair that I read of the intention to lease Katoomba Airfield to a helicopter tourism company. I have lived in the mountains for a long time and I remember the terribly intrusive helicopter joy flights around Echo Point in the 1980s. These were banned, to everyone's great relief.

People come to the mountains for peace and quiet. The area around Katoomba Airfield is a beautiful peaceful place where people like to stroll out to the lookout.

I spent the whole of one spring and summer working on revegetating the airfield. It was hard work and we would relax at smoko by lying back on the carpet of casuarina needles and watching the wedge tailed eagles circling overhead. The bush all round us was ablaze with waratahs. Thinking of it now brings back the deep sense of peace there is there.

We don't want noise. We don't need more noise. The Blue Mountains provide a place close to Sydney where visitors can come to relax and enjoy the quiet. We run a holiday house near Echo Point and our guests specifically and regularly comment on the wonderful peaceful atmosphere of the area. How do you think they will feel when they are buzzed by helicopters on a regular basis?

Please do the right thing. Give the airfield to the National Park. That is where it belongs, not in the hands of some commercial venture that cares not at all for our beautiful Blue Mountains, but only for personal profit. That is not why I dedicated so much time and effort to the airfield. I did it for the sake of the mountains. Please think of our future and not of short term profit for someone who has done nothing for us.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 4:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: NO to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield

Lets face the truth , its not for the community but Greed

Greed for Skyworld to have more traffic into the area to fill their pockets . They dont think of the Environment . Rubbish all over the bottom floor of the mountain, safety hazards galore because at the end of the day its money for their lifestyle.

Kedumba is far more spiritual than anyone cares to admit. Its soul cant be bought or traded. The people who want the Airstrip dont understand the imbalance it will cause. The animals and ecology will not deal with what they think will be light traffic.

Iam not a local but Iam Darug and visit to reconnect ,I was drowning in Tourist which their culture is use to people been so close to each other its acceptable. Not me

Well my children and myself stayed in the Motel room for a week because every time I tried teaching my children I was jumped by strangers.

My children were so disgusted to see how these tourist treated the area and to think this Helipad is a glorified Taxi for them is shocking. I know at this rate there wont be areas for my children's children..

Maybe the airport needs to learn what I have taught my children ... This Land is not yours , we borrow it from our children to past back to them.

NO TO THE HELIPAD!!!!!!



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 4:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Dear Sir

I wish to protest about the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield, for the following reasons:

This is a small area surrounded by National Park, which will be negatively influenced by the operation of an airfield. The land should be included in the National Park. A commercial airfield does not belong in a National Park, will cause enormous noise problems, and is contrary to the values inherent in a National park.

A small area should be preserved for emergency use in times of bushfire.

This is public land and should not be given or leased for private profit.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: LX602686 - Submission objecting to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Mr Glenn Bunny
Dept of Industry and Crown Lands

Dear Mr Bunny

My name is [REDACTED] and I have been a resident of Blackheath since 1989 when I purchased my home near the [REDACTED]. I am approximately [REDACTED] National Park and have treasured this land and my local community for the past 30 years.

I am also an avid bush walker and a member of some local walking groups.

I also successfully rented my home as a holiday weekender for many years in the 1990s when I was still working in Sydney.

I rarely make submissions of this kind. I am not against all development, or tourism as some would label us.

However I AM horrified about the proposal to lease Katoomba Airfield to commercial interests.

This site is surrounded by National Park, within a **World Heritage area**. The airstrip itself should remain available for emergency use, however I believe the management of the crown land should be transferred to National Parks to preserve it for current and future generations.

I also believe that this commercial lease proposal may negatively impact the amenity of the Blue Mountains, not just for local residents, but also for the tourists who travel across the world to enjoy its magnificent beauty.

I also believe this proposal will have an adverse effect on the local environment and potentially our World Heritage listing. I could list all the possible impacts, compounded by the proposal to raise warragamba dam wall. However I believe others will do this more eloquently than I can.

I write to you as a local resident, a bush walker and someone who values our irreplaceable World Heritage listed environment.

Please, please hear our voices opposing this proposal.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 9:20 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

Hi,

This proposal can only be a detriment to the World Heritage National Park for several important reasons -

- The noise of helicopters will deter visitors and bushwalkers who visit to the blue mtns for peace and quiet.
- There will be a significant decrease in ground based tourism, that cannot possibly be balanced by any joy-ride based increase. The proposal only 'suggests' that it may benefit the local economy and support tourism. The exact opposite is far more likely to be true.
- The use of the airstrip for private purposes will impact it's ability to be utilised in the event of a serious fire situation.
- There is a significantly increased possibility of serious accident possibly impacting innocent ground based tourists.
- The Blue Mountains needs less development, not 'new and upgraded facilities for visitors to the Airfield'
- The Dept Industry will receive significant bad press when (not if) any of the above eventuate.

This parcel of land should be resumed by the NPWS for the sole use of emergency firefighting purposes. NPWS would undoubtedly increase biodiversity on the site resulting in substantial planting of new trees.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 6:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Dear Sir or Madame,

I'm emailing you to object to the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba airstrip. This is public land and as such should not be used for a commercial purpose. I believe this land should be declared as part of the National park thereby protecting it always. Please keep this airstrip for emergency use only as many people will be affected by the increased noise of helicopters etc. My daughter recently moved with her family to North Katoomba and my husband and I plan to make a similar move to be near them next year. Coming from the inner west of Sydney one of the main reasons for the move is to escape aircraft noise. A commercial airstrip will ruin our dream of a quiet retirement.

Regards, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 5:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: re LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield for the reasons given below.

Detrimental effects on the Local Tourism Industry

The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoneers
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

The Environment

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native species, including those listed as endangered.

1. The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. It's status may be effected (and threatened further in combination with proposed changes to Warragamba Dam)
2. Damage to rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the tarmacking of the runway
3. The potential impact of Helicopters on Blue Mountains Wildlife and other World Heritage Values.

Lifestyle and amenity

The liveability of upper Blue Mountains towns and villages is likely to be impacted by:

1. An increase in helicopters and associated noise—we already have issues with scenic flights over the area conducted by other operators. However, those helicopters do not land in or take off from within the World Heritage Area.

2. Helicopter noise can travel long distances in an acoustically-sensitive environment dominated by cliffs and canyons, potentially affecting parts of North Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath and other areas in earshot of the flight paths.
3. Any Fly Neighbourly Policy is self-regulated. The policy does not, at the admission of the lease applicant, include aircraft that do not originate from Katoomba Airfield, so that would include many arrivals.
4. Increased traffic along the route to the airfield (including fuel tankers and airport runway building equipment) on a narrow local road and walking path. The road is not designed for large vehicles.

Concerns about the process

1. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?
2. How can anyone properly engage in community consultation when we don't know the scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation? The state government has steadfastly refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public.
3. Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West. Do we know these flight paths? We do not. This model may also bring in other operators further increasing activity.
4. Why was the community not consulted by the state government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a licence by direct negotiation, and awarded it to a high-impact helicopter tourism business, when community groups had also applied?
5. Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

Sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 4:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Delivery Status Notification (Failure)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.au
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Thu, 18 Jul 2019 16:11:56 +1000
Subject: Ref No 602686
Dear Crown Land,

The proposal to issue a licence, interim or otherwise, for aircraft 'joy flights' (CASA's terminology) from Katoomba is an outrageous one. No licence should be issued - even an interim one to head-off a possible

land claim by the NSWALC - & the public land should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park.

Crown lands are held in trust by governments, as they come & go, for the people. They must be managed for the benefit of the people not for special interests, especially interest whose activities detract or degrade public property - in this case inflicting extreme noise pollution upon residents & visitors to the Blue Mountains. Further, your political masters appear to be unaware of their obligation to protect the Blue Mountains National Park World Heritage Area - a responsibility delegated by the Commonwealth Government until it is required or decides to act.

All this may sound abstract but therein is found the grounds for legal challenges if this cruel & stupid proposal should proceed.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 8:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Submission - Reference number 602686

To whom it may concern,

We wish to express our concern and strong objection to any commercial lease being issued for Katoomba Airfield in Meadlow Bath. This public land must be considered as an addition to the surrounding Blue Mountains National Park. It is totally unacceptable to create a commercial enterprise on public land without any community consultation at all.

Additionally it is impermissible that a commercial enterprise would operate in the middle of a UNESCO World Heritage area. If a commercial enterprise was to operate at Katoomba Airfield there is a high probability of damage to flora and fauna in these precious bush lands, in addition to noise pollution to both animals and local residents.

We are in favour of keeping the airfield for emergency use only.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 6:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Katoomba airfield

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, 1 Aug. 2019, 18:22
Subject: Katoomba airfield
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Hello,
I live in [REDACTED] Katoomba and very close to Katoomba airfield as the crow flies.
I object to the airfield future development idea as I moved to Katoomba for peace and quiet. I want land to be kept as wilderness for future generations and not destroyed by commercial means.
Emergency use of the airfield is critical for bush fires and walkers who come for peace not the hum of helicopters and one family's capital gain. There is already a heli pad at scenic world.
Why not use the space for other community means. Mountain biking could make money for the community.
Look at Derby Tasmania for example.
Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 7:11 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern

I am Writing to you to state my objection to any airfield airport or such infrastructure being built in the Blue Mountains National Park this is crown land public land for us all to enjoy and it is a natural habitat which are across New South Wales is becoming a scarce commodity. The Blue Mountains is a place where people can come and visit and on many occasions I have with my family and we do not need the noise congestion pollution than airport airfield and bring.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 5:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number LX 602686

Minister Pavey
Minister for Water, Property and Housing
Level 17 52 Martin Place
Sydney 2001

Dear Ms Pavey,

Please give serious consideration to incorporating the Katoomba Airfield into the surrounding National Park. Allowing commercial joy flights would have a detrimental effect on the local tourism industry as the Blue Mountains is an exceptionally popular venue for bush walkers. The noise of helicopters would reduce amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoneers. A decline in numbers of such adventurers would also impact significantly on local businesses.

The Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area which is to be reviewed later this year. Its status may be affected by the use of a commercial airfield.

Helicopter noise can travel long distances and can impact on residents in North Katoomba, Medlow Bath, Blackheath and other areas in the vicinity. Hence, the airfield should be used only for emergencies.

Numerous government reports have recommended the site be returned to the National Park. I urge this action be adopted as a matter of urgency.

Thank you for considering this submission.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 7:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]; airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 The Future of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Right now the old airfield at Medlow Bath is quiet and peaceful. The local fauna is able to live quietly in their natural habitat, free from disturbance - as are the human inhabitants who live nearby.

Both animals and humans appreciate the natural beauty and peace of the area, in particular the animals who are able to continue beyond such boundaries into the World Heritage listed National Park - just next door.

The old airfield is public land. To use it for commercial purposes encourages the following:

1. Increased noise and disturbance to both the animals and human inhabitants who have chosen this area to live due to the very peace it provides
2. A reduction in the safety of those in the area, when the dirt strip at this airfield can currently be used for emergency purposes

I believe that this crown land should be transferred to the national park and be protected, as part of the surrounding World Heritage listed area.

Please consider these views and think about the environment, the animals and those who value the beauty that surrounds them - not just the financial / commercial benefits which long term, could do more damage than good to the peace and serenity that this area currently provides.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 10:56 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed commercial lease of emergency airfield

Dear sir/madam,

I do not recommend this valuable site be used for private commercial use for the following reasons:

1. This site is in a World Heritage area and should be respected and not use as joy rides for those with money. The site therefore needs to be reclassified for protection from financial predation/opportunism by less conscious others.
2. There are residents nearby who purchased homes with the knowledge this area was an emergency space for aircraft. Those residents will bear the brunt of air traffic and road traffic and lowering if their asset.
3. More importantly, the possibility of hearing damage through high-decibal noise. A condition called 'presbicousis'. Hearing damage. Children are especially vunrable to loss of high-pitched sounds. The fine hairs in the ears get permanently damaged.(See research on Third Runway submissions Sydney in 1980s about this fact.)
4. Leaves the state government open to potential litigation, possibly class action. (Financial food for thought.)
5. If this proposal goes ahead and there is an aircraft emergency that airfield is not available perhaps resulting in a aircraft crash, who is liable? Isn't that what this space is for?
6. Common sense must prevail.

Concerned resident.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 8:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: submission re proposal for Katoomba airfield licence 602686

To whom it may concern,

I write in reference to the proposed commercial licence for the Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath , referemce number 602686.

This application seems entirely inappropriate for the Blue Mountains area.

A commercial airstrip would generate heavy traffic loads on local streets, create vehicle noise and fumes in the immediate area and more deleteriously generate noise over several towns in the Upper Mountains.

Residents' amenity in the Upper Mountains area is based on living in a relatively quiet place and a large number of the Mountains community have come here for this reason. The noise of aircraft operating on a commercial basis, whether joyflights or otherwise, has the probable effect of destroying this atmosphere and creating serious negative effects on the amenity of residents. I foresee this following through with consequent lower property values as well.

Further, the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a wilderness area grounds much of the tourism to this region. Commercial air traffic taking off, travelling over and landing in the upper Mountains would be audible over sightseeing and hiking districts. Visitors will certainly be deterred by the noise and sight of regular aircraft movements as the fragile ambience of remote and pristine place depends largely for its value on the absence of such signs of everyday activity. Not only this, but cosy bed and breakfast venues will lose their important sense of seclusion when low-flying aircraft pass by.

In short, I consider the possible benefits to the relative few who may operate and use such an airfield to be far less in aesthetic, commercial and quality-of-life terms than what would be lost to the greater number of visitors and residents impacted by such a licence.

Please let the airfield be retained for uses concerned with community safety only.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: submission opposing katoomba Airfield commercial lease Ref No 602686

- I strongly object to any commercial lease for this public land.
- This land should be incorporated into the National Park and primarily managed for conservation,
- keeping only those parts necessary for emergency aircraft use as an airfield.

•
regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

Please keep Katoomba airfield open.
Small communities depend on this airfield to assist with fire management during summer.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 5:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to commercial use of Katoomba Airfield

Dear Minister Pavey

I object to the use of Katoomba Airfield as a commercial business venture, now or at any time in the future.

As a Wentworth Falls resident of 22 years, I have been so grateful for the quiet air space over our national parks and crown lands. I know too that some of the magic of our Heritage listed National Park can be chalked up to the peace and quiet that visitors from Sydney, interstate and overseas experience when they come here to enjoy our natural wonders.

Having said that, many times when a chopper responding to a search and rescue or an injury in the bush or on a Blue Mountains soccer field, or indeed a small fixed wing fire bombing plane was obviously in action and on the job, I had a real sense of comfort and gratitude that our skies were used for such important work.

I wish to express that I do not support the application to allow Katoomba Airfield to be used for commercial aviation purposes. There are other places around our fair country that do not hold such rare qualities and in whose airspaces commercial aircraft can become a feature.

I believe that, should permission be granted to this commercial venture, the noise pollution will detract from the quality of life for many residents and the enjoyment of bush-walking solitude that many visitors have come to expect will be banished.

I also believe that in future, with an emergency landing of a chopper on a soccer field or the hovering of a helicopter over Wentworth falls lake as it scoops up water to help in fire fighting situations, these occurrences will be viewed with less awe and gratitude. With commercialization, people will become blase about aircraft and less community minded or environmentally concerned... this is not a future I want for my family and friends, for other Blue Mountains' residents or for visitors here.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 8:06 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield Ref No LX 602686

Department of Industry, Crown Lands
PO Box 2155
Dangar 2309
airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Cc: Ms Trish Doyle, MP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident living in close proximity to the Katoomba Airfield to lodge my strong objection to the proposed commercial lease of the Crown land containing the airfield.

I am seriously concerned that the significant increase in the frequency of aircraft flights in my local area – specifically low-flying helicopters – will have a major detrimental effect on my quality of life, and the health of my family and the natural environment in which I chose to live.

Should the commercial lease be granted, these negative impacts would include:

- Increased pollution of the water and air in the areas flown over. My father was a helicopter pilot and I know well that helicopters' powerful downdraft causes dust and exhaust to pollute everything below them. Importantly, this would include the likely pollution of my and my neighbours' only drinking water supply. With water supplies already under stress from increasingly frequent droughts, any development that will possibly contaminate these supplies should be categorically ruled out.
- An increased risk of fire, due to both the aircraft carrying fuel and the storage of fuel at the airfield. Blue Mountains National Park is already vulnerable to bushfires, and adding a further significant risk factor makes no sense.
- A massive increase in noise pollution, which will impact not only on local residents such as myself and my family, but also on the abundant bird and other wildlife that makes this area unique and worthy of strict protections.

My home backs onto the Grose Valley [REDACTED] My household would therefore be severely affected by noise from the aircraft - especially helicopters - flying above, and into and out of the valley. The deep valley walls will increase both the duration and the intensity of the noise.

I am a full-time carer for a severely disabled family member. We moved to live in our current location to provide him with the peace and quiet essential for his health. The negative impacts on both his physical and mental health of almost constant helicopter noise and interrupted sleep during the day (which he requires) would cause considerable permanent distress for both him and myself as his carer.

Given my circumstances, I am disappointed and angry that the "consultation" with residents who would be directly affected by the proposed lease of the airfield has been so inadequate. I received NO written notification (in the form of a letter, or even a letterboxed brochure) of the proposed change to use of the airfield, let alone an invitation to express my views on the issue.

When I did eventually find out about the commercial lease (through the efforts of a Blue Mountains environment organisation), the formal “consultation” process that I have participated in has been woeful and does not give me any confidence that the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) has been acting as an independent government body that listens to and takes into consideration the public’s concerns and interests.

After attending the Department’s information sessions and reading information on leasee’s website, I am no clearer - and am left extremely worried - about:

- what the “fly neighbourly” agreements will mean in practice, and why they are not enforceable by law;
- exactly how many flights there will be each day;
- whether the flight paths and flight durations promised by the leasee will be monitored by an independent body, and enforced;
- how any future changes to the initial agreements and uses of the airfield will be decided, and how the affected community will be consulted;
- why there has been no consideration of the impacts on the property values of surrounding residences, and whether compensation will be paid in the event of this effect.

In previous decades, community concerns about excessive noise from helicopter tourism at the airfield have been listened to and conditions imposed to prevent such a development. I urge the Department of Industry to ensure that the thousands of people who will be affected by the current proposal are listened to again.

Katoomba Airfield belongs to the taxpayers of NSW. The use of the land should therefore be decided, NOT on the basis of the financial interests of a privately owned company, but on the basis of:

- (i) what is in the best interests of the general public, including the protection of a nationally important public environmental asset; and
- (ii) the majority view of the local public, which has been made clear by the 12,000+ local residents and national park users who have signed the petition to be presented to NSW parliament calling for the commercial lease of the airfield to be scrapped.

I understand that there have been multiple recommendations made by Crown Lands and Blue Mountains City Council over decades to incorporate the airstrip into the Blue Mountains National Park, which surrounds it on all sides. For all the reasons outlined above, I fully support that recommendation, with the proviso that the existing airfield continue to be available for use by emergency services only.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 8:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

I [REDACTED] object to this public land being used for commercial purposes.

The land should be protected and used for emergency services only.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 9:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Katoomba Airport

Dear Scott Mullen

My family and I are very concerned that the noise from aircraft and helicopters from the proposed reopening of Katoomba airport will disturb the peace and right to quiet enjoyment of our beautiful upper mountains environment.

We already have quite a bit of aircraft noise from hospital, police and search helicopters, which we realise is occasionally necessary. However it is unfair for us mountain folk to be expected to put up with what will in all likelihood become ever increasing noise pollution in future years.

We wish to register our opposition to any airport reopening.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 10:05 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686
Attachments: A framework for understanding noise impacts on wildlife_ an urgent conservation priority.pdf

Dear Evaluation team,

I would like to make a submission against tourism use of the Katoomba airfield for many reasons, not the least being the impact of noise on the World Heritage area adjoining the airfield. As a PhD student at Macquarie University investigating the ecology of the endangered ecological community of the upland peat swamps (THPSS) in the Blue Mountains, I witnessed helicopter noise during bushfires several years ago. The noise of them entering and leaving the airfield was uncomfortably high. There is much available literature on the impact of noise on wildlife and I have attached one such paper that may be useful in your evaluation. As you can see from the diagram copied below, the range noise impact on wildlife is many and varied from the acute sounds of aircraft starting up to the frequent and chronic sounds of overhead flight. Noise is just one of the impacts that are unsuitable in the important World Heritage area, where large numbers of tourists visit for its peaceful and tranquil places. Being so close to Sydney, it is arguably the only large scale quiet and natural place that is readily available by public transport. The amenity would be substantially lost by the imposition of noise posed by helicopters. This in addition to possible airport noise from the new Sydney airport. Other impacts include increased runoff pollution into pristine upland swamps and into the nearby Grose valley in the event of a fuel spill or safety release. I urge you to to refuse the application for increased air use at Katoomba airfield.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission,
Yours Sincerely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

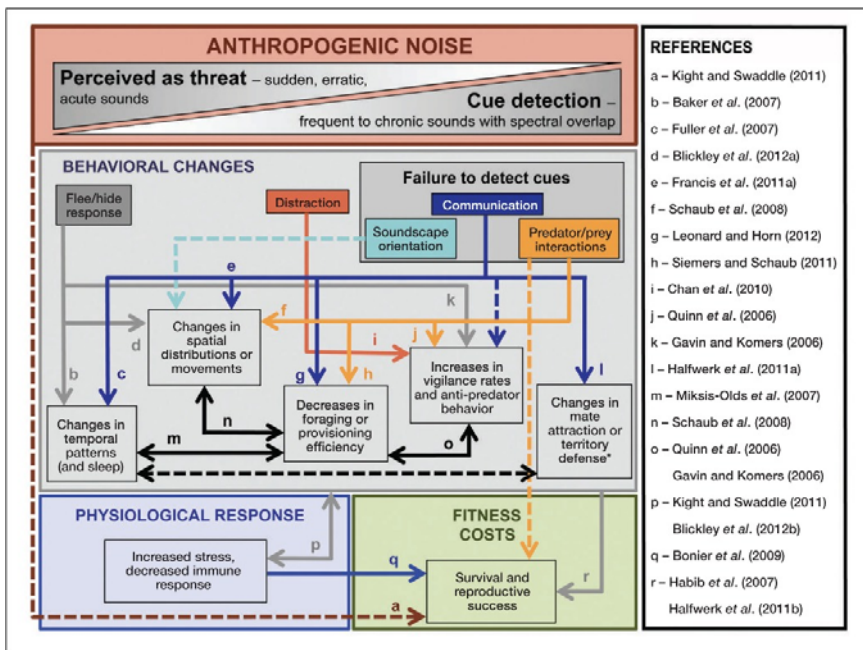


Figure 3. Conceptual framework for understanding how noise stimuli – perceived as a threat or interfering with cue detection (the disturbance–interference continuum) – can elicit behavioral responses that have direct consequences for fitness or via a physiological stress response, which can also feed back to behavioral changes. Startle/hide responses are more likely to occur in response to noise stimuli that are perceived as a threat (acute, erratic, or sudden sounds). Problems arising from a failure to detect cues are more likely to occur when noise stimuli are chronic and overlap with biologically relevant cues used for communication, orientation, and predator/prey detection. Problems arising from distraction may occur as a result of sounds with features ranging from those that interfere with cue detection to those that are perceived as threats. Lowercase letters indicate studies (listed on the right) providing evidence for the link made for each arrow. Dashed arrows signify a link that we predict as important but for which no current evidence exists. The asterisk denotes that which could result from a change in behavior or a failure to change behavior in response to noise.

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref number: 602686

At the conclusion of a most wonderful day, enjoying the beauty and tranquility of the Grand Canyon Walk in the Blue Mountains National Park, within its world famous World Heritage Area, we were shocked and dismayed to learn that, adjacent to this unique natural environment, a lease has been granted renewal, allowing resumption of a former airfield for purpose as a base for helicopter joy flights.

We are extremely concerned that the proposal may be granted approval and therefore yet another special sanctuary of natural wonder be compromised.

To have the expansive wilderness of the world renowned Blue Mountains so close and handy to our nation's largest city, visited by thousands of admirers, local and from far afield, is a precious wonder to be maintained in its most undisturbed state as is possible. People love the area as it is, joy flights are not needed to enhance tourism in this area, in fact, joy flights will detract from the very thing that tourists come to enjoy....peace, tranquility, splendid vistas, bird watching and clean air.....a fact that was noted in 1952 by Frank Hurley when he stated "The various towns grow nothing and they make nothing....they subsist entirely on the tourists who come to enjoy the scenic splendours and breathe their pure air".

It is our understanding that when the original excise of land from the National Park was granted for use as an airfield, the land would be returned to the National Park once its airfield use was at the time, concluded. Why has this not been done.

To have a noisy, intrusive facility such as a helicopter joy flight enterprise so close to the National Park would indeed severely compromise its current, relatively pristine qualities. Such qualities are becoming sadly, all to rare worldwide.

The powerful downdraught of helicopters in flight not only disrupts the flora and fauna beneath its path, more damaging is the direct injection of noxious aviation fuel exhaust gases into the forest canopy, watercourses etc. Furthermore, in an era of increasingly prevalent, adverse community health effects of obesity, lack of physical activity etc, visitors should be encouraged in every possible way to enjoy the many walking tracks of various levels of difficulty, throughout the National Park. Merely flying over the area by helicopter affords no opportunity for healthy lifestyle, physical activity. Additionally, helicopter flights afford no more than a superficial, bird's-eye view (without the visual acuity of a bird). It is without question, the role of National Parks, among other vital functions, to provide visitors opportunity immerse themselves in close proximity to nature. In the words of Davis Attenborough...."We cannot love that which we do not know," Flying by helicopter is most likely the least effective means by which one might come to know any natural environment.

The only use to which the area of land in question might in our opinion be granted for aviation purposes is for emergency uses such as search and rescue or fire safety.

We most strongly implore those responsible for oversight of the granting of the proposed lease in question, to ensure it does not proceed.

We can only imagine in disgust, how much more our walking experience today would have been ruined by the intrusive overflight of helicopters flying overhead. By the very nature of their expense and their capacity to cover a wide area in brief time, the noise pollution would be almost constant in its daily regularity and thus highly damaging to the peaceful integrity of this amazingly tranquil, natural wonder of the world.

Shame to those who even contemplate this enterprise, let alone to those who permit and conduct its implementation.

"It was the duty of government to reserve to the people the beauties of nature" spoken by Joseph Carruthers, NSW Premier February 1907, at the opening of The Grand Canyon Track. We can only hope that the present N.S.W. Premier will uphold the values and ideologies of her forebears who had the foresight to open the area for tourism, to enjoy the beauty of the area as intimately as possible (without intruding upon and comprising World Heritage values of today), and also keeping it as low impact as possible.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 3:46 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Proposed Helicopter Pleasure Flights in Blue Mountains

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'd like to record my heart-felt opposition to the proposed use of the Katoomba Airport by a private operator for recreational helicopter flights.

The Blue Mountains, as evinced by its World Heritage status, is a remarkable place, abundant in natural beauty and wildlife. It is also a peace-ful place, and refuge to the many who come annually to escape the noise and crowds of the city. The numbers speak for themselves. Very few, I believe, come for helicopter rides.

As an author and novelist, the Blue Mountains has been my working home, and source of creativity, for over thirty years. Its tranquillity, is inestimable to me.

Simply put, please don't spoil it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 1:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686

I would like to express concern about the proposed opening of the Katoomba Airfield for commercial use on the following grounds:

- 1. This is in a World Heritage Area which requires careful preservation for the benefit of all current and future citizens and protection against any possible degradation of the native flora and fauna.**
- 2. The Blue Mountains attracts both tourists and local residents for bush walking and pursuits which appreciate the quiet and tranquillity the natural environment offers. Current flight paths for commercial aircraft and helicopters already interrupt this and obviously this would increase with traffic from the proposed airfield becoming commercial.**
- 3. Should the financial gains of a few individuals be given precedence over the needs of thousands of tourists and residents who currently enjoy quiet recreation pursuits in the area (and pay high rates).**
- 4. Despite all safety measures being taken, there will always be the risk of the accidental release of toxic fuels into the surrounding bush and also the added risk of contributing to combustible material.**
- 5. Road traffic in the Blue Mountains is already causing issues with residents and such commercial use will increase traffic in quiet, narrow local streets where currently children can play with relative safety and people walk their dogs.**
- 6. The current airfield would be better preserved for emergency use in the case of road accidents, evacuations and fire fighting.**

Please give consideration to making this land part of the National Park and reserving a dirt airfield for emergency use. It is Crown Land and thus should belong to the people for our use, not to a private company for private profits.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 9:54 AM
To: leasing@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Leasing of Katoomba Airfield

I would like to strongly object the leasing of Katoomba Airfield for the following reasons:

The leasing of the Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator would destroy the environment in the Blue Mountains.

The major concerns for residents is that the proposed lessee has not come forth to let the residents know of his business plans for the Airfield.

I have heard that he is planning to have flights come from the following airports: -

Sydney – Wollongong – Newcastle – Bankstown – Bathurst – Campbelltown – Badgery’s Creek when it opens, to name just a few. A total of over 300 flights per week was also suggested. This type of commercial venture is not suitable for the Blue Mountains, a Heritage listed area.

The noise and visual impact on residents of the Blue Mountains chose to live there because of the beauty, peace and the fresh air. The air will no doubt be polluted with constant flights. There would be hundreds of flights flying over this pristine area every day if this lease go ahead.

Already there has been a significant increase of aircraft flying over Medlow Bath in the past few months, residents are not happy about this.

What about the infrastructure in Medlow Bath. The road along Station Street is far too narrow to carry any extra traffic. If the operator, as I understand, will be having buses pick up passengers from the airfield and take them on tours of the Blue Mountains, the roads from Medlow Bath station need to addressed as to suitability.

Buses taking visitors to various lookouts, restaurants, and sightseeing trips will cause major disruption to the already limited parking in the Blue Mountains – more parking needs to be provided – but where.

This proposed lease does not only affect the residents of Katoomba, Medlow Bath & Blackheath it will affect all the suburbs in the lower Blue Mountains, plus residents from Sydney, Newcastle, Bankstown, Bathurst, Campbelltown, Wollongong with many extra helicopters flying over their suburbs.

Have the residents of these suburbs been informed of the impact this will have on their lifestyles?

The impact on the flora and fauna would be disastrous, with extra noise and pollution from the planes.

Has anyone given thought to how dangerous this would be with the possibility of helicopter accidents, which in could in turn start a major bushfire and destroy many homes, the flora and fauna of this beautiful area.

Medlow Bath residents source their water from Medlow Lake – the pollution that would settle on the lake would put residents at a high health risk.

Is this land available for lease?

The traditional land owners of the Blue mountains have been inhabited for millennia by the Gundungurra people, now represented by the Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation based in Katoomba and the Lower Blue Mountains by the Darug people now represented by the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation, have these land owners been consulted?

I understand the cost to maintain the airfield for EMERGENCY PURPOSES is \$80,000 per year. Residents of the Blue Mountains would be happy to have an extra \$1.00 added to their rates to maintain the airfield for either Council or National Parks to take care of the airfield and to keep the airfield for emergency purposes only. When residents hear a helicopter flying over it is usually a warning sign that there has been a terrible accident or bush fire and we are all on alert to listen to broadcasts. In the case of a bush fire residents need to be ready to go – the road out of Medlow Bath from Station Street is so narrow it would be difficult for everyone to escape. We do not want another Black Friday as Victoria had several years ago – SAFETY FIRST FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

I understand that Derek Taylor has amended his application to a 50 year lease – what IS HIS BUSINESS PLAN – residents should be told the truth before any lease is granted.

Imagine this for example:- Say 20 helicopters and or light fixed wing aircraft flying around and a major bush fire breaks out – what then – how many lives would be put at risk, not only on the ground but in the air.

Let's hope common sense prevails and there is no lease granted except to maintain the airfield as an EMERGENCY airfield only.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 11:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF NO 602686

Hi there,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am living at [REDACTED] Blackheath. Our house is facing towards the amazing sun rise over the national park bush. I am concerned the active airfield will destroy parts of the national park environment and will harm animals and fauna. We will see over the next few years increasing pathways of planes from the new airport at Sydney west, plus we should get an active airport in the mountains. How much do we have to destroy to actually see we need air to breath and spots of peace to recover. This airfield should be part of the national park, as well due the council issues with asbestos management, there are a lot of pieces of asbestos out there and even parts closed due asbestos, the helicopters will spread it nicely over the blue mountains community, please stop to poison our children for commercial money.

Thanks a lot,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 10:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern,

when I migrated to this country, I was just stunned by its diversity of wildlife, plants and animals. I moved to the Blue Mountains because I realised how much I need nature. Since then I researched a lot about the topic. In Japan they have a therapy treatment which roughly translates to "forest bathing". Not only for our emotional well-being also in order to exist as humans we are relying on what nature has to offer to us. Nature can happily live without us but not the other way around. I have seen a lot destruction in this country since then, the continuous deforestation, mining, water pollution, turning parks into concrete desserts and more. I am concerned that this huge area will in the wrong hands end up being one of many lost cases.

Not only will it disturb our feathery friends that have to communicate to each other which will disrupt their habits. We have so many tourists coming up the mountains to seek nature and peace. To connect these people with nature is the first step to help them understand how and why to preserve nature. Not only do I think there is not a lot of nature experience sitting in a noisy box hundreds of metres away - also the people to come up to enjoy a nice week end up here - spending money in local restaurants, hotels and venues will eventually become less because of the noise.

It is important to me to preserve this area (National Park land) but keep it open for emergency flights. Looking at the increasing traffic over the last couple of years and the opening of more art galleries and restaurants tells me people coming up here to experience the Blue Mountains. And they will continue to do so and giving the locals jobs and growth if we treat this pristine area with respect.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 10:30 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: Ref No 602686

I have lived in Leura in the Blue Mountains for almost 18 years and before that, while living in Sydney, spent many hours bush-walking in the Blue Mountains National Parks and the World Heritage Area.

I strongly object to the Katoomba Airfield being handed over to private interests for helicopter tourism. This piece of land is surrounded by National Park and should be incorporated into the National Park with an allowance for emergency-use-only (bush-fires, etc) of the airfield.

This is public land and should -not- be leased for commercial use. In addition, the proposed use of the commercial lease - helicopter tourism - would have a severe detrimental effect on both the environment, bird life and wildlife in the immediate vicinity of the airfield, as well as the noise pollution and visual impact that would destroy the peace of the Blue Mountains area in general. I have walked the Milford Track in New Zealand and the day crossing the Mackinnon Pass was completely ruined by buzzing sightseeing helicopters.

Apart from humans, the birdlife of the Blue Mountains would be severely impacted by increased helicopter activity. Observation during the 2018 honey-eater count indicated that helicopters involved in the site preparation for the Mt Solitary hazard reduction fire had an immediate negative impact on some migrating flocks. Birds 'disappeared from the sky' and numbers counted dropped. The bush surrounding the airfield supports winter feeding for migratory birds and helicopters landing and taking off would severely impact this activity.

The bush surrounding the airfield would be impacted by development of roads and buildings to support the additional traffic to the airfield.

This very sensitive and important ecological area should be incorporated into the National Park to be preserved forever.

Thanks for considering my submission.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 10:49 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref no: 602686

To Crown Lands,

I'm writing to object to the Katoomba Airfield being used for commercial purposes.

I moved to the Blue Mountains in 2005 to live a life close to nature and the wilderness. Tourists are drawn here for the same purpose. We are in a World Heritage listed area which celebrates nature and wilderness. I walk regularly in the areas around the airfield, as do many others, and this experience would be totally degraded with helicopters passing overhead. Living in relative peace in my home would also be a challenge.

To have commercial air services operating here creating ongoing disruptive noise is completely at odds with the essence of the area and would hold the amenity of the local people in contempt.

Many residents commute daily to Sydney for work. It is not unreasonable to expect tourists to make such a one-off road trip (instead of flying here!) to enjoy the delights of the Blue Mountains.

I understand that there were previous helicopter flights that finally were stopped after an accident. The government promised they would not return - but here we are with the government considering leasing to a commercial firm.

The airfield would be very useful for emergency purposes, but the only way to protect the local people and tourists who come here to enjoy the nature and wilderness is to transfer the ownership of the airstrip to National Parks.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 4:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 - Katoomba airfield

I write to object to crown land at Medlow Bath being used as a commercial aviation area. The Dept of Industry (Crown Lands) is considering granting a long term lease for aviation tourism, including helicopters, and I do not think this is appropriate.

My reasons are:

Heritage Value reduced: The land in question is completely surrounded by the World Heritage-listed Blue Mountains National Park. The attraction to this park and wilderness area are its natural qualities in sound, sight and other senses. To have the overhead noise of helicopters and small aircraft doing numerous daily rounds spoils these values for on-ground visitors and local residents alike. Further, the 'rides' will be affordable only to the well-off. The Blue Mountains must not become a noisy, expensive theme park.

Health concerns: The Blue Mountains community is also currently being threatened by the Badgery's Creek Aerotropolis which will seriously impact with noise and air pollution the Blue Mountains villages and forests. The constant sound of aircraft has been shown to have deleterious effects on the health of both people and animals. The possibility that the Blue Mountains will have to contend with both high altitude and low altitude aircraft noise and exhaust pollution will have negative health impacts on the local population.

Custodian responsibility: If we do not respect the natural endowment our country is gifting us and we see it as a mere means for economic profitability, we have lost our cultural bearings and have lowered our humanity to being just economic units. We owe it to the land with its magnificent fauna and flora and to the people who looked after it so well for tens of thousands of years to protect the areas of National Park we have left.

This crown land needs to be transferred to the national park and protected in perpetuity, keeping a working dirt strip only for emergency use.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 - Katoomba Airfield

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I write to express my support of the granting of the commercial lease over the Katoomba Airfield to the company FLYBLUE, owned by Derek & Floyd Larsen.

I am a resident of Katoomba & am well aware of the history of the airfield & the unfortunate death of the previous operator.

I and many others have always understood, & hoped that a professional operator would eventually take over the running of the airfield.

We are very fortunate that such a professional submission, including carbon credits from tree planting & the "Fly Neighbourly" proposal, has been put forward by FLYBLUE.

It is very understandable why Crown Lands selected this submission from the shortlist available.

The Upper Blue Mountains has an unemployment rate well above the national average, especially for the under 25 year olds.

The direct employment benefit from the airport operations as well as the increase in tourism will be a great plus for our region.

There are very few employment options in our region. Any new employment opportunities, such as in this proposal, should be welcomed with open arms.

I live adjacent to the World Heritage Area & am very conscious of how important this is to residents in the Blue Mountains.

Any environmental concerns that I may have had, have been extremely well addressed in this proposal.

The potential operators have always been accessible & happy to answer questions posed by residents, some of whom, I am embarrassed to say, have been very rude & unprofessional.

I have attended two such sessions with an open mind & am now convinced that FLYBLUE would be an excellent choice as the operator of the airfield.

I currently live near a helicopter landing pad.

My family do not feel that there has any adverse effects on our lifestyle.

I have never heard a negative comment from nearby neighbours.

I encourage Crown Lands to grant the lease to FLYBLUE.

It would be a travesty if such professional operators were not given the opportunity to operate such an important asset in the Upper Mountains.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission regarding the proposed lease at Katoomba Airfield

Dear sir or ms,

I am a resident and property owner living living with my family in Katoomba these last 25 years. The proposal to have the Katoomba Airfield leased to a commercial enterprise for 50 years is one that I must oppose.

There are many reasons for locals to be opposed, ranging from the unspecified brief regarding it's operations and range of uses it therefore might lend itself to and being unable to envisage how it will assist the local population's transport needs.

While it may provide a small boost to the local tourist industry which I am not disregarding, it does so at increased risk to those that fly in the aircraft and those in proximity to the flight paths chosen and lethal crashes around the Katoomba Airfield are not unknown in the time I have lived here. The airport is exposed and there is a complexity of turbulences arising from its' exposed position and for being surrounded on 3 sides by deep canyons that channel wind and affect air density. Moreover, we are likely be impacted by the development of the Badgery's Creek Airport currently under construction which could change or impact this airport' operation.

Lastly, but of extreme importance is the environmental impact that must occur from any proposed lease. There is no proposal that can fully mitigate for it's own impact on the landscape and fauna or for the auditory or visual distractions to its' local human populations so it is already operating at a loss .

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 11:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I OBJECT to the proposed changes to the Katoomba Airfield.

As a frequent visitor to Katoomba for the purpose of walking and camping in the peaceful environs, I am disappointed that the Stare Government would consider upgrading the Katoomba airport so that it can support increases in overflights and joyflights.

The value of 'getting away from it all' is severely impacted by the noise and presence of aircraft.

For me it will mean that I spend less time (and money) in this part of NSW.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from Samsung tablet.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it mat concern,

YKAT plays a vital role for emergency service during bushfires and it is therefore not only in the interests of aviation that it remains open but it is also in the public interest.

Please recognise the significance this airfields and support the FLYBLUE application.

With regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 11:30 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept my submission with regards to a recent lease application for Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath.

I am opposed to the lease application and firmly believe it conflicts with the World Heritage Values the very land it sits within.

I request that it please be included in the national park and given to NPWS to manage for emergency services only.

I would like to stress that I am offended by the approach your lease applicant has taken in that they are trying to scare the community into say yes to their proposal suggesting that without a commercialised Katoomba Airfield and their lease application people will die if a fire comes through.

It does not matter if emergency services take precedence simply because Katoomba Airfield does not matter. There are so many places that helicopters can land and be used for what is called a "Staging Area" that not having Katoomba Airfield is a moot point. A Section 42 allows the RFS to commandeer any location anyhow when needed.

This farcical white washing by your lease applicant makes it seems like they are here to save the mountains which is nothing short of insulting, they cannot save the mountains they will instead destroy it in my opinion.

Anyone who knows anything about firefighting knows that the Katoomba Airfield cannot be used for fixed wing firefighting simply because the runway is too short. The canopy of the Blue Mountains is so dense that only large area tankers can be used as they carry enough water or fire retardant with the necessary hitting capacity to break through the canopy. These planes come from Richmond. Elvis the large helicopters can land anywhere it will fit and they come from Bankstown some 18 minutes by air.

The bottom-line fires are fought on the ground and it is the dedication of the thousands of RFS firefighters located in the Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains RFS are recognised as having more firefighters and firefighting resources and equipment than any other area in NSW. It is these dedicated men and women who fight the fires, aircraft can slow impede but cannot stop on their own.

I personally support and live by the amazing values that living in a World Heritage Area provides. Things like "Slow Food", "Fresh Air", "Natural Quiet", "Sustainable Living", respecting nature and preserving the many rare and unique species of flora and fauna the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area represents and protects. Why would the government consider a lease application that puts this at risk...WHY?

Did the department conduct an environmental study to ascertain the impacts of noise and toxic fumes on flora, fauna and people?

I am afraid that if this lease application is approved the animals will all leave. The water and dams the aircraft will be flying over will be contaminated. The environment will be impacted by airborne toxic emissions and the tourist will not come back because the very thing they come here for the World Heritage Values and Natural Quiet will be gone forever.

Another criticism of your lease applicant is this one tree for one flight. Surely, I am not the only one who knows what green washing is?

When I went to the drop-in session I was forced to sit at a table and listen to stuff that never addressed my concerns. I saw another table with people I recognised, one of them a pilot that I know. How come I was not allowed to sit at that table. Why were we broken down into small groups were people being stereotyped? I heard in other meetings people all talked as one big group, what was wrong with the people that came to that first session in the evening that they were not allowed the same?

I have another question why did Crown Lands wait 21 months to engage the community about what might be a befitting use of land the people own, and you manage? Why when I came to the drop-in sessions and visited your website is there nothing about the business case and the number of flights needed to make a return on the investment and what sort of investment is proposed that a 50-year lease is merited. Surely not one the community will accept or ensures the natural values of the World Heritage.

Out of curiosity has anyone from Crown Lands ever walked down Grand Canyon Road. I do all the time with my dogs. It is a narrow road without footpaths. It is also a peaceful road that turns to dirt when you enter the Blue Mountains National Park on the way to the airfield. I do not want my tax money to have to go towards the development of these roads as your lease applicant has made it clear it is not their problem. I also do not want to walk with aviation fuel tankers, utes carrying drums of aviation fuel and tour buses driving down the road. Your lease applicant will change everything in how people use and appreciate their residential area both on the ground and in the air.

Another complaint about your lease applicant and their marketing propaganda. I walk around the airfield every day and head towards Minnehaha Falls in Katoomba. I do not want to "Walk Blue" I do not care if they convert a percentage of the land to walking trails. I do not want to walk everyday with my dogs where helicopters and aircraft are taking off. Seriously who would want to listen to and smell that!!!

If this lease is allowed how I have used and enjoyed the land surrounding the airfield will be irrevocably changed and I will no longer be able to use. Everything will be changed, and someone needs to take responsibility for this change, will Crown Lands be owning this responsibility?

Please do not allow this lease application to proceed. Allow the land to be incorporated into the national park once and for all, do what should have been done in 1988 and what the Blue Mountains City council has asked on multiple occasions.

Incorporate the land into the National Park and let NPWS manage as a part of the national park, they now how to do this better than anyone. Plus, it is not an onerous task to manage the land for use by emergency services let them do this, there are heaps of funds to help.

Please feel free to publish my submission but do not publish my name or location.

████████████████████

██

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 7:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Noise pollution for the majority will only benefit a minority.

The law is justified as "noise nuisance" when it comes to protecting residents rights to sacred silence between 11 pm and 7am. If government protects these rights for residents then government must protect these rights on the same logic, for the thousands of spiritual practitioners and religious organisation that need the blue mountains to remain natural.

In order that the will of the people be sanctified, the land should be protected as a National Park.

We only need the emergency strip.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 3:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield submission

Reference No 602686

Hello,

I just want to voice my objection to the airfield being used for commercial purposes at Medlow Bath. All levels of government should be alarmed at the proposed use, with helicopters taking off and landing throughout the day, the noise and fumes impact on nearby residents would be huge, I could only imagine what it would be like to live next door to the airfield if it became commercial. I live at Wentworth Falls and it would also have a large impact on us as well, as customers I'm sure would want to be travelling through the Jamison Valley at the back of our house. I know what its like when bushfires are around the place here, and the incessant helicopter noise drives you mad (but that is tempered by knowing they have to be there for fire fighting, no such luxury should be afforded to the commercial enterprise).

Also the proximity to our water catchment, the Katoomba Dam, should be a no brainer for government to disallow the lease. The threat to our water supply being only a few kilometres from the dam, being contaminated with fuel exhausts from helicopters should be enough by itself to see the proposal disallowed.....what price public health ???
!!!!

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 1:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am deeply concerned by the news that Katoomba airfield is being considered for use of helicopter tourist flights . Firstly the public opinion was not considered before this decision was made . It is crown land , meant to be returned to the Blue Mountains national park. This land needs to be protected not exploited. The airstrip should only be used for emergency services such as fire fighting .

People who love noise and commotion go or live in the city . Our world heritage national park should be just that . People want quiet and peace , to be able to truly appreciate the wonders of the bush without interruption from helicopters. We do not need or want this invasive noise wether we live here or are visiting. Helicopters make their presence known .

Also what about the impact to our native animals . These animals are easily stressed . What about the impact to birds and their migration habits .

There are already many ways tourists can see our natural wonders with these invasive machines in the sky .

I do not believe any factors have been truly considered, it is only a oppportunity for a minority group to make money . Please do not go ahead with this enterprise

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 9:51 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

I oppose the proposal of using crown land for the use of aviation tourism.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 5:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

As a NSW sydney resident I strongly oppose the use of the katoomba airfield for commercial flights. The serenity of the blue mountains is lost through the noise pollution created. It is an unwarranted invasion of the national parks. The view that this will be of commercial benefits. Is short sighted. Erode the protection of the parks, people will have less desire to visit the area. If one is happy with a noise polluted park, sydney has the Royal National Park right there, no need to travel 2 hrs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 12:31 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield (Reference number 602686)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to oppose the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

I am a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains and go there to enjoy the peace and serenity of the area and to enjoy the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park.

Things that concern me are as follows:

The UNESCO criteria of the Blue Mountains National Park are

- 1) To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas with exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
- 2) To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on going geological processes in the development of landforms or significant geomorphic or physiographic features
- 3) To be outstanding examples representing significant on going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals
- 4) To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Blue Mountains National Park fulfils all of these. Any use of the airfield that will have or is likely to have a significant impact on its World Heritage values would breach the (Commonwealth) Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. It would require a full environmental impact study and the approval of the Federal Minister for the environment. No such study has been done, nor any such approval given.

The major impact would be noise, especially from helicopters and low flying aircraft. This not only affects people like me who wish to enjoy the park in all its grandeur and spectacular scenery, but also the wildlife. The park protects a large number of threatened species. Australian record of extinction is very poor.

The airfield is within 10km's of Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath, all of which will be affected.

No detailed flight paths have been made public and the operator simply states that they would not offer short trips (under 15 minutes) nor fly at night (except in an emergency). No undertaking is given as to the frequency of flights, or flight paths. There is no formal regulation to cover this, only an unenforceable voluntary agreement.

For these reasons I oppose the proposed use of the airfield (except for emergencies). It should be merged into the national park as should have happened in 2008.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]; linda
Subject: Reference 602686 Proposed development Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I understand the NSW Department of Industry is considering a proposal to lease Crown land at Medlow Bath known as Katoomba Airfield - Reference 602686.

I am writing to formally oppose this development on the grounds that the effect of an airfield in the upper Blue Mountains, is inappropriate given it's world heritage status.

My reasons as follows:

- While I accept the investment proposed may support tourism for a small number of operators and may benefit some sections of the local economy, it will also have a negative effect on the peace and tranquillity of an internationally recognised wilderness.
- Low flying aircraft emit substantial noise pollution that significantly detract from the sense of place and this additional noise will have a dire effect on the people who currently enjoy the wilderness of the Blue Mountains.
- By definition, wilderness is the most intact, undisturbed wild natural areas left on our planet—those last truly wild places that humans do not control and have not developed with roads, pipelines or other industrial infrastructure . The word *wilderness* derives from the notion of "wildness"—in other words, that which is not controlled by humans. The frequent operation of low flying aircraft in a wilderness area is completely incompatible with the definitions and notions of wilderness.
- Joy flights are available to a few tourists with the means to purchase this service and will benefit a small number of tourism operators. The majority of tourists are looking for bush walking and other immersive wilderness experiences. It is not fair that the short term enjoyment of a few tourists can so adversely affect the enjoyment of the vast majority of Blue Mountains tourists.
- The residents of the upper Blue Mountains deserve better than having to experience the excessive noise of constant joy flights.
- The negative aspects of this development far outweigh the small number of positive benefits that the proposal might or might not produce and for this reason the proposed development must NOT be approved.

I encourage anyone considering approving this development to spend time in Blue Gum Forest, Mt Solitary, the Grand Canyon, Wentworth Falls and the various other places of extreme beauty, and consider the effect of low flying aircraft operating in the vicinity. Their experience would be very diminished.

For ALL of these reasons, the proposal should not be considered for approval.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 6:07 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Mr Glen Bunny
Department of Industry, Crown Lands
PO Box 2155
DANGAR NSW 2309
Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Bunny

RE: LX 602686 – submission as an objection to proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

On behalf of the Megalong Valley Pony Club (MVPC), I am writing in opposition of the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield and its lease to Flyblue.

The MVPC meets routinely on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, on the Megalong Valley Showground, as it has done for many years.

We believe that use of the Katoomba Airfield as a base for a heli-tourism business is inappropriate as it would logically support a significant increase in helicopter flights over the local area which is prized by many people for its natural beauty, peace and quiet.

Helicopter flights are noisy and disruptive. Helicopters noise can frighten horses which presents a significant safety concern for the us and particularly the children riders at MVPC.

Further, a number of the members of the MVPC have chosen and travel to attend this club because of its quiet rural location. These members contribute economically to the local community each time they visit, in paying for accommodation and food. They generally keep their horses locally, many agisting at local stables at significant expense. Our members also pay for services locally such as veterinary and other riding lessons. If there is a significant increase in helicopter traffic we are concerned that the MVPC membership will shrink if current members decide the location is not as attractive. This will hurt our club but also hurt the region economically.

As far as we are aware there is no rigorous and balanced economic assessment of the impact of the proposed commercialisation of the airfield. We believe the proposed commercialisation of the airfield would damage the peace and quiet of the Blue Mountains, one of its key competitive advantages.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Megalong Valley Pony Club

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 3:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to submit a notice on my concerns for the future of Katoomba Airfield.

I have been a resident of suburban Sydney all my life. One of the hugest pleasures of living in Sydney are the beautiful Blue Mountains that are in close proximity. My family and I visit the Blue Mountains for relaxation and sport. We value the peace and serenity of the mountains. I understand that there is a possibility of the airfield being put to commercial use. I also guess that this would mean there is development at the airfield site along with more flights around and about Katoomba.

I object to the further development of the airfield for commercial use – this is currently public land.

I also object to the use of the airfield for commercial flights. I object to this on the assumption that the airfield will be used for commercial joyflights by plane/helicopter.

I object to this proposal and all similar future proposals.

I am happy to maintain the airfield for emergency use only.

I object on the following grounds:

- development of the airfield which sits above the Grose Valley will further endanger the delicate ecosystem within the valley
- joyflights by their very nature are intrusive to those on the ground. Disturbance to native animals and people who are looking for a quiet walk in the bush seems unavoidable. Anyone who has been to the Grand Canyon in Arizona recently will be able to testify to this
- the airfield is public land and should be passed to the Blue Mountains National Park. Public land does not have to make money.
- this will severely detract from this World Heritage Area in many ways

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 9:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au; bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The future of Katoomba airfield Ref: LX 602686

The Minister for Crown Lands,

The Blue Mountains is a precious gem of World Heritage status. It is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike for the beauty of its landscape, the undamaged nature of its environment and the tranquility of its bushland setting.

We believe that the proposal to grant a commercial lease of Katoomba airfield to a tourism operator threatens all of these values.

The location of the airfield within the National Park just outside of Medlow Bath, a beautiful mountain village, is itself sufficient cause for concern. The only service access to the airfield will require vehicles to intrude upon the residential area of the village before entering the unsealed access road to the airfield. The granting of this lease can only impact negatively on local residents and the local environment.

On a wider view, commercial use of the airfield will result in low level overflight of the upper Blue Mountains towns from Lawson to Mount Victoria and beyond into the National Park by many more fixed wing and helicopter aircraft. This will occur frequently every day resulting in increased noise and emissions pollution. Residents, visitors and the National Park will all suffer.

It is our view that any benefit to be gained from the granting of this lease is far outweighed by the negative impacts it will have. The public land on which it stands should be incorporated into the surrounding National Park and mostly regenerated, retaining only sufficient of the existing airfield to be used in emergencies by emergency services.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of the long lease by Derek Larsen of FLYBLUE Management Pty Ltd. Mr Larsen has supported 323 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets with a secure location for field training for young adults aged 12 to 19.

- Improving The Surrounding Area - We have utilised Katoomba Airfield for many years and before Mr Larsen took the lease hold the area was covered with refuse ranging from used furniture to a boat and other residential and commercial waste. Ever since Mr. Larsen has taken over the lease the grounds have been extremely clean and have removed a lot of waste and dilapidated buildings from the site. This makes it far safer for cadets to travel around the location and I do not have to fear they will be injured by garbage or dilapidated structures.

- Amazing Community Service - Mr. Larsen has agreed to allow the Air Force Cadets to utilise the location without payment to aid with the Field Training of young adults in a unique area. He has maintained fences and security along with allowing the use of bathrooms and amenities if required.

- Aviation Industry in the Blue Mountains - Commercial flying from Medlow Bath would offer those with an interest in the industry to work closer to home and for aviators to practice their craft. At the moment, the closest airports are Bathurst, Camden and Bankstown that are popular for such activities. My unit boasts many young aviators who cannot continue their flying practice close to their homes.

- Upkeep of the Runways - As a resident of the Blue Mountains, it would give me confidence to know there is a location in the upper mountains larger aircraft can land in the case of bush fire or disaster. I was at home when the 2013 Winmalee bushfire hit and I bear witness to the ferociousness of the fire and how quickly it destroyed homes around me. It chills me to think of the aftermath had there been mass casualties and how you would evacuate people if it occurred in the upper Mountains.

Thank you for taking the time to read my supporting comments.

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 9:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Dear Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

The idea of a Katoomba airfield commercial lease being granted is one that I am strongly opposed to. I ask that the airfield is incorporated into the national park and used for emergency use only.

My 10-day experience at the Dhamma Bhumi Meditation Centre located close-by last year as a 21 year old male was one of the most important experiences of my life. This was enabled by the wonderful staff, the meditation program and... the SILENCE that allowed for meditation on a 10-day 'silent' retreat. Since then I have been back for a second retreat (also very important for my wellbeing and life-changing) and plan to do more in future times. Being able to experience a silent retreat again would be devastating and it feels wrong to take the opportunity away from others especially first-timers. Many many people do these retreats.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 1:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

Hi,

I'm writing to express my objection to the proposed granting of a commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield. As a resident of the Blue Mountains, I am concerned about the effects that such a venture might have upon an area which is characterised by its status as a World Heritage listed National Park, and not just to the human residents of the area, but the flora and fauna, as well. At present, the Blue Mountains enjoys clean air, peace and quiet, and is home to a multitude of native species. The noise and pollution caused by commercial aircraft using the airspace could only ruin this.

Given the controversy surrounding the construction of the Western Sydney Airport in nearby Badgery's Creek and how that might affect the Blue Mountains, it seems outrageous to suggest allowing a commercial airstrip to operate within the area itself, however small.

The interim leaseholders, Derek and Floyd Larsen, insist that they would adopt a "fly neighbourly" policy to minimise noise impacts. A noble sentiment, and, no doubt, genuine, but exactly how they intend to enforce this remains to be seen. They might appreciate the impact of a helicopter flying low over nearby houses, but will every single pilot using the airfield have the same attitude? Will noisy operators be banned from using it again, or will they simply be told, "please don't do it again" repeated times?

It has also been stated that granting a commercial lease will not include approval for short-term joy flights into or out of the airfield. That might be the case right now, but should a commercial lease be granted, it will open the door for such disruptive flights to be approved in the not-too-distant future, when, perhaps, the leaseholders assume that "everyone's used to it by now", and see an opportunity to push their operations even further.

Given the location of the airfield, it seems only appropriate that it should be made a part of the National Park itself, so that it can be protected from future attempts at exploiting it for commercial gain at the expense of the environment, and to be used solely for emergency purposes.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 9:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: balmain@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern,

I want to submit my personal feedback on the proposed lease of the Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes.

I ask the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to incorporate the Katoomba airfield into the Blue Mountains national park (BMNP) at the end of the current lease, and restrict any air traffic from this airfield to medical, firefighting or other emergency activities only. Leasing this airfield to a commercial aircraft operator will result in excessive noise throughout the entire national park, and would be directly opposing the requirements for the BMNP to remain an UNESCO world heritage listed site.

The proposed lease of the Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator will result in dozens to hundreds of aircraft flights (small planes or helicopters) every day in high season, and hence project an immense noise level into the surrounding areas. As the NP is so widely spread, and valleys will reflect the aircraft noise, the experience to all ground-bound visitors will be seriously impacted by the noise, making it less appealing to find tranquility and a sense of remoteness. After all, the mountains are welcoming everyone to explore the area by foot, bike, or motorised vehicles along the many roads spreading across the plateau. I can not overstate how utterly damaging the noise of low-flying aircrafts would be to the qualities that make this national park so unique. Already, any high flying plane or helicopter flying above the mountains can be heard for many tens or hundreds of miles away, and adding low flying tourist aircrafts will destroy the atmosphere inherent to this area.

Our family lives in Sydney, but is regularly visiting the blue mountains (by train or at times with the car) to stay for several nights and go for bush walks. This happens every 6-8 weeks, as we consider it vital for the upbringing of our daughters to be connected to the land they live in and the Blue mountains national park is a unique heritage that Australia has to offer. We thoroughly enjoy the peace and tranquility that the national park offers, the serene landscape and how readily one can access remote areas by descending into the valleys.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regard to the proposal to grant a lease for the airfield at Medlow Bath that would allow its use for aviation tourism.

I strongly object to this proposal.

The old Medlow Bath airfield is Crown land and as such it should be used in a manner that is in the best interests of all -- the greatest good for the greatest number. Its use for commercial tourism may benefit the operator and their employees, and those tourists who wish to take advantage of this service, however, the resulting noise will significantly reduce the amenity of the nearby Blue Mountains National Park for a far greater number of people. Many people visit the Blue Mountains National Park in order to escape from the noise and pollution of city life and enjoy a wilderness experience. The quality of this experience would be significantly lessened by the presence of helicopter noise.

As a result, I believe that allowing the proposed use of the airfield for aviation tourism would not provide the greatest good for the greatest number of people. While it would benefit a few, it would lead to a significant reduction in amenity for many more, with the net impact being negative, rather than positive.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 4:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dept of Industry
Crown Lands
PO Box 2155
Dangar NSW 2309

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing regarding the future use of Katoomba Airfield - Reference No. 602686.

I am strongly opposed to any proposal to use Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes.

As a resident living near Katoomba Airfield I am very concerned about aircraft noise that would arise from the commercial use of the airfield.

Specifically, I am strongly opposed to any use of Katoomba Airfield, which I understand is Crown Land that is completely surrounded by World Heritage Listed National Park, for the use of joy flights - be that by helicopter or any other commercial aircraft.

In my view, Katoomba Airfield should be transferred to the National Park and protected in perpetuity.

I support the maintenance and use of Katoomba Airfield for emergency use only particularly in the case of bushfire.

Please take this email as my formal submission regarding the future use of Katoomba Airfield.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Katoomba Airfield

----- Forwarded message -----
From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 9:32 AM
Subject: Katoomba Airfield
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Crown Lands

I am writing in support of the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to Fly Blue Management Pty Ltd.

[REDACTED]

I am a helicopter operator and business owner based at Sydney Airport. For many years, Katoomba Airfield has been an important publicly available resource for the operation of my business. We have offered helicopter tours to the Blue Mountains to both domestic and international tourists and have used Katoomba Airfield as a landing site. There is no other publicly available landing site in the Blue Mountains that I am aware of.

It is critical to the Sydney and Blue Mountains tourism industries that there is a publicly available landing site in the Blue Mountains to promote and carry on tourist operations. Many tourists who come to Sydney have limited time and the use of helicopter transport to the Blue Mountains is very appealing to this part of the market. Additionally, a helicopter scenic flight is a wonderful way to appreciate what the Blue Mountains National Park has to offer.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2019 11:03 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No commercial helicopters in the Blue Mountains please

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] NSW, dad of a 7-year old and deeply concerned about environmental destruction for private profits.

It seems to make a lot of sense to incorporate the Katoomba Airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park for emergency and rescue operations that will benefit all park users.

However, as a regular visitor of the Blue Mountains for recreational purposes and to meditate at the Vipassana Meditation Center in Blackheath

"I strongly object to any helicopter base in the Blue Mountains for commercial and tourist purposes".

Such activities would greatly diminish the recreational value of the peaceful Blue Mountains to all of us who go there for it's natural beauty and to recover from the busy and hectic life in the city.

Obviously, helicopter activities would also have a highly detrimental impact on the Blue Mountains wildlife which is already distressed due to the floods of (sometimes insensitive/inconsiderate) tourists, and increasing bush fire risk due to accelerating climate change.

Please take the numerous and justified objections of citizens seriously and do not sacrifice the serenity of the Blue Mountains for the benefits of a very few helicopter operators and "action tourists" who have little concern for the broader public and nature.

With kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 2:55 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Lease of Katoomba Airfield (reference number 602686)

Dear Airfield submissions team,

I am writing to you to make a submission regarding the proposed lease of Crown land at Medlow Bath known as Katoomba Airfield.

I am deeply concerned about the likely impact of the proposed business on the airfield site. An unspecified number of helicopter flights will take off from and land on that site, for the sole purpose of entertaining a handful of tourist visitors.

The proposed business will be of no benefit to local residents - the only result they will get is increased noise.

The proposed business will also be of no benefit to local business - very few jobs for locals will be created by the fun flights, while businesses that rely on general tourism may suffer. The millions of tourists and day-trippers who come to the Blue Mounatins every year visit the area to experience the World Heritage listed natural beauty, not to observe noisy helicopters flying overhead.

Helicopter noise travels far in the Blue Mountains. Recently, I was on a bush walk around the Hat Hill area in Blackheath, and could clearly hear and see a helicopter flying over Wentworth Falls, about 20 km in the distance. It was the only noise I could hear on an otherwise tranquil day. I have also in the past been disturbed by helicopter noise above my home in Katoomba, by helicopters taking scenic flights along the Three Sisters area. Noise travels far in the quiet mountains.

I am worried that a business which benefits only a handful of individuals and disturbs thousands of residents and millions of tourists may be allowed to go ahead.

I hope that that the Katoomba Airfield will instead become part of the National Park, and will be maintained for emergency use only. This way, both local tourism and local residents will benefit.

Thank you so much for your time.
Best regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 3:21 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

30 July 2019 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Australia , 2204 To Whom it May Concern, I am writing to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated near the Blue Mountains National Park at Medlow Bath. I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. I am a Danish/Australian citizen, living in Sydney. However I have visited the Blue Mountains, Blackheath and I regularly spend time, bushwalking there. The Grose Valley and Megalong Valleys are amongst my favourite areas and I love the incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence. I have stayed regularly at Bower Cottage Accommodation in the past and it was a peaceful haven from my busy city life. I feel that helicopter joy flights have a potential to ruin the peace and quiet I enjoy when I visit there. The Blue Mountains is a unique wilderness a stones throw from a major city. The main reason people such as myself visit is the peaceful respite this place offers. It's classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is so justified. I feel that the noise of constant helicopter flights all day will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment I will enjoy when and I plan my future trips back to Australia to visit. It may make me choose an alternative destination if this invasive, noisy business goes ahead. I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life and listen to the overwhelming opposition to this proposition. Thank you. Yours Sincerely, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 5:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au;
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

As a resident of Medlow Bath I would

- 1 : like to object to any commercial lease for this public land at Katoomba airfield
- 2 : I believe this land should become part of the National Park
- 3 : The airfield should be kept for emergency use only

Helicopter noise in this area is often amplified by the local topography, we as concerned residents have not been informed of the projected number and frequency of flights. A "Fly Neighbourly" policy is self regulated, and does not include flights originating from outside the airfield. The applicants are setting this proposal up as a viable business, therefor it needs to grow in the future. The airfield will need to be serviced by fuel tankers, I suspect there may be in the future some tourist buses travelling out to the airfield, some of the local roads are not made for this sort of traffic. The Blue mountains is a national park within a world heritage area and as such should be a quiet and relaxing place. The grant of a commercial lease would lead to a loss of local amenity and pave the way for future expansion

Yours,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 11:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 602686

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern in relation to a proposed new air field in the Blue Mountains.

The Blue Mountains have unrivaled natural amenity which is at risk if this plan is to go ahead. As anyone who has "kooo-eed" knows, sound travels in marvelous ways amongst the valleys and cliffs. The result is that sounds are amplified and echoed. This is fine for jubilant hikers, but quite concerning for helicopters.

I was recently walking at pulpit rock and a helicopter flew over the blue gum forest. The sound was astonishing and negatively coloured my experience that day.

There is no doubt that there are legitimate reasons for aircraft to use the airspace above the blue mountains, eg rescue and military training, but to expand the tourism offerings will simply destroy the natural ammenity that the operators seek to showcase.

It will be a true tradgedy of the commons if this plan goes ahead.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

Lets leave Katoomba as peaceful as it is which worths a Billion because nature gives us everything so lets give nature some peace in return.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no: 602686. Keep helicopter tourism out of Blue Mountains National Park

As a resident of Katoomba I am extremely concerned at the prospect of helicopter tourism operating out of Katoomba airport.

Helicopter tourism is incompatible with protecting and preserving the values of the Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

Helicopters are loud and polluting. Flying over is no substitute for getting into, (seeing wild flowers, hearing birds, breathing fresh air) which is why most visitors come and why people live in the Blue Mountains.

Residents of Katoomba know how disturbing the noise impacts will be. We already experience helicopter and aircraft noise reverberating around the cliffs and valleys when there is a police or other emergency operation. These are the only type of flight operations that should be permissible out of the Katoomba airfield.

I endorse calls for the airfield to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and used exclusively for police, fire, rescue and national park.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Commercial Airfield Objection

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jun 20, 2019 at 9:39 AM
Subject: Commercial Airfield Objection
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

I would like to impress the importance of the tranquil surrounds offered by the Blue Mountains National Park and the Katoomba meditation centre to many visitors including tourists.

A large majority of the locality in the area object to the Katoomba Airfield being used on a commercial basis and I too suggest that doing so would be a dis-service to the National Park.

Tourists can enjoy the area from many vantage points without causing such disturbance to the residents and established organisation [REDACTED]

Proposed gains from the commercial enterprise come as a direct result of antagonism of locals and visitors and a willful degradation of the peaceful environment.

Please keep the Katoomba Airfield strictly for emergency use and in harmony with the nature of the heritage listed landscape.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello,

I am writing to you as a concerned Blue Mountains citizen. The proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield presents a threat to the natural environment, our primary resource, which supports our strongest industry (tourism) and one of the largest employers in this regional area.

The air and noise pollution that would result from this commercialisation could **threaten the Blue Mountains' World Heritage listing**, which would have a **devastating impact on tourism** across the region.

This land should be **delivered to the community** for a community-managed project, for the **benefit of the community**. I believe that a community-run solar farm would be the ideal outcome, delivering sustainable energy and positive outcomes for the entire community.

Please see below for more detailed objections to the proposal.

Sincerely,
Nina

A commercial airfield will jeopardise our major industry:

The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals. An estimated **1.25 million people undertake bushwalks** in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. **Impacting the reputation** of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. **Increasing noise pollution** and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoneers
3. Concentrating **tourist dollars in fewer hands, taking business and JOBS AWAY FROM LOCALS**. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation
4. A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

Lack of transparency and shonky bureaucracy:

1. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park. Why has this process not occurred?
2. How can anyone properly engage in community consultation when we don't know the scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation? **The state government has steadfastly refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public.**
3. Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue, but do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West. Do we know these flight paths? We do not. This model may also bring in other operators further increasing activity.
4. Why was the **community not consulted** by the state government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a licence by direct negotiation (see [Expression of Interest](#)), and awarded it to a high-impact helicopter tourism business, when community groups had also applied?
5. Why has public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily **for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

To Whom it may Concern

I wish to put in a very strong objection to Katoomba airfield being used for aviation tourism.

Having moved to the Blue Mountains over 30 years ago, to live within its tranquil environment and to enjoy the walks of the world heritage listed National Park, I find it incredulous that a government, most of whose members do not live in the area are considering this proposal.

It would be more appropriate to start moving some tourist activities beyond the Sydney basin, to increase regional resources and decrease traffic congestion in Western Sydney.

Our mountain roads are beyond coping capacity on weekends, coaches create hazardous spots as they park along residential streets and accidents are more likely to occur as a result of driver inability to see round them.

I'm sure if tourists want to have a helicopter look at the Mountains , they'd have a much better ride looking at a greater vista, starting over low lying areas and then coming to witness the rising mountain ranges.

I appreciate your interest in reading my email and I hope others may also suggest leaving Katoomba airfield alone.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:45 AM
To: Shirley Ogden
Subject: FW: Letter to Scott Mullen

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 17 July 2019 at 13:57:39 AEST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Scott Mullen

REF LX602686

Dear [REDACTED]

I was recently made aware that Katoomba Airfield may possibly be granted a commercial licence. It was good meeting you, and thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the proposal.

While I support the use of Katoomba Airfield as an emergency airstrip, I wish to protest the proposal of a commercial licence in the strongest possible terms.

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains I am well aware of the noise and disruption caused by helicopters. Every fire season and bushfire helicopters make themselves useful - this is appropriate in that it is **a direct benefit to the residents.**

A commercial licence is in-appropriate for the following reasons:-

1. If 'Joy Flights' were permitted, the residents of Katoomba (population 7,964) and surrounding area would be subjected to between 6 and 8 hours of continuous noise **for each helicopter operating**. I live 7 km from the airstrip and, due to the topographical formations of this Heritage, I can still hear aircraft operating from the airstrip.

2. The only people benefiting from the granting of this licence would be the helicopter and fixed wing operators, the licence owner (I have been told this is two people?) and the passengers. There will be of no benefit to the locals. **7,964 to 2 seems like a very unfair ratio to me.**

3. The promise of a Joy-Flight may be appealing to day tourists, but it is unlikely to create an increase the number of 'bums on beds' being booked in the Katoomba area. The best way to see the Blue Mountains Park has always been by 'Shanks' Pony'. One of the major tourist contributors to the Blue Montains are those who travel up here to experience the walks through this beautiful place. Helicopter noise with destroy their peace and quiet as well. **And these people do contribute to putting 'bums on beds'**

4. **Local wildlife will be adversely affected** by the noise, pressure from the rotor cavitations and pollution. Also, it is unknown what affect commercial use will have on other local environmental matters (ie: Hanging swamps, weed intrusion, groundwater contamination, etc. – For example, The area around the airfield is a regular home to roosting Black Cockatoos.)

5. **What damage will be caused by fuel exhaust?** Anyone living under the flight paths at Sydney Airport will already be aware of the black, greasy, residue, caused by aircraft exhaust, on horizontal surface around their homes. While I understand that the scale of operations is different, what will happen to the gum trees and other vegetation when exposed to fuel dumps and exhaust fumes over an extended (long term) period of the lease?

6. **All of the residents** I have spoken to migrated to the Blue Mountains to get away from the stink of petrol fumes, car noise, and the rush and turmoil of the city. They came here for solitude, and peace and quiet and to enjoy the clean air. Are we seriously going to let two petrol-heads, (who I am told don't even live in the Blue Mountains) destroy all that for the sake of greed?

The people of the Blue Mountains have worked long and hard to keep the area pristine and clear. We have said 'No!' to organisation like McDonalds from opening up fast-food outlets, and have instead encouraged and promoted Slo-Food, - why should this proposal, which is really only about 'money', be handled any differently.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting

Yours sincerely,



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 1:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; ozsunrise
Subject: Cancel Katoomba Airport Lease LX 602686

Dear Officers,

Re: LX 602686

Plans to establish a commercial airport at North Katoomba should be cancelled permanently.

Operations at the airfield and flight paths over the surrounding areas would grossly compromise the amenity, aesthetic and environmental values of the World Heritage National Park.

No matter how minor the impacts suggested by the applicants for the commercial airfield license, the potential to escalate the air traffic at the site will remain throughout the proposed 50 year lease.

The potential to have a legally established high-traffic small aircraft airport with supporting infrastructure with potential for major expansion (given the area of the site) poses an unacceptable risk to the integrity of world heritage values of the national park.

The use of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters for passenger flights will introduce noise pollution to the wilderness areas of the National Park.

A strong commercial incentive for the introduction of "tourist joyflights" over the National Park and along the cliff lines, which are purportedly ruled out at this stage, means permission for joyflights would be pursued relentlessly at every opportunity.

The risk remains that future government or court decisions could allow joyflights to be operated from the site, to the benefit of a few but detriment to the whole community, visitors and the tourism drawcard value of the National Park.

This would be a further disaster for the tourism value of the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park due to the impact of aircraft noise and intrusion of helicopters into wilderness areas.

Any commercial benefit of lease payments to the government would be insignificant in the context of the potential damage by aircraft noise to the reputation and dollar value of tourism in the Blue Mountains and the State Government revenue it generates.

To allow this proposal to go ahead would be shortsighted environmental vandalism and commercially negligent.

The airfield should be returned to the National Park and maintained as a rescue and firefighting emergency facility only.

The World Heritage area should be left in peace forever for the benefit of future generations.

Yours truly

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 2:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Hello

I would like to voice my disapproval of the plans for an air field at Medlow Bath.

What makes this place so special is the peacefulness. Helicopter noise will spoil this place of beauty for the many for the benefit of the few.

If people want to experience the blue mountains close up you need to get walking. There are plenty of view points For people to get amazing views.

Please consider transferring the land from crown land to national park so this issue gets resolved for ever.

Thanks for reading.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 10:20 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I write to object to the use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes, and to the grant of any lease over it. As you know, on 1 August the [NSW Parliament](#) will debate its future. This is the result of over 12,000 people signing a petition objecting to its use as a commercial aerodrome.

Presently, the airfield is used only for bushfire fighting, and medical evacuations. The noise of flights taking off and landing, and flying overhead would severely impact the peace and tranquillity of the Blue Mountains.

The unique qualities of Blue Mountains are recognised by its status as a World Heritage Area. The Blue Mountains National Park's magnificent landform, the grandeur of its canyons, the variety of flora and fauna and birds, combined with the scenery, peace, and silence, make it a delight for residents and visitors alike. Flights overhead, or even nearby, would shatter all this. Here is a [sample of helicopter noise](#) in the mountains.

In 1999 the Blue Mountains City Council requested the Department of Land and Water Conservation that the airfield should be integrated into the National Park and flights cease, except for emergencies. This concept was reaffirmed by Blue Mountains Council again in 2008. Now a commercial operator, Flyblue, has been granted a licence by the Department to run joy flights and helicopter tours from Katoomba airfield. There is no way of controlling flight paths and the frequency of flights, as the ability to regulate them is minimal. The height restrictions are (500 feet) 150m above wilderness, and (1000 feet) 300m over houses

There has been no study of the environmental impact on birds, animals, or humans, and especially noise impact. No details have been released concerning the tender process, and the deeply-flawed public consultation process answered few questions. Once granted, the lease will secure the operator's tenure of the airfield for 50 years, opening the way for further commercial development, or even on-sale to another operator or developer.

Clearly, this lease should not be issued. Otherwise, all who reside in, or visit and enjoy this part of the Blue Mountains will have their peaceful amenity regularly disturbed.

I ask that Katoomba airfield be reintegrated into the Blue Mountains National Park, and managed solely by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 4:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To the Receiver

I strongly object with the proposal to allow Joy Flights and commercial flights within the Blue Mountains World Heritage area.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage area is currently under constant strain in regards to other activities. These are just some that have come to the public's attention but there may be others we are not aware of.

- * Fly Blue proposal
- * Raising the Warragamba Dam Wall
- * Radiata Plateau [possible purchase by a developer]
- * Unknown flight paths for Badgerys Creek Airport.

All of the above have an impact on the UNESCO listing for the Blue Mountains area.

Our local paper [blue mountains gazette] indicated that "theBlue Mountains have over five million visitors each year"

The majority of these visitors come for the peace and quiet and to experience the Bush of which there are 400 Kilometres of walking tracks.

Many of these tracks would be used by people enjoying the peace and solitude the Blue Mountains area has to offer.

The proposed flight plans on Flyblue's website [copies attached] clearly shows that both helicopter and fixed wing aircraft would be flying over many of the favourite bush tracks.

As I live close to Nellies Glen I am very familiar of the noise made by helicopters when searching for lost personal in the Bush.

But this is a necessity not a commercial operation.

My understanding its that the current land is allocated as Crown Land and I note a couple of points from that website.

- Crown lands held under lease, licence or permit

This seems to be the possible option that has been extended to FlyBlue.

This will be a commercial operation and will benefit the high end of the market

- Lands retained in public ownership for environmental purposes

This should be the preferred option by the Land Registry Services as it provides the opportunity for visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet of the wilderness and Bush without the constant noise level that will be generated for commercial purposes.

The question is .. what are the gains for the Land Registry by allowing this to proceed? Are there millions of dollars at stake here?

I attended a meeting on Wed 19th June organised by staff from the Dept of Industry and was a little taken back seeing the flight maps below stuck on the wall.

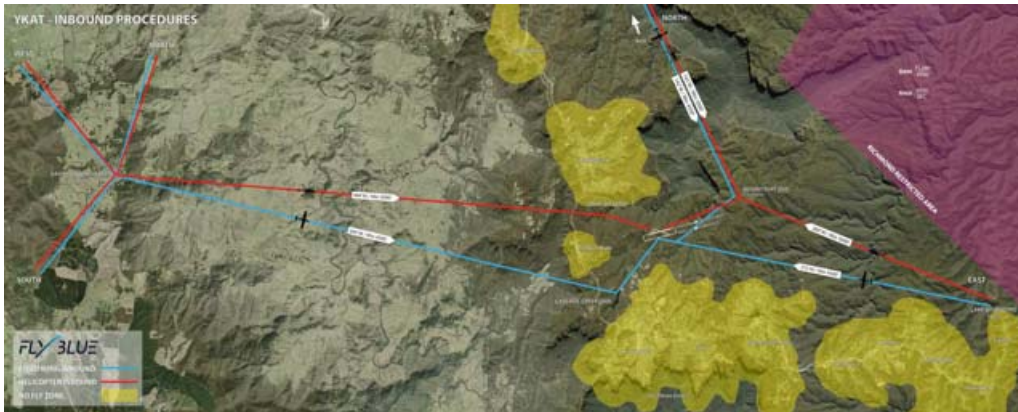
It gave the impression that this group was supporting FLY Blues lease and activity.

Although they indicated this was not the case and it was not a "fait accompli"

I strongly object to the commercial operation at Medlow Bath airport which will benefit a few to the detriment of many.

For the reasons above my stand point is NO to the commercial lease.
And I say Yes to incorporating this Crown Land into the National Park for use in emergencies.

Kind Regards



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 4:34 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To whom it may concern

As a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains, I have been concerned to learn that a commercial hub for helicopters and light planes is being considered near the National Park.

Undoubtedly, this will increase tourism, but at what cost?

At a time when David Attenborough has just suggested less air travel because of the negative effect on the environment and the majority of Australians so concerned with how our environment is being impacted, I would suggest that this idea of an enhanced airfield is counter productive.

As nearby Noosa has found to its cost, tourism can create its own issues. Especially for residents but in the end, for everyone.

What I love about the mountains are the trees interspersed with small villages and how *peaceful* it is.

I strongly urge you not to proceed with this plan.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 9:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercial flights in Blue Mountains

Ref nr. 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

Dear politicians, officers and authorities, I'd like to briefly express my feelings and opinions about the plan which would allow commercial flights over Blue Mountains.
I must strongly disagree with that. Blue Mountain are a quiet and peaceful heritage area which should be conserved and protected from anything what would disturb its natural appearance.
There are many ways how to protect the site as well as open in to the public at the same time - just like it is now. Commercial flights however would have a big impact as they're very loud and very disturbing. I do understand that there is a demand and that it would bring money but we really should consider all possible aspects. For me, my family and friends, commercial flights, from a long term perspective, would not be a benefit for citizens, wildlife, tourists and future generations.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 5:39 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686

As a resident of [REDACTED] in the Upper Blue Mountains, I strongly object to public land being used for commercial purposes and therefore wish to outline my opposition to the proposed long term lease being granted to current leaseholder Fly Blue. In my opinion the land should be transferred in perpetuity to the National Park and appropriate funding found to allow its occasional use for emergency purposes only.

Crown land belongs to the public. As a former member of the Blue Mountains Croquet Club, I have had personal experience of what was once crown land in Clanwilliam Street, Blackheath being sold to the local bowling club, then to the RSL and finally sold again to a private developer. Where there was once a well - tended Croquet lawn, available for community use, there now stands a weed infested wasteground, waiting for the opportunity for private profit. The community has lost out.

I do not believe that the operators of Fly Blue understand or are listening to community concerns. On their website, they mention their proposed fly neighbourly policy (though with no specificity) and proudly say that commercial aircraft will avoid built up areas. This simply means that flights would be directly over World Heritage wilderness areas, with consequent negative impact on native fauna and people walking through the National Park. They mention carbon off sets through tree planting, yet do not specify what type of trees they would plant or where. They mention the development of walking tracks around the airfield - surely a joke, given the many walking tracks in the National Park. It reeks of box ticking, rather than a genuine attempt to understand what locals are saying - ie that this commercial airfield is not wanted or needed.

To make a commercial success of an airport on this site, given the weather patterns in the Mountains, there would have to be many flights scheduled on clear days, again to the detriment of those wishing to enjoy the peace of the wilderness. Helicopters flying over narrow valleys create an amazing amount of noise. The many tourists who currently visit the Blue Mountains come to experience the wilderness. They come to bush walk, to climb, to explore the canyons in this unique area and to enjoy the birds and animals here. It is not right that the short lived enjoyment of a few wealthy air travellers should override the enjoyment of the many who are prepared to experience the wilderness at first hand.

I understand that a previous venture flying helicopters commercially from this airfield was closed down because of the disruption to local residents. Nothing has changed. A long term lease for commercial purposes would not be in the community interest and should be rejected.

When I, and many people who live in the Mountains, hear the sound of a helicopter, I think 'danger'. We live in a bushfire prone area. The local fauna think the same. Helicopters mean stress. Or I think 'someone is hurt'. Again, a negative connotation. Constant helicopter noise means stress and danger and, only one letter away, 'anger'. There are so many threats to the Mountains at present - the Western Sydney Airport, the raising of the Warragamba Dam, the impact of mining on the Wollamgambe River within our World Heritage area. We do not want, or need, a further threat, which is how I see this proposal for a long term commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield.

Please reject the proposal and hand the land to National Parks to manage in perpetuity.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 6:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686 - future of Katoomba airfield

I am writing to express my concern about the government's willingness to consider the granting of a lease over this crown land which would allow aviation tourism to operate from the site.

I strongly oppose the use of public land for commercial purposes, purposes which in this case would not only harm the amenity of the national park which surrounds the site but also irreparably diminish the quality of life of local residents.

I urge your department to transfer the site to the national park, keeping a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 8:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686

This is to put forward my strong objection to the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield. As a resident of Blackheath we enjoy the proximity of the World Heritage National Park and the associated serenity that is not found in more urbanised areas. It is not acceptable that for the purposes of profit making our serenity, the peace of those who visit to experience the values of a park that is World Heritage listed should be disturbed. There is a reason this special part of NSW is listed as a World Heritage site and if this commercialised use is given approval then a mockery is being made of this listing.

I instead request the State Government includes this crown land into the national park and have it maintained as an emergency airfield only.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 2:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to voice my concern and object to the use of the Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes. As per the 2000 and 2008 assessments undertaken by the NSW state Department of Land and Water Conservation I agree with the conclusion that the airfield should not be commercially leased but only used for emergency and bushfire air operations.

I have a hectic job and life in Sydney but am an avid nature lover. I thoroughly enjoy escaping to National Parks on weekends to find some peace and quiet, breathe fresh air and relax. The Blue Mountains National Park holds special significance because it not just a great place to go hiking, it also has the Vipassana Meditation Centre (Blackheath) which I've been to six times in the last three years. The mountains provide a place where I can recharge in tranquility. Allowing noisy helicopters to fly overhead throughout the day will ruin the atmosphere completely. If people are unwilling or unable to walk to experience the beauty of the mountains there are many scenic spots that are accessible by road. I don't see why helicopters used by a handful of people should be allowed to disturb the space cherished by hundreds, if not thousands, of people.

I am sure I'm not alone in my view and I sincerely hope that you will take my comments into consideration when making this important decision. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email if you have any questions or comments.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

Myself and my partner are Blue Mountains Council rate payers and we wish to indicate that we have absolutely NO objection to improvement of the facilities at the Medlow Bath airfield.

We believe this airfield to be a rare asset and as the only remaining designated landing place for all rotary and small to medium fixed wing aircraft it must remain operational and in fact is well overdue for significant upgrades.

We appreciate that many locals who prefer it NIMBY are concerned about high levels of aircraft noise due to significant increases in air traffic but there is no real basis to expect this to occur. We believe that an increase in air traffic is warranted as it would help funnel some additional tourists to the area.

Lastly, the aerial fire fighting facilities at Medlow Bath are nothing but temporary and with living in the Blue Mountains it is constantly on our minds that we may need the help of such responders. Therefore we would prefer they had permanent and substantial facilities to ensure their efficient operations.

We thank you for the opportunity to have our opinions heard.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 1:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

As someone who moved to the Upper Blue Mountains in retirement, in search of peaceful surroundings and a nearby bushwalking paradise, I am dismayed at the possibility of commercial helicopter operators being given the use of the old Medlow Bath airfield.

Joyflights using fixed wing aircraft would be bad enough, but helicopters - with their ability to swoop into valleys, and their much more intrusive noise pollution - would simply make a joke of the Blue Mountains National Park, let alone the so-called World Heritage Area status.

If tourists want to view the glories of the Blue Mountains from on high, all they need to do is roll up to one of the many accessible lookouts that overlook the famous valleys, and from those they will have a visual experience not far removed from what they would have from an aircraft.

On any given day the valleys of the Upper Blue Mountains are being enjoyed by hikers, who come here - often from considerable distances - to savour the sights and wilderness experience of this unique environment. If that environment is to be turned into a rich people's aerial fun park, it will be a sad day for the Blue Mountains, and for the whole concept of wilderness preservation.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ref. No. 602686

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 3:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Future of Katoomba Airfield

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding this issue, one which has generated huge concern in the local community and beyond.

I strongly believe that the Katoomba airfield should not be opened to commercial exploitation, especially of the form that will constitute an erosion of the very thing that draws people to the Mountains.

The Blue Mountains offers a resource which is neither visible nor tactile. This is "natural quiet" - not the total absence of sound, but the presence of everyday sounds made within a natural environment. Birdsong, rustle of leaves in breezes, animal and insect sounds, water flowing over rocks, all contained within a quiet environment unaffected by the harsh noises of mankind and its machinery. Together with geological and natural majesty, this is one of THE major attractions of the Blue Mountains. People come to the Mountains as a refuge from the city. The artery of the Western Highway snakes through the area bringing its own noise and other problems, but importantly giving access to literally millions of city folk and overseas tourists who can by staying and walking in the area be refreshed by the majesty and "natural quiet" of the Blue Mountains.

This is not a resource to be squandered. It is much of the positive "brand" of the Blue Mountains, and should be strenuously defended.

I ask also that you think of the long term and not corrupt the ideals established by the creation of the Blue Mountains National Park - one of such stature that it is World Heritage listed. You have the power to maintain those ideals, to keep the bastion of the Park intact so that future generations can continue to appreciate its uniqueness. Short term commercial gains (via lease payments, airfield maintenance, some marginal tourism dollars etc) should not be the decision driver when set against less tangible but much deeper and longer term human needs.

And the unfairness of the proposal is acute. The proposed form of commercialisation will undoubtedly damage the commercial prospects of many people with established businesses in the area that rely on the peace-and-quiet Blue Mts brand that has been on offer for centuries. It would be giving with one hand but taking away with the other.

I certainly do not object to the use of this public land for use as an emergency airfield - this is something which is humane and which does not generate the noise and infrastructure concerns associated with a commercial helicopter operation. Indeed if there were funding concerns associated with this, for airstrip maintenance etc, I feel sure that the community would step forward with \$ and time to assist this.

I believe too that this "commercialisation" issue should not only be rejected, but the matter be put to bed once and for all by the crown land becoming protected via transfer to the National Park.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 5

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 12:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

To whom it concerns,

It is with horror learning this airfield may be closed !

Because of its strategic location it **MUST** remain open at all cost.

Regards [REDACTED] . [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 6:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686 Katoomba Airfield Proposal

To: Department of Industry (Crown Lands)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have attended a briefing session by the 'would be' Lessees of the old airfield at Medlow Bath (so called Katoomba Airfield) that was held in Katoomba some months ago. I raised serious concerns about the proposal at the meeting especially regarding disturbance and exposure to danger of our World Heritage National Park, in addition to considerations about noise nuisance from helicopter flights. I also did not like the lack of regulation of the proposed operation (as described by the proposed lessees as their requirement of any contract with the Government).

Our World Heritage National Park obtained its status after much work and effort by many people and it is a great honour for this country to have it recognised for its uniqueness and value as a geological and environmental (fauna and flora) wonder. It is very important for tourism and for the benefit of future generations that we retain this status.

I therefore, strongly object to this proposal to hand over this public land to a commercial enterprise and firmly recommend that the opportunity be taken to protect this land for ever by transferring it into the National Park. It may be appropriate to keep a low maintenance dirt airstrip at the site for emergency purposes only.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 3:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I support the plans to restore Katoomba airfield and it's future plans for helicopter charter. I am concerned about the lies being spread by those against the restoration ie blue mountains conservation society, in saying that scenic flights will be conducted. Lies and rumours are being spread throughout the blue mountains community.

I am a lower blue mountains resident and never have a problem with helicopters flying over head. EVERYBODY welcomes helicopters during bushfires and or rescues. Any plans for future Charter will bring more money into the community and Local businesses.

I love the blue mountains and I'm pretty damn sure that walking trails used by thousands each year have more of an impact on the environment than helicopters do.

My name is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Again, I am supporting the development of the Katoomba airfield.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:21 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

LX 602686 - Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of the Blue Mountains for the past twenty-two (22) years and in particular, a resident of Katoomba for the last twelve (12) years, I wish to lodge my strongest possible objection to the potential granting of a commercial lease over the Katoomba Airfield.

My reasons are:

- Expansion of the airfield operations to the extent required to achieve a satisfactory economical return for the lease holders, will irreparably damage the established tourism industry in the Blue Mountains that rely on the tranquil, passive engagement of visitors with the beauty and silence of our natural vistas.
- The Department, in granting the lease will effectively drive the tourists away to other more pleasing and amenable locations. This flies in the face of the millions of dollars the NSW State Government is pouring into the Blue Mountains to foster low impact tourism.
- Two timely examples of significant State funding were publicised in this week's Blue Mountains Gazette (Page 7, Wednesday 31st July 2019), where the NSW Environment Minister - Matt Kean, visited the Mountains to highlight the initiatives of his Government:
 - Upgrading the cliff top walk between Wentworth Falls and Katoomba – expected to take around four (4) years, the State Government has committed \$10 million to upgrade the 13.6km 'grand cliff top walk'.
 - The Minister also announced significant upgrades to the tourist facilities at Govett's Leap Lookout at Blackheath, an area that will be severely impacted on by the proposed flights paths out over the Grose valley.
- Tourists want to enjoy the silent beauty of these areas, not be bombarded by intrusive noise of helicopters taking off from and landing at Katoomba Airfield.

- Since the very first lease was granted back in the 1960's, the intent was always for the airfield site to be incorporated into the National Park and there are numerous studies, reports and minutes where this intent has been continuously reinforced over the intervening period.
- It beggars belief that your Department is prepared to ignore all the historical evidence for what at best is a questionable proposal with extremely limited benefits to the Blue Mountains community.
- There will be no substantial increase in employment opportunities at the airfield and certainly none arising from the few privileged high-end tourists who might enjoy a quick helicopter flight around the mountains to tick off items on their bucket list.
- There will certainly be no maintenance base at the airfield because this requires a highly specialised workforce of aviation engineers located away from the mountains.
- What the expanded airfield operations will bring to the mountains is a heightened bushfire risk because of the onsite storage of large volumes of highly flammable aviation fuel. A cursory search using the bushfire risk tool on the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) website shows that the entire airfield site is designated as Bushfire Prone Land (BFPL). This on a site where town-water supply is all but non-existent. In fact, whenever the airfield is occasionally used by the RFS for firefighting operations, they must bring in vast quantities of water by road tankers.
- Storing the large volumes of aviation fuel required to support the expanded operations also poses a significant risk of ground-water contamination in an area that falls within the Upper Blue Mountains Water Catchment.
- This was highlighted as far back as 2000 when the then Department of Land & Water Conversation (DLWC) undertook a formal Lands Assessment and specifically called out the risk of onsite aviation fuel storage.
- The Department even went further and stated in a draft document put on public exhibition that the expansion of operations at the airfield was clearly inconsistent with the findings of its Land Assessment.
- Even the RFS does not see the airfield as a significant piece of infrastructure for their operations. They are spoilt for choice in relation to more suitable landing areas throughout the mountains for their fire-fighting helicopters. In the years I have lived at my current address, the RFS has used the old Katoomba Golf Course site for helicopter operations because it has what the Katoomba Airfield site lacks – a permanent onsite water source by way of a large dam that is always full.
- The economic risks; the tourism impact risks; the water contamination risks; the bushfire risks; the lack of any real employment opportunities; and by far the environmental risks to the pristine Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area are just too great to allow such a damaging venture to proceed.

- Your Department has a unique, once in a generation opportunity to make a significant contribution to 'Destination NSW', by denying this lease application and incorporating the Katoomba Airfield site into the National Park, as was always the intention.

Yours sincerely,

A redacted signature block consisting of two lines of blacked-out text. The first line is shorter than the second line, which extends further to the right.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 11:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686

Dear Madam/Sir

I Strongly object to the upgrading and building of a commercial airport in the Blue Mountains.

Crown land should not be used for commercial purposes to finance a few.

Everyone I talk to regarding this issue are appalled that the government is allowing this travesty.

It will be a disastrous type of noise pollution affecting the serenity of our wonderful bush environment.

Thousands of bushwalkers come here from overseas and Australia to enjoy the peace and quiet in this naturally beautiful area. It will be horrendous to hear helicopters and aircraft above them as they try to enjoy the natural beauty of the Blue Mountains.

It will affect the environment for the fauna in the area. The animals here especially the Black Cockatoos for example, are very sensitive to noise and change.

And most alarming will be the impact on the amenity of the local residents. I bought my house to retire in the tranquility of our beautiful bushland but with the aircraft flying very close to my home it will be destroyed. The ambience I have enjoyed will be no more with aircraft and flight paths so close to my home at Wentworth Falls both on the weekend and during the week.

I want to know Who and what comes first many residents and people who enjoy being in our wild bush eg campers and walkers and general tourists or commercialism for a few?

This crown land should be transferred to the National Park in keeping with the marvellous heritage of the mountain bush and the last vestiges of the natural beauty of this country.

A working air strip can easily be maintained for emergency use only.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 1:23 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your reference 602686

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Crown Lands

PO Box 2155

DANGAR NSW 2309

Dear Sir/Madam

Your reference 602686

I do not support the proposed lease of the Crown land at Medlow Bath known as Katoomba Airfield for commercial aviation.

My concerns with the lease proposal include:

- The potential noise impacts on residents, local business, tourists, bushwalkers and wildlife.
- The lack of information available on scale and nature of the proposed activities.
- The pre-emptive process of issuing a licence prior to requesting community feedback on future use of the site.
- The lack of alternative options presented for community consideration.

- The limited capacity of Department of Industry as the lessor to influence or manage the potential significant of site impacts of the proposed aviation enterprise.
- The lack of prior discussion with other government stakeholders such as the Blue Mountains City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Water NSW, NSW Emergency Services, NSW Rural Fire Service and Blue Mountains City Council. These agencies are well placed to identify options and alternatives for use and provide information on potential risks or concerns with the proposed use of the site and the wider impacts.

In order to make an informed decision on future use of the site I believe the community should be presented with a set of options for consideration prior to a decision on the current lease proposal. These options could include

- 1. Do Nothing (No lease or licence) Department of Industry or National Parks and Wildlife Service responsible for essential land management eg Biosecurity Duty of care
- 2. Maintain emergency airstrip. Land retained by Government (Dept of Industry or National Parks and Wildlife Service) Maintenance and upgrade of Airstrip funded by NSW Govt (for example using the Bushfire Risk Mitigation funding)
- 3. Commercial use with maintenance of airstrip as a lease condition.

For each option there must be a discussion of the potential benefits and drawbacks. These should be considered in view of the context of the site and the how the proposed use is distributed across the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and the Grose and Wilderness Areas. , the amenity of local residents, the projected impacts on local businesses, the enjoyment of tourists and bushwalkers and the full range of potential impacts on wildlife and water supply.

To enable effective discussion there must be clarity around

- • what is proposed;
- • the various steps in the approval process for the full proposal; and
- • who has key responsibility at each stage for making decisions or granting approval.

I do not believe it is sufficient for the Department of Industry (as the lessor and a key NSW Govt agency) to defer questions about potential future impacts entirely to subsequent processes. If there is a proposal for commercial use of the site the community needs to have a clear understanding of the proposed nature and scale of the proposal before they are able to make an informed choice on their support for this option.

My preferred option for the site would be incorporate the land into the National Park with additional funding provided to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to enable retention and upkeep of the airstrip for emergency use.

yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield - submission

The proposed lessees of the airport see this as an entrepreneurial opportunity. They have the credentials, energy, resources and local community commitment. The problem is not their proposal. The issue is one of trust in government to execute a transaction that is in the community's best long term interest.

The proposed privatisation of the airport has a context of Government wanting to achieve certain outcomes be they efficiency, investment, regional tourism services, improved emergency services, local employment etc. Such objectives need to be clearly articulated with clear strategies to make sure these desired outcomes are defined and assured. If the primary driver is the development of regional tourism then where is the regional tourism plan that supports this objective. Are these flights to Mudgee restaurants for example the type of tourist activities that the plan seeks to develop. Is this airport the best facility for such service. Where is the planning context ?

Government also needs to be clear as to what it seeks to avoid. This could include avoiding noisy sightseeing joy flights over the wilderness that is the main regional tourism attraction. Where is the policy framework to achieve this. Other operators fly to the area from say Bankstown. How will all flights over the wilderness be controlled. What is the overall approach that then guides how to restrict the subject license/lease. In this context it should not only consider sightseeing flights but also the impact of flights to destinations in the region. eg lets avoid further noisy flights from the Wolgan Valley Hotel to drop into the Megalong tearooms leaving the Copter engines roaring much to the detriment of other patrons. How do you regulate such noise pollution - re hours of operation, destination, routes over wilderness ,flight height, noise level of aircraft etc. ?. Noise pollution is my primary concern. I am sure the proposed lessees have the same interests . I nevertheless would like appropriately detailed assurances that survive any tranfer of the business to new owners even if such new owners need to meet strict acceptance criteria under the terms of the lease.

Apart from clarifying what the government wants or does not want in considering this transaction on behalf of the community , government should make sure that the process is transparent and generates trust. For the lessees to operate effectively in a community they need to be trusted by that community. Government process plays a big part in generating trust.

> Government should explain why a negotiated approach will produce better outcomes than a open tender approach.

> Government should explain how it will achieve the desired outcomes and avoid problems through the conditions of the lease.

> Government should also explain the tenor and pricing of the lease. This is a public asset and the oft used excuse of 'its commercial in confidence ' simply does not wash with the community. It is arguable the lease should be say 20 years with conditional 10 year extensions thereafter. Investment decisions are made for 20 year investment horizons and restricting the license to such duration would make sense. There is nevertheless considerable value to the lessees in ultra long leases in a very low interest environment (future cash flows discounted to today's value would be discounted at a lower rate) and this value is best captured in the extension pricing set at the time of lease extensions.

> there is considerable evidence available that privatisations of public assets/services fall short of desired outcomes due to the impact of unforeseen developments. eg with climate change the emergency services use of the facility may dramatically increase - this should not lead to unreasonable cost ; there may be a desire to open the airport to other users at reasonable cost ; accidents may lead to a desire to reduce the level of services. The lease should maximise government flexibility to adjust operations under the lease without incurring very high costs

> government should explain how the lease will be monitored and how it has built -in corrective action triggers in the lease to achieve community expectations. The lessee could also assist in this regard by having a trusted community member on its Board or agreeing to regularly engage with the community. They are custodians of a community asset.

Community distrust is founded on years of jobs for the boys soft corruption , use of commercial in confidence to frustrate transparency, lack of lease or license enforcement , public purse bailouts, spin etc. In this case it should not be difficult to build immediate and long term trust through transparency and competent governance.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:52 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Pertaining to Ref No LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a frequent visitor and soon to be community member of the Blue Mountains and the Katoomba area.

I am a Vipassana meditator and without a shadow of a doubt the serenity, silence and tranquility of the Vipassana Centre in Blackheath has been instrumental in bringing peace and positivity into my life. I first sat a course in 2014 and since then have returned to sit or serve in Blackheath on numerous occasions.

I am writing to you because the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield is a devastating prospect. Not just to locals who enjoy the peace of the mountains but also to the thousands of meditators who travel to the mountains annually to gain insight.

A couple of months ago I was sitting a course at the centre and a low flying helicopter was flying around the centre. All of the hard work of the meditators was put at severe risk. Vipassana is a very deep and delicate meditation and the distractions of helicopters and aircrafts is VERY invasive. I saw first hand how these aircrafts can and will disrupt PEACE.

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. Rather, the Crown Land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever. This dirt strip at the airfield should be in working order however just for emergency use only.

Please do not commercialise the Katoomba Airfield.
Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 3:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Old airfield Medlow Bath

I write (cc Blue Mountains Gazette) regarding the consideration being given to the use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath for aviation tourism. I write in strong opposition to that possibility, for a range of reasons. These include:

1. That is crown land, or public land, and it is objectionable that it should be leased out for commercial purposes;
2. This is all the more so given that one of the great attractions of living in the Blue Mountains (and one of the main reasons that I left Sydney to live here ten years ago), is the freedom from noise pollution, and particularly of overflying aircraft. If the proposal is for 'aviation tourism', this means that we are not simply to be subject to aircraft flying over at 30,000 feet, but doing frequent circuits. In addition, it seems likely that the aircraft will include, or consist of helicopter traffic, which is a very different proposition from civilian aircraft overflights. The Care-flight helicopters are providing an essential service in cases of medical emergency. But as they demonstrate, low level helicopters generate much more noise, and if they are to be serving as sight-seeing vehicles, we can assume they will be flying circuits rather than 'as-the-crow-flies' Care-flights to the hospital. Given they can also hover, we are talking about an extremely obnoxious acoustic intrusion, dense with low frequency sound which has scientifically demonstrated pernicious effects on health (see for example Colin H. Hansen's 2005 collection of peer-reviewed academic research, 'The Effects of Low-Frequency Noise and vibration on People' (Multi-Science Publishing, Essex, UK).
3. In the context of the current climate change emergency, it is relevant to add that helicopters are among the most fuel-inefficient form of aviation transport.

But whether we are discussing more conventional light aircraft or helicopters, that a proposal for 'aviation tourism' should be under consideration over a World Heritage listed national park, with a significant residential population, is, frankly, outrageous. I would propose that a working strip be retained at the airfield for emergency purposes only, but apart from that, the crown land be transferred in perpetuity to the national park.

Yours,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 5:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to object to any commercial lease for the Katoomba Airfield situated near the Blue Mountains National Park at Medlow Bath. I request that this airfield be used for emergency use only and be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service. I live in Avalon however I visit the Blue Mountains and Blackheath and I regularly spend time bushwalking there.

The Grose Valley and Megalong Valleys are amongst my favourite areas and I love the incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful sounds of the bush and nature.

It is a unique place and it's classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is so justified.

I feel that the noise of constant helicopter flights from sunrise to sunset will impact badly on the wildlife and native fauna there. It will also seriously disrupt the quiet enjoyment bushwalkers and tourists enjoy. It will impact not only the amenity of all who value the beauty of this place and the tourist industry, but it's status as a World Heritage site may ultimately be affected.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:32 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Reference: LX 602686 - NO to commercial lease!!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 3:48 PM
Subject: Reference: LX 602686 - NO to commercial lease!!
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

Reference: LX 602686.

To whom it concerns,

I am a property owner in Leura, and am totally against the proposed use of the Katoomba Airfield for a commercial lease.

The Katoomba Airfield [REDACTED] Blue Mountains National Park, and be managed as an emergency facility.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 12:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: Ref No 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to my concerns for the future of the Katoomba Airfield. I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes and I believe that this crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected. I would like to see a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only. I object to all the ramifications making this airport commercial will bring. I love our national parks, our quiet walks and many tourists come to the mountains for the tranquillity and to escape the noise and intrusion aircraft in our skies will bring. I think it is wrong to affect so many people who live locally and so many businesses who rely on tourists so one company can profit.

Warm Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 8:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref#602686

To whom it may concern

I wish to object to the Katoomba Airfield which is on public land to be used for commercial purposes. Commercial craft will only add to noise pollution we already suffer through from joy flights. Noise carries so much more here than in the city. Many of the mountains residents travel for long hours to and from the city areas for employment and are happy to do so to come home to such a peaceful and quiet community in the evenings and weekends. It seems our beautiful World Heritage National Park is already in for added noise and air pollution from the Badgerys Creek debarcle, can we at least not add to the chaos with even more aircraft buzzing around.

I suggest a working dirt strip remain so that it can be used in Emergency ONLY. Obviously this would be required with the high rate of bushfire incidents the Blue Mountains suffers and is just common sense.

As the airstrip is surrounded by National Park this land would be better served if it were transferred to the National Parks protection.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba

Dear Sirs,

I wish to indicate my full support for the proposed lease and development of "Katoomba Airfield" site at Medlow Bath.

In my opinion, it is an aspect of progress which will enhance the status of our community.

I have only observed emotive and predominantly exaggerated arguments against the proposal.

I believe that it is false to claim that any number of light aircraft could emit noise or environmentally damaging pollutants of any quantifiable significance compared to continuous heavy vehicular traffic adjacent to the same bush-land.

As far as I can ascertain there is adequate space for take-off and landing in and out of the airfield itself which do not require low flying close to housing.

Transiting air-routes established over the area have always been required for safe passage over rugged terrain hence the existing, local navigation beacons.

Presently most aviation traffic observed over the district originates elsewhere, is unlikely to decrease and any local operations will always remain insignificant in comparison.

yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 5:06 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To who it may concern,
As a resident of Katoomba I would like to show support for NO commercial airfield in Katoomba.

My main reason is that the airfield site is surrounded by world heritage national park.
Inherent in this fact is the importance of the biodiversity of plants and animals . There can be only detrimental impact on them from a commercial airfield.

I fully support maintaining the strip for emergency use. ie. bushfire access.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 9:45 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Pro-Airfield, Reference: LX 602686

Hi,

I'm writing this email to express my support for the proposed joy flight operation out of Katoomba Airfield, Reference: LX 602686

Having lived in the Blue Mountains my whole life, I feel this is a positive for the community and enables people from all over the world to appreciate the beauty of the region from the air.

Being a local, I personally would like to see the Katoomba airfield remain open and would be happy to occasionally take joy flights myself and help contribute to the local economy.

I sincerely hope this proposal gets the support it needs as it fits in well with tourism in the region.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 July 2019 3:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Ref. No. 602686

We are writing to object to the proposed long term lease of Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator for the purpose of joy flights. The reasons for our objection are as follows:

Noise - We live in the Upper Blue Mountains at Leura close to the cliff line which would be the target of joy flights due to the scenic appeal of the area. The quiet enjoyment of this high quality scenery is important to both residents and the thousands of tourists that undertake bush walks and visits to the many lookouts. The noise generated by joy flights would have a serious detrimental impact on the local tourist industry with many small businesses, such as cafes and shops, dependent on the scenic appeal of the area.

Emergency Services - There is already considerable air traffic in the area at times of bush fires and in connection with road accidents and other medical transfers. The community understands the need for this and knows that essential air traffic may well lead to the saving of lives or reduction in property loss. Joy flights do not come into this category. The airfield should remain available for use by the emergency services exclusively. Further, the tensions created by the occupation of the airfield by a private operator and the need for use by emergency services complicates management and is unnecessary.

World Heritage Significance - The site of the airfield is not just any parcel of vacant crown land which might be found anywhere in the State. Its location is highly significant in relation to the World Heritage Area of the Blue Mountains and , as such, joins the ranks of other very special areas like Lord Howe Island and the Opera House. The airfield site should remain under State Government control with the land itself requiring appropriate management of issues such as weed and feral animal control. The National Parks and Wildlife Service is the appropriate arm of government to take responsibility for the area with access arrangements for the other emergency services as necessary.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this matter and look forward to hearing the outcome of the process of public consultation.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 5:13 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield by FlyBlue

This is my submission:

I STRONGLY OBJECT to the lease of Katoomba Airfield for private commercial use because:

- 1) NOISE - helicopter tourism will impact negatively on the peace and amenity of the towns in the upper blue mountains and, in particular, Megalong Valley, where my family has been living for the past 30 years. We rightly enjoy a quiet tranquil environment as we should, living within a special part of the Blue Mountains known for it's distinctive rural character.
- 2) LOSS OF PRIVACY - helicopter tourism impacts negatively on our privacy as rural landowners.
- 3) IMPACT ON STOCK - we all have horses and/or cows which will show fright under low flying
- 4) IMPACT ON WILDLIFE - Megalong Valley is home to an enormous range of birds, including high flying eagles, and ground wildlife, which are also their prey. Helicopters threaten this magnificent ecosystem and put these birds and animals in great peril.

Katoomba Airfield should be in the hands of the National Parks which has conservation and the preservation of the Blue Mountains' World Heritage Status as its priority. The Airfield should be reserved for EMERGENCY USE ONLY.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 3:40 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield LX 602686

I am writing this email to inform you "the Department of Industry " that we attended the information meeting earlier this year that Derek and Floyd. arranged at the Katoomba airfield, they were explaining the plans they had for the airfield, the improvements they had already made, and had detail maps the future plan , including the closing of one airstrip, putting in water drainage that would not impact the surrounding national park, revegetating areas. As the run off was now doing .How they reassured us and those that attended, that they would not be having joy flights or bus loads of people coming and going, that the planes would only fly at the required heights and they were sensitive to the Medlow Bath residents and any excess noise.

Also plans to open up areas for different clubs, as stated in their web site.

They will also have a Fly Neighbourly Policy, also that policy is outlined on their Web site.

My husband and I believed that they were being honest and open with their plans.at that meeting. Sadly to say some people were not respectful and were calling them liars and only seemed to want to argue .

We agree with the lease being granted to Derek and Floyd Larsen as they are going to upgrade the Airfield , it will be a much safer place for any emergency planes that may be flying over to far west and come into difficulty or fire fighting helicopters. We believe that it will be of great benefit to the upper mountains.

We feel if it is to be included into surrounding national parks We fear it will be very neglected and more resources for National parks to find in their already stretched budget and maintenance teams to keep the airstrip in a reasonable condition.

We are Medlow Bath residents, and find that this lease would be an asset for the upper mountains.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] w Bath
2780

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 4:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Proposal to lease Crown Land at Medlow Bath known as Katoomba Air Field
Ref No 602686

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 16 July 2019 at 4:47:06 pm AEST
To: airfield.submission@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposal to lease Crown Land at Medlow Bath known as Katoomba Air Field
Ref No 602686

Dear Sir

I wish to make the following submission in response to the subject proposal:

In my view, this public land should not be used for commercial purposes but should be integrated into the surrounding National Park by way of land transfer.

A working dirt airfield, under the management of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, should be retained for emergency purposes only.

It is submitted that the leasees proposals to utilise this land for unfettered aircraft flights over the vicinity of the Greater Blue Mountains is entirely inconsistent with the World Heritage values of this sensitive area and likely to have a detrimental impact on residents who live and work in this location.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to object to the proposed leasing of crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba airfield. We are residents of Wentworth Falls and have lived here for over 30 years. Our objections are as follows:

1. Impact on National Park and World Heritage area

We believe that the granting of this lease to Fly Blue will severely impact the intrinsic value of the Blue Mountains National Park and World Heritage Area. Although the proposed flight paths directly avoid the townships of the Upper Blue Mountains, these flight paths both in and out bound are in our opinion still precariously close to the townships and therefore aircraft noise would certainly impact on the residents. These proposed flight paths will also negatively impact on the enjoyment of tourists who come to the Blue Mountains to seek refuge from a noisy and busy city. We have had personal experience of the negative impact of helicopter noise in the National Parks of the South Island of New Zealand.

In addition, it is likely that the helicopter noise will severely impact on the behaviour, physiology and psychology of both native and domestic animals. Research has shown that anthropogenic noise such as that emitted from a helicopter can result in a cascade of secondary stressors such as increasing the ambiguity in received signals or causing animals to leave a resourceful area (in:- *Anthropogenic Noise as a Stressor in Animals in International Journal of Comparative Psychology* A.J. Wright et al., 2007). This alone would have a negative if not disastrous consequence particularly on the wildlife that reside within the National Park and World Heritage Area. Anthropogenic noise not only affects the behavioural responses of animals but has also been shown to affect both their physiological and psychological response (A.J. Wright et al., 2007). Stress in both of these forms has also been shown to have major deleterious effects on reproductive performance, growth and development and immune function (in *Physiological Adaptations to Acute Stress in the Ewe* RE Newman 1995, MSc Thesis University of Wollongong). Therefore, it is almost certain that helicopter noise particularly at times of landing and take off will indeed impose both an acute and chronic secondary stress on the local wildlife.

2. Impact on Tourism

We consider that the noise generated by aircraft potentially using FlyBlue's facility will negatively impact on the economic viability of other local tourist operators. This impact would be felt through loss of tourist numbers as a consequence of the adverse effect of aircraft noise, particularly in areas close to the landing and takeoff points such as the Grand Canyon. The Blue Mountains relies on tourism as a mainstay for its viability and any activity that potentially reduces tourist numbers will be sorely felt within the Mountain communities.

3. Return of airfield to National Park

We understand that the airfield was excised from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the 1960s on the condition it be returned in 1988 at the expiration of the lease. The department of Land and Water Conservation also recommended in 2000 that the land be returned to the National Parks Estate. These actions and recommendations were proposed by government departments and not made at the whim of an

individual or vested interest group Therefore, the decision to return the airfield to the National Parks system would have been assessed on well-founded principles. Surely these principles still apply today.

We hope the points raised above are given serious consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 5:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

For over 30 years, thousands of meditators have enjoyed the tranquility of the Blue Mountains while practicing Vipassana at Dhamma Bhumi. Now the silence is threatened by the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield to a commercial flying operator. The airfield is about seven kilometres from the Centre. The operator would run commercial flights, including scenic helicopter tours, over the Blue Mountains. The licence is unrestricted, so that the flight paths and frequency of flights is entirely up to the operator with no further oversight or control.

The issue extends beyond the Centre. The Blue Mountains is a listed World Heritage area, noted for the grandeur of its mountain scenery, its abundant wildlife, and its peaceful silence. It is rare to have such beautiful and unique wilderness so close to a major population centre like Sydney. It is an amenity which needs to be protected. It is visited by people from Sydney and overseas to relax, to retreat from the pressures and noise of daily life, and to enjoy nature undisturbed. In addition to the local community Vipassana students are just some of the many who would be affected.

At present, the Katoomba Airfield is used just for emergency services. Between 1992-95, when a commercial lease was previously issued, it was mis-used and subsequently operations were closed down. When that lease expired, it was agreed that the airfield be returned to being part of the Blue Mountains National Park, but this never happened.

Meditators now have the prospect of low aircraft or helicopter flights directly over the Centre. While flights are meant to be above 1000 feet (30m) above residential areas, and 500 feet (15m) elsewhere, there is no enforcement process and a pilot can claim safety, poor weather etc.

The impact would be enormous, not only because of the noise, but also the loss of privacy, with overhead viewing. The Centre's solitude and natural environment could be invaded on a regular basis.

The proposed lease is to be granted by the NSW Government Department of Lands. The government's own guidelines require that before such a lease is granted:

- its impact on the current community use and enjoyment of the land be considered,
- community engagement be transparent, conducted openly, fosters respect and trust, and is professional, honest and consistent.
- local communities have the opportunity to be involved and local voices heard.

Yet to date, no information has been offered about the flight paths, the frequency, and the number of flights. Clearly this is inadequate consultation.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Maintenance of relative quiet. Ref 602686

Please consider this appeal for the maintenance of relative quiet to be enjoyed while living in the beautiful heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park (BMNP). Obviously, the regular interruption by helicopter flights would be an imposition by few on the many of the general public enjoying the relative quiet of life in the mountains. One of the the many beautiful attributes of the BMNP is the quality of sounds produced by the bush and its creatures; they play a significant role in creating the frame of mind connected with deep healing generated by a sense of connection with the natural world. Walking through the bush and 'breathing' in this healing is enhanced by the sense of isolation from the 'civilized' world.

This experience would be shattered by the proposed flights from Medlow airstrip.

All the best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 2:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no. 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Katoomba Airfield Ref no. 602686

I would like to voice my opposition to the proposal to grant a long term lease for Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism.

I object to this crown land being leased out for commercial purposes and I believe that it would be better for all mountain residents and visitors if this land was instead added to our National Park. While aviation tourism may be attractive to a very small number of tourists, the vast majority of visitors would have their experienced lessened by the increase in air traffic. A working dirt airstrip is all we require at the site for emergencies.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 2:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The Future of Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

Dear Sir,
I have been an upper Mountains resident for almost 40 years.

I would like to register my support for the continuing use of the Katoomba Airfield as a low impact airfield.

This air field has been in there for many years and beside the limited commercial operation has been available for emergencies. If the site is managed appropriately there will be no impact on the surrounding National Park.

The local residents have always know that the airfield was there. To no object to it being there on the dubious and convenient environmental impact is selfish and unfair.

Keep the airfield open.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 7:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make a comment about the granting of a commercial license to Fly Blue to operate Katoomba Airfield. These are my own personal comments and do not represent an official statement or position of any organisation that I may have an association with.

I live in North Katoomba with the centre of the runway being 2.1km from my house. For this reason I feel that its fair to say that my house is close enough to be impacted by any operations that are proposed by this license.I fully support the granting of a license to operate Katoomba Airfield for commercial operation. The proposal and plans submitted by Fly Blue has more than adequately addressed the proposed use, and their plans for the airfield.

I would draw your attention to the following points when considering the application and granting of a commercial lease/license.

- The Airfield has been used and active for at least 50 years, during this time it has offered a facility that has greatly served the community and the public safety organisations that are here to protect not only our built assets but the broader environment and heritage area. Almost any person including myself has purchase property in this area knowing full well the airfield exists and is active.
- Very little weight should be given to any petitions or gathering of support by conservation agencies that are also likely to be considered in this process.These campaigns seem to be lead by individuals that have a vested interest in the airfield not operating. The information that was expressed by the people collecting petitions was simply untrue and was deliberately misleading the public into opposition. When these groups were challenged on the facts of what they were expressing they became very hostile. Most people who were asked to sign this petition are unlikely to be affected by this proposal and were simply too afraid to say no base don misleading information being expressed.
- I have good understanding of emergency services aviation operations holding qualifications and skills to manage emergency airbases. Whilst Katoomba has been used previously for emergency operations, a good base requires more than just a place land and operate. To be an effective emergency operations base the site ideally needs to have supporting infrastructure including but not limited to Sealed runways and grass landing areas, Power,Water,Toilets Heavy Support Vehicle access, Terminal buildings or areas of shelter for aircrews and Airbase personnel. The notion that the facility could just exist as it is without further investment, and serve as an effective airbase for emergency operations is ill informed.
- The Airfield needs to operate as commercial entity to ensure that the area is maintained and that environmental issues are managed. The notion that the airfield should be managed by National Parks is clearly not practical.They already have too many assets and not enough funding. This space should continue to exist, but should not be a burden on the tax payers of NSW
- Commercial joy flights already occur everyday over the Blue Mountains and aircraft land in the South of Katoomba on most days and sometimes more than once a day. The simple fact is that not having an airfield has no impact on the ability for operators to conduct flights over the Greater Blue Mountains.
- There is no research that aircraft noise from flying aircraft at a reasonable height has any adverse affect on wildlife and this reflected by the fact that there is no regulation or requirement for aircraft to fly above a certain height above conservation lands in Australia.

- The noise impact of aircraft landing at Katoomba Airfield is very minimal, and this will be even less based on the mitigation strategies proposed by Fly Blue. The nature of the noise from aircraft is short in duration and limited to daylight hours. There is far more constant noise generated by roads and rail lines than that of the airfield.

In Summary I believe that based on its historical use , minimal impact to the environment and a well communicated management plan that the license should be granted to operate Katoomba Airfield. I would be happy for more activity to occur than what is currently proposed, and would not like to see the lease and license terms to be restricted to the current management plans, as this would limit the investment that this or future entities will invest in the airfield.

The Crown Lands and Fly Blue should be commended for the open, transparent and equitable process that been undertaken so far and is very undeserving of the criticism and grubby campaign that has been led by other community organisations.

I would be more than happy to clarify or expand on any points I have made above. Feel free to contact me on the details below if this is required.

Regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 10:00 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No 602686 - objection to addition of commercial flights to Katoomba airfield

To Whom It May Concern

I'm writing to object to the addition of commercial flights to Katoomba airfield, Medlow Bath. This lease should not be issued as it will destroy the tranquility of the Dhamma Bhumi at NSW Vipassana in Blackheath. It will make it impossible to practice meditation with the noise generated by these flights. I'm sure the benefits of meditation are well known and I need not go into detail here.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 6:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Please no commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield, and YES to putting it back into the surrounding national park, to be managed by NPWS for emergency use only.

The government needs to know that it's not right for a commercial operator to make money from scenic helicopter flights out of a publicly-owned airstrip in a national park.

Please be a people's government and protect our towns, tourist economy, wild valleys and escarpment from the intrusion of helicopter noise.

I am very concerned about the loss of biodiversity at threat from this venture. Insect and bird life are at significant risk because the of the disruption from the air pushed downwards from helicopter flights.

Please consider all these options above generating wealth for a select few business people and think about the long term value of wilderness areas.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 6:54 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: OBJECTION TO COMMERCIAL LEASE OF KATOOMBA AIRFIELD Ref: 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a long-term resident of Medlow Bath, I object to the proposed 50-year lease of the Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes. The airfield is surrounded on three sides by the national park and therefore should revert to become part of the national park, managed by NPWS for emergency purposes only.

The current proposal will have several deleterious effects upon the amenity of the village of Medlow Bath, the experience of visiting international tourists, local bushwalkers, canyoners and rock climbers and the Blue Mountains' unique wildlife and environment. There has been no information provided as to the frequency of fixed wing or helicopter take-offs or landings at the airfield but to become commercially viable, the frequency will be significant!

There is no certainty that the proposed lessees, once their lease is secured, won't pass the lease on to another operator that may not espouse the environmental values that are currently promoted on the 'Fly Blue' website.

Tourism is an integral and essential industry within the Blue Mountains but that does not mean that all manner of tourism development is appropriate. The risk is that the over-development of tourism, tourist infrastructure and transport movements will ultimately degrade the beauty and attractiveness of the Upper Mountains - which is the drawcard for the tourists in the first place.

Medlow Bath, Blackheath and North Katoomba are quiet centres of residential housing and that also provide quiet and secluded accommodation, bush walks and lookouts for the tourist industry. Continuation of this role as part of the tourism infrastructure is incompatible with the noise and traffic impact of a commercially viable airstrip in our midst.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 4:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield lease. Reference no-602686

I am writing to express my absolute concern regarding this proposed lease of Katoomba airfield to commercial operators.

I have lived in the blue mountains for 20 years and have become concerned regarding the governments lack of respect for a Unesco World Heritage listed area. The Greater Blue Mountains area is classed as having " outstanding universal value".

At the moment, the government has plans to mine under its parks, flood it's rivers, send multiple major international flights over it, and now commercial joy flights for a Sydney based company, that will really have no benefit for anyone except the company owners.

People are feeling powerless and disgusted by the governments lack of consultation over proposed developments in this precious reserve of land.

No amount of tree planting by FlyBlue (as stated in their proposal) will disguise the impact of the noise pollution from these very loud machines.

Noise pollution is one of the most unrecognised pollutants on our planet.

helicopters are particularly noisy, and will echo up and down the valleys and off the cliff faces. It will undoubtedly plague the million or so outdoor enthusiasts who use this area, and come here for the beauty, peace, and serenity that is obtainable here.

We have already seen an increase in helicopter rescues that occur on a regular basis, truck highway noise(this can easily be heard in Blue Gum forest, so I dread to think of multiple helicopters thumping away overhead!), and associated fuel pollutants. The effect of these pollutants on the flora and fauna of the area also remains unknown. This is crown land and should be accessible for everyone, not to a commercial group, so they can make money. The land should be allocated to national parks, with emergency access when needed.

If tourists wish to see the valley, upgrade a lookout, put in a new walking track, don't just cater for the rich people with very expensive flights.

We have so little of this wilderness left, we need to protect it.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 10:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter joy flights

Hi,

I completely object to the proposal to allow helicopters flights around the blue mountains area.

Helicopters are noisy and disturb our peace. We enjoy our quiet and relaxing environment. We love watching nature and breathing fresh air while we're outdoors. We love how quiet this place is. We don't want anyone to change that. Helicopters flights would destroy our peaceful way of life. You might as well allow motorbike rides on our roads!

We don't want the noise!! We don't want your helicopters hovering over our heads.

Our environment isn't suitable for helicopters noise, its not a industrial zone. the blue mountains is a natural and residential area. What you're planning to do and the noise you're planning to impose on us is just too disturbing and we resent you for even contemplating the idea. You should be ashamed of your greed and desperation for money. Leave us be and take your noisy helicopters elsewhere where these noise levels can be tolerated.

Please have some respect for us and shut down your idea to allow joy helicopters flight over the blue mountains. Please. We really don't want them around.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submissions_ Katoomba Airport REF LX 602686

Attn: Department of Industry (Crown Lands)
Re: Submission in relation to Katoomba Airfield Ref: LX 602686

As a frequent visitor to the Blue Mountains as a walker and holiday maker, I am extremely concerned to learn of the proposal to conduct regular commercial helicopter flights from Katoomba airport.

How can this possibly be thought of as a reasonable activity for this pristine, peaceful, natural bushland park and community? It will make a joke of all that we hold dear about the Blue Mountains.

I add my voice to those who believe this would not only erode the quality of life of residents, but would significantly damage the reputation of the Mountains as a World Heritage site of natural beauty and environmental significance.

I wholeheartedly echo all the points noted below...

Good luck!

Summary of objections

1. I object to the use of Katoomba airport for commercial purposes.
2. Proper and responsible management of this land requires it to be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
3. The best use of the airport is to be preserved for emergency use only

Reasons for objections

Detrimental effects on the Local Tourism Industry

The Blue Mountains is famous for its natural environment and the outdoor experiences that it offers both visitors and locals.

An estimated 1.25 million people undertake bushwalks in the Blue Mountains each year.

Landing tourist helicopters and fixed winged aircraft within World Heritage-listed national park could jeopardise the Blue Mountains experience by:

1. Impacting the reputation of the Blue Mountains as a quiet and peaceful escape
2. Increasing noise and reducing amenity for hikers, climbers and canyoners
3. Concentrating tourist dollars in fewer hands. Tourists that arrive or depart by helicopter are much more likely to be dependent on a few operators for transport and accommodation.
i.e. There is benefit to a small few and a significant detriment to the greater good.

4. A decrease in reputation or 'wilderness experience' will logically result in fewer visits, meaning less spent at local cafes, pubs, shops and retail outlets or spent on supporting local culture and events.

The Environment

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Within 5km of the airfield there are over 3000 native species, including those listed as endangered.

1. The Blue Mountains World Heritage Area is up for review later this year. It's status may be effected by the proposed OVER USE.
2. Damage to rare hanging swamp habitat caused by runoff and erosion from increased traffic on the unsealed section of Grand Canyon Road and the tarmacing of the runway
3. The potential impact of Helicopters on Blue Mountains Wildlife and other World Heritage Values

Lifestyle and amenity

The livability of upper Blue Mountains towns and villages is likely to be impacted by:

1. An increase in helicopters and associated noise pollution—we already have issues with scenic flights over the area conducted by other operators. However, those helicopters do not land in or take off from within the World Heritage Area.
2. Helicopter noise can travel long distances in an acoustically-sensitive environment dominated by cliffs and canyons, potentially affecting parts of North Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath and other areas in earshot of the flight paths.
3. Any Fly Neighbourly Policy is self-regulated. The policy does not, at the admission of the lease applicant, include aircraft that do not originate from Katoomba Airfield, so that would include many arrivals.
4. Increased traffic along the route to the airfield (including fuel tankers and airport runway building equipment) on a narrow local road and walking path. The road is not designed for large vehicles (Station Street, Rutland Road and Grand Canyon Road).

Concerns about the bureaucratic process

1. Numerous government reports have recommended or anticipated the site should be returned to the National Park yet this recommendation has been ignored.
2. The scale of the proposed helicopter tourism operation is unknown, preventing proper community consultation. The NSW State Government has refused to release the numbers of flights and their frequency to the general public.
3. Flight paths have only been displayed at "drop-in" sessions at Hotel Blue (on weekdays only). These do not include intended pathways beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The proposed "hub and spoke" model means flights will head to the Central West. We do not know the flight paths. This model may also bring in other operators further increasing activity.
4. There has been **no proper due diligence or transparency in the tender process**. The community was not consulted by the NSW State Government about what kind of use was appropriate for such a sensitive site before releasing a tender for a licence by direct negotiation. The licence was awarded to a high-impact helicopter tourism business. I understand community groups also applied.
5. The airport is public land, used by the Rural Fire Service during fire fighting operations, however it has now been licensed to a private operator to manage primarily for profit rather than for the benefit of the community?

Cc: Gladys Berejiklian Member for Willoughby

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 9:55 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Commercial airfield

Department of Industry, Crown Lands

I respectfully submit, as a New Zealander who has often enjoyed visits to the glorious Blue Mountains, that the establishment of a commercial airfield and the ensuing noisiness will greatly deteriorate the experience of all the local people as well as visitors who enjoy the amazing beauty, peace and quiet of this extraordinary area. I know that to have such noisy activity would greatly deteriorate my ability to enjoy a holiday there, to the extent that I would likely not come there.

I understand that the land is Crown Land. Allowing such noisy commercial activity on Crown Land would be a very poor decision, I think, and a misuse of public land. It would be far better to incorporate the land into National park land. If an emergency airstrip is needed, for evacuations or medical emergencies, then a small strip of the land could be retained for that, but not for commercial activities.

Respectfully yours

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 3:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Opposition to the Air Strip in Katoomba

Hi there ,

I also second everything Jeremy said and oppose the public land in Katoomba to be used for commercial purposes.

Please reconsider and listen to the local community.

Thank you and kind regards

[REDACTED]

> On 22 Jul 2019, at 1:59 pm, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Hi,

>

> I object to the public land being used for commercial purposes. It is clear when talking to people in the community that they are not happy with this going ahead. There has been a lack of communication by the government sector regarding this issue. I suspect because it was known there would be a very strong opposition to it which is a poorly framed political choice of approach. I would remind you that the people are who votes the government in. The government represents the people and its not the other way round. There is no wider beneficiary of the air strip except the company that plans to run the air tours there. There is no reasonable justification for this. It's an outrage and makes all of us wonder why it is being put in the first place.

>

> A majority of local residents absolutely do not want this!!!

>

> The airstrip will create a large amount of noise for residents and for tourists trying to enjoy the tranquil and quietness of this world heritage area. This is not a good idea.

>

> This crown land should be transferred to the National Park.

>

> Regards,

> Blue Mountains Resident.

>

> [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 9:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No to the commercial use of Katoomba Airfield

2.8.2019
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains I am writing with my objection to the proposal for Public Land in the Blue Mountains to be used for commercial purposes to build an airport. Ref No 602686

Being a world heritage area it is beyond believe how such a proposal could even be considered. The Crown land should be protected forever and used for emergency landings only.

The Blue Mountains has millions of visitors each year who come to experience the piece, quiet and tranquility that can be experienced here. That tranquility would be totally destroyed if helicopters and light aircraft were introduced.

I can only hope that common sense will prevail here and this proposal will be rejected.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 10:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to express my absolute support for the Fly Blue long term lease application along with myself and my extended Blue Mountains family and friends full support for the YKAT Katoomba Airfield as a whole. I am a former long term resident of Katoomba, born in Katoomba Hospital 1963, moved away to Sydney in 1984 and returned to raise our family in Leura 1994.

I attained my Pilots Certificate in 2007 having conducted all of my flight training at YKAT with Hay Air, s Rod Hay. I am a current Committee Member of The Blue Mountains Aero Club and as such I have over the course of the intervening years spent many hours at the airfield and have done lots of work maintaining the runways and have made many many friends there with lots of interesting people from all over the world. Including Australia's own Dick Smith who was accompanied by America's first man to break the sound barrier, Colonel Chuck Yeager, whom was suitably impressed by the magnificent scenery afforded him by flying into the area in Mr Smith's helicopter.

One of our local pilots / aircraft owners and Blue Mountains Aero Club member is also the First Australian to summit Mt Everest, [REDACTED]

I currently live at [REDACTED] which is just west of Lithgow and do most of my flying out of Bathurst due to YKAT not currently supporting fixed wing operations. I am hoping this will change very soon and I am hoping to be able to hanger our aeroplane in fresh new facilities at YKAT.

The safety benefits of YKAT to the broader aviation community cant be stressed enough when traversing the Blue Mountains from either Sydney to the states west (Bathurst / Dubbo) or from the South (Wollongong) to the North of the state Central Coast and beyond.

YKAT is like a Aircraft Carrier in the middle of the ocean. If needed due to mechanical failure or stress of weather, YKAT is THE only option.

The anti-YKAT lobby have stated the field be used ONLY as an emergency field. This is fanciful at best. The field needs to be maintained in a fully operational state at all times. If it is not being run by a full time operator it will very quickly turn into a night time drag strip and dumping ground for burnt out stolen cars and household rubbish and building waste just adding to the threat of fire.

There is NO WAY National Parks and Wildlife or Council will ever want to or spend tax payers money on keeping that sort of thing out of the site and the runways ready for emergency use.

In closing I,d like to add the following wise words from a fellow proponent of aviation in the mountains.

“The role of Council and State, amongst many other things, is to ensure the community has access to a wide and varied set of activities.

The airfield is a significant part of this.
It is a part of the Blue Mountains. A part of its image.
A part of many constituents lifestyle.

It ingratiates and breaths life into the region.
It provides activity and opportunity for human endeavour.
Its harms are minimal but its benefits are great.

Without substantial understanding of a reason to change after 50 years, why do so now ?”

I thank the Department for this opportunity to add my hopes and thoughts to the discussion.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 9:34 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Please don't approve the airfield

Hi, I recently moved to blackheath from Melbourne to enjoy the quiet lifestyle, take advantage of the nature for my health and well-being and be away from the city.

This idea of allowing an airfield to operate will take away one of the aspects of this area that are so valuable to people like myself.
To go ahead and allow this kind of thing to happen is going to spoil our peace and quiet and taint the beauty of our natural views from our lounge room window and many other views around here.
It will be awful.
Please do not go ahead with this ugly idea.

Thanks so much for your time
Take care

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 3:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I object to the proposal for commercial use of the Katoomba Airfield, for the following reasons.....

- 1.The increase in traffic around Katoomba and on the already congested highway.
- 2.The affect it will have on the environment....especially the flora and fauna of our fragile environment.
- 3.The increase in noise pollution for tourists and residents, residing in the peaceful upper Blue Mountains.
- 4.The affect on the local tourist industry for all of the above reasonshotels, boutique bed and breakfasts, bushwalkers and hikers.

The Blue Mountains is a world heritage area renowned for its unique beauty and tranquil environment.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 2:58 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No 602686

I am a resident and ratepayer in the Upper Blue Mountains. I strongly object to public land being used for private commercial purposes. I strongly object to the proposed long term lease being granted to Fly Blue. This land needs to be transferred in perpetuity to the National Park with appropriate funding which CAN be found. This will allow emergency use of the airfield.

We the public own crown land. We the public expect our Government to protect our interests and allowing private use of any crown land is not protecting us. A case to point is the now privately owned Former public land The Blackheath Bowling Club. For years now an unused weedy patch in our beautiful village. What a loss to our community.

Helicopters and the associated noise will destroy more of our peaceful walks in our neighbourhood. Are we not in a World Heritage area ?? What is the effect on our bird life?

Visitors to our area are welcome but let them come and stay and contribute to our local businesses.

Please reject the proposal and hand the land to National Parks to manage in perpetuity.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 3:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Skye Flamme

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the granting of a long term lease by the Department of Industry (Crown Lands) for the future use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath.

This piece of crown land is completely surrounded by the World Heritage-listed National Park, as such I strongly object to the commercial use of this public land.

I strongly object to the proposed commercial use of aviation tourism including helicopter use.

I instead support the transference of this crown land to the National Parks and protected forever.

I support ONLY the keeping of a working dirt strip at the airfield for specific use in emergencies.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 5:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: katoomba airport commercialisation

to whom it may concern, im absolutely disgusted with the proposal to commercialise the katoomba airfield, jeopardising the tranquility of our beautiful blue mountains!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 10:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Against Commercialisation of Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern

I would like to oppose the public land being used for commercial purposes as part of the Commercialisation of Katoomba airfield. I believe that:

1. This Crown Land should be transferred to the National park and protected forever.
2. Keep a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

I lived in Sydney for 10 years and went many times to Blackheath which is wonderful place and I cannot imagine it being ruined by regular helicopter noise.

When in Sydney I greatly suffered from plane noise from flights in and out of the airport... I cannot imagine the same kind of damage being done to the Blue Mountains area, it's communities and environment. It is unbelievable that profits and money here again are the priorities for a government who should represent first and foremost the people. We know that aircraft noise has the capacity in the long run to ruin environment and some people's life. If you have doubt about the devastating effects of aircraft noise on humans maybe you want to read this:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/446311/noise-aircraft-noise-effects-on-health.pdf

And more unbelievable that there has been no consultation process (well actually not surprising that there was none as you probably knew most people would oppose this).

I hope you will have the guts to defend the environment and the quality of life of communities, not like Sydney representatives completely failed to do so.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 7:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Department of lands

I [REDACTED] for 19 years and born in Katoomba resident 60 years I know that there is a protest against this the application YKAT Katoomba Airfield the opposed operations of this historic landmark I cannot see why there is so much opposition to the opposed operations as there is no change to the operations that are in place at this point in time the impact to the broader community is negligible anyone who is willing to do something to improve this historic landmark has only to be good for the broader community It has not operated as in its heyday if it was then in this age the broader community mite of has something to say so let them do some good

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 11:45 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield. Reference number 602686

KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

Reference number 602686

I wish the following points to be considered in the government's decision on the future use of Katoomba Airfield:

1. Under no circumstances should commercial helicopter flights – or fixed wing sightseeing flights – be allowed over the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area or its environs. Such flights would have a totally unacceptable impact on nearby residents and on those seeking to enjoy all the benefits of a National Park: peaceful contemplation of nature at its most beautiful. I live a few kilometres from the helicopter training site in the National Park near Glenbrook. I therefore know very well how disruptive helicopters nearby can be. There it is occasional and for a good purpose, and so I accept it. I see no reason why anyone should accept such disruption simply so tourists can see things that they can very readily see in much less disruptive ways. These things have been stopped before, and for very good reason. Why on earth is resumption of such activities even being contemplated?
2. The land is at present public land. I believe, given its location, that it should be made permanently accessible to the public by incorporation into the Blue Mountains National Park. I would of course support the airfield's continued use by emergency services if that were considered an appropriate way of dealing with the dangers that occasionally threaten the Park and its users.

Submission by:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

24 July 2019

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 3:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: ElectorateOffice.BlueMountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airport LX 602686

Dear Mr Mullen

I wish to vehemently register my objection to the granting of any licence or the resumption of any commercial operations at Katoomba Airport.

One can always try and justify the disruption, of the peacefulness and sanctity of our most treasured Blue Mountains through corporate dollars and increased tourism. However, It is the responsibility and duty of all tiers of government to protect our World Heritage areas from exploitation and overuse.

The outdoors community that enjoys, respects and treasures the blue mountains does not welcome this deafening noise and unwelcomed intrusion. One cannot allow any disruption to bird life and animal life.

I urge you, and thank you, to prevent this from occurring.

One only has to look at the impact that helicopter flights have had in New Zealand, to appreciate that no single party should be allowed any use of any area that will severely impact negatively on the enjoyment of many others.

It's not a good idea, and the resounding NO! should be deafening.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 9:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - LX 602686

This is a submission to the proposal to issue a long-term lease for commercial operators to use the Katoomba Airfield.

I chose to live in the Blue Mountains to enjoy access to the national park and enjoy the landscape and peace and quiet. I'm certain that is also the main reason most other residents also chose to live in the Blue Mountains, and is the main reason tourists come to visit!

A commercial joy flight operation in the area would be very detrimental to both local residents enjoyment of the area and the main drawcard for tourists to come to the region - for access to quiet, peaceful nature. Whether the locals and tourists are out bushwalking, enjoying a lookout or camping in the wilderness, or just spending time in their gardens; joy flights would be very disruptive and lessen the enjoyment of the being here.

Just about everybody in our community that I have spoken to about this submission is in strong agreement that the existing airfield should become part of the national park, for use by the park management for emergency use.

I currently live very close to the Blackheath NPWS office and know exactly how loud and disruptive helicopters can be. We accept this during fire season as part of living here; but if this was to become a daily feature as part of someone's commercial operation, it would cause considerable stress and conflict in the community.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 1:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: paris.ausdel-unesco@dfat.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Hi Trish,

The plight of Katoomba Airfield was brought to my attention and I want you to know that as a visitor I will not be coming back if it is allowed to happen. I have copied my submission the Crown Lands below and hope it helps when debating in Parliament next week. We will be watching and entrusting the beauty of this magical place to you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref:602686 katoomba airfield

Good morning

In regards to the lease of katoomba airfield Ref: 602686, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I currently am in development of the Elazair as demonstrated by Dale Kramer of Canada, these light aircraft allow for the optimal use of electric technology in a effort to reduce the requirement on fossil fuels, development of these light aircraft are in essence a proof of concept that then can be scaled up to include all light recreational aircraft.

Currently my only option to test these aircraft is ryelstone airpark, this is counter to my efforts as accessing ryelstone from my home in faulconbridge means a 2.5h drive hauling the aircraft up in my 4wd, at a enviromental cost of aproxmiatly 80L of lpg I would be best continued use of the 2stroke engines and fly at my local private airstrip to which is not suitable for strip testing.

If we opened up katoomba airfield to comercial use i would be in a prime position to establish a base to which I could leave my aircraft and develop the technology, as the airstrip is over 1400m long I would be able to do extensive strip testing without concerns of aborted take offs.

I understand the issues raised by the local comunity and would agree that flight operational time restrictions and exclusion zones would be a appropriate as mandated by many airfields but commercial use is necessary for the upkeep of the airfield thus there must be some providions made for comercial interest.

Further to this katoomba is perfectly located for light aircraft emergency or rest area on the way out of Sydney, on many occasions we would land at katoomba for coffee on our way to scone or Bathurst, remember that most of the light recreational aviation fly at a maximum speed slower than that of cars on the highway, reducing the capacity of the airfield will put light aircraft pilots and passengers in undue risk.

As for local interest I believe if managed correctly this is a prime gateway to the local area, I feel that many tourists shy away from visiting katoomba for its proximity from Sydney and if we were able to offer charter from bankstown to katoomba it will bennift the local economy.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 7:21 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: No 602686 - objection to addition of commercial flights to Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern

I object to the granting of the lease for helicopter tour flights which will destroy the tranquility of the NSW Vipassana Centre in Blackheath.

I have been attending meditation programs conducted by the Vipassana Centre in Blackheath since 2004. Now that am retired this is the only place that I can afford to go and practice meditation to maintain my health & wellbeing.

I'm sure you are aware that meditation has been proved to be immensely beneficial to dealing with mental health issues. I was there in June this year and noted that many young people were practicing meditation at the venue. At the end of the 10 day program they were sharing their experiences with the other participants. Meditation has helped some of these people to get over their addictions, relationship issues. **All these benefits at no cost to the state.** Just like for me this is the only place they can practice meditation with "pay what you wish" to improve their well being.

The granting of this lease will deprive thousands of people from benefiting from learning & practicing meditation at this Centre.

Thanks.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 3:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref no: 602686

Hello,
I object to the commercial use of the Katoomba airfield.
The area will be impacted enough with the opening of the badger creek airport and we need to preserve the delicate flora and fauna in our precious National park.
Please keep it for EMERGENCY USE ONLY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] e
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:09 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to granting of commercial lease Ref 602686 at Katoomba Airfield Ref

Dear Department of Planning, Industry and Environment,

I am writing regarding the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath.

As a resident of the beautiful Blue Mountains, I treasure the quality of the environment and atmosphere that living in this beautiful World Heritage area brings. A big part of this is noise and air quality; already we hear helicopters regularly flying overhead on Bushfire maintenance and emergency rescue operations; this noise is very audible and disrupts the existing day to day noises that we all live in.

This quality of lifestyle and the value this brings to both locals and visitors from near and far is to be protected. Whilst a potential short term economic benefit might arise to the commercial operators and some surrounding business, I believe the longer term impact to the environment and quality of lifestyle far outweighs this. Tourism already has a significant day to day impact to residents (both in terms of traffic, degradation of wilderness although this is managed so far) and more does not equate better.

I strongly object to any proposed commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield.

This facility should be, as intended by the local Council that represents us, retained for emergency use only and remain part of the national park.

We appreciate your consideration of the residents who support these communities.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686. Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern...I am moved to send a letter to you regarding the proposed plans for the Katoomba Airfield.

This land is public land and should not be used for commercial purposes. I am very concerned that decisions are being made by bureaucrats without due process. There would be many detrimental effects on this unique environment. The tourists who come here want a peaceful experience. Serenity and calm. Dozens of helicopters and larger aeroplanes would create unacceptable and intolerant noise impacting on tourism, local people and wildlife. The fly in and fly out visitors would not use the local amenities. The impact on environment cannot be measured. Constant noise, more destruction of the land.

A few will make a lot of money and at the end of the day the state government have had little regard for the views of the people with a very poor almost non-existent consultation process.

The emergency services use this public land. Public not private.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 11:39 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission re Commercial Lease of Crown Land

Dear Sir/Madam

As residents of the Blue Mountains, living on the escarpment at Leura, we wish to register our opposition to the proposal for a commercial lease for the Katoomba Airport.

We have a number of objections including:

1. That the Blue Mountains National Park is World Heritage Listed and is an Australian wide tourist attraction for bush walkers and sightseers.
2. The Airport Land is Crown Land and therefore owned by the people of NSW and should be included in the National Park.
3. The current air strip should be retained for emergency use by government services and emergency landings for small private aircraft in trouble.
4. Residents who have chosen to live in the peace and quiet of the Blue Mountains did so in many cases to escape the noise of the city, including aircraft noise.
5. The disturbance to both native and domestic animals of both helicopters and light planes flying over the valleys and peaks of this unique natural wonder is unacceptable.
6. The tourist proposal for joy flights would add nothing to all the small businesses who make their living from day-trippers and short term holiday makers.

Finally, to destroy the peace and quiet of this beautiful part of the world for the short term enjoyment of the few, let alone for the increased profits of large companies at the expense of the vast majority of the mountains community, would be a travesty.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 4 August 2019 at 20:56:05 AEST
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Katoomba airfield

Subject: Katoomba airfield

Dear Sir,

I am writing to request [REDACTED] not be granted for Katoomba airfield, but that the area be incorporated into the surrounding national park, with the airstrip maintained for emergency and community use.

The increased noise from tourism helicopter flights over the wilderness would shatter the peace of this stunning World Heritage Area and severely diminish the joy that the residents and the vast majority of tourists/ hikers/hikers/campers find in this beautiful and peaceful place- and all for the sake of profit for a few.

It's not right and I am somewhat shocked and saddened that your department seems to be seriously considering it.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:20 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield submission. Reference No. 602686

Dear Minister/s

Would like to register my objection to the proposed use of Katoomba airfield, reference no. 602686, for helicopter joy flights etc.

This area is crown land surrounded by National Parks.
In my opinion the land should either revert back to NPWS control or failing that be managed by Blue Mountains Council. Emergency use for fire fighters & emergency services, as designated does need to be maintained.

To be contracted out to a private contractor & used for helicopter joy flights etc, is in my opinion inconceivable!

I live on [REDACTED] very close to the visitors centre.

Unfortunately I know & have experienced how strong & intrusive helicopter noise pollution becomes. The very strong & loud noise intrusion occurs long before the helicopter flies overhead & is maintained for some time after. It actually at times rattles my windows!!!

The proposed flight path, I believe is to the North West over the magnificent & beautiful Heritage listed Grose Valley.

The noise impact over this Valley would be even greater. This valley being long & Narrow would hold the noise, I would believe, for even longer times on approach, overhead flight & departure, as it flies by.

The impact & noise pollution for Fauna, Flora, Bush Walkers, car visitors to the many lookouts over the Grose Valley would be horrific, unimaginable & have a long lasting effect on all.

The affect & effect is totally unnecessary & not to be tolerated.

Just in my area alone as I am writing this submission, I begin to realise more & more, the many many Lookouts & how noise pollution would detract from the pleasure & enjoyment of visitors & locals alike.

The Grand Canyon is unsurpassed in its beauty. It has a huge number of visitors, being easily accessible & is enjoyed by visitors of all ages from young children to elderly persons. Young children derive much enjoyment in this area, having a ball exerting enormous amounts of energy while experiencing the joy & beauty of nature.

This Canyon is less than a mile from Katoomba airfield. Consequently would experience start up noise pollution, as well as approach etc.

Catastrophic noise pollution, horrific, inconsiderate & unconscionable

I absolutely strongly object to this proposed private use, most importantly for the noise pollution impact on fauna, flora, bush walkers, car visitors, locals etc.

Visitors alone to the Blue Mountains number yearly in the millions.

The area is World Heritage & this World Heritage listing must be protected now & for future generations.

Many have insightful people have fought over the years to protect these areas, ie those wonderful people who had the insight & fought during the depression years, to raise money to save The magnificent now Heritage listed Blue Gum Forest consequentially preserving this unique area from those who short sightedly wanted to chop down the blue gums & turn the area into a walnut farm.

We now have the benefit of experiencing the peace & unique awe inspiring beauty of this area.

Visitors to the Blue Mountains on the whole, want to experience the beauty, peace, quietness etc & get away from noise pollution.

Why detract from this pleasure?

We, I believe, owe a debt to those who worked to make the Mountains a peaceful, enjoyable World Heritage listed area.

We, I believe, do have an obligation to preserve the uniqueness of this beautiful area, so easily accessible & close to Sydney.

We have an obligation to protect this unique, beautiful, peaceful area for now & for future generations.

Noise pollution from helicopter joy flights does not belong in this area.

There are many other ways to enjoy, noise pollution helicopter joy flights are not the way either now or into the future.

They are intrusive, disrupting, disruptive, disrespectful.

Noise polluting helicopter joy flights etc do not belong here.

Please do not allow this proposal to go ahead.

Thank you



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 8:01 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KATOOMBA Airfield OBJECTION

Good morning,

I would like to register my objection to the proposed expansion of the Airfield at Katoomba. I have lived in Lawson for 25 years. Already the noise pollution from aircraft flying over even at high altitudes is noticeable. To pollute a World Heritage area with buzzing helicopters and light aircraft would ruin this landscape for residents and visitors. In a world of climate change we should not encourage financial enterprises which will pollute the local area and the planet. It does not fit with anything the Blue Mountains relies on for tourism or reasons why people chose to live in this community.

I object to the airstrip being used for anything other than emergency aircraft.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 2:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au; [REDACTED]
bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au; [REDACTED]
ethics@unesco.org
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: Opposing commercial helicopters in the Blue Mountains - LX 602686

I am writing to voice concerns over the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield for recreational helicopter joy flights.

- 1: I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- 2: This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
- 3: Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

As a resident of the Heritage Listed Blue Mountains; I am deeply against this proposal. The noise from Choppers would be intrusive and ruin the lifestyle of peace and quiet that the residents of the (Upper) Blue Mountains currently enjoy and value so much. This is the main reason that people choose to live in this truly wonderful and special place. I am concerned with the environmental impact this would have on particularly on the wildlife that reside here in their 'natural habitat'. The consultation process with the New South Wales Government has been lacking and has shown a lack of respect for the residents who call this place home.

I am hoping that with your help, this will stop this unnecessary and unwanted commercialisation.
Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 8:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fw: Katoomba Airfield - Ref. No. 602686

Subject: FW: Katoomba Airfield - Ref. No. 602686

To Whom it may Concern,

As a long time local resident within close proximity to Katoomba Airfield, I respectfully object to the facility being used for commercial purposes. Such a use is so out of tune with the local area and peaceful amenity that would be destroyed. This would have an adverse impact on living in this area which would also be reflected in property values. The airstrip is public land which should not be used for such intrusive commercial interests. I imagine that there would be a high volume of plane and helicopter movements which are both quite noisy, particularly at low levels and when landing and taking off. I feel the public/crown land should be transferred to the National Park that would protect it forever from such a development. This would still allow for a working dirt landing strip to be maintained for emergency use.

I hope this submission is given due consideration.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 8:48 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The Katoomba Airfield should be merged into National Park as should have happened in 2008. It could still be used for emergency purposes

Dear Crownlands

I am a long time meditator at the Vipassanah Meditation Center. I am very distressed about the proposed use of the airfield in Katoomba.

The Katoomba Airfield should be merged into National Park as should have happened in 2008. It could still be used for emergency purposes

Please note my concern

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Katoomba Airfield Issues

In the 1960's Katoomba Airfield was excised from the Blue Mountains National Park on the basis that it would be returned in 1988. However this never happened. In 1999 the Council objected to the renewal of its lease, requesting that it be returned to the National Park. Recently its main use has been for bushfire fighting and medical evacuations.

2000 and 2008 NSW state Department of Land and Water Conservation undertook two assessments involving community consultations on the long-term future of the site. The Department concluded, supported by Blue Mountains City Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, that the land should not be commercially leased and that the site be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park on the expiry of the existing lease in 2008 and used only for emergency and bushfire air operations. The current commercial lease process is in direct contradiction of the land assessments and consultations carried out in the past.

On February 1st 2018 the Department granted a flying licence to Flyblue after a tender process which has never been made public. There was no public consultation.

The Blue Mountains National Park (BMNP) is a World Heritage Area. The UNESCO criteria include:

- to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;

- to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

BMNP fulfils all of these. Any use of the airfield that will have or is likely to have a significant impact on its World Heritage values would breach the (Commonwealth) Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. It would require a full Environmental Impact study and the approval of the federal Minister for the Environment. No such study has been done, nor any such approval given.

The major impact would be noise, especially from helicopters and low-flying aircraft. This not only affects all those who wish to enjoy the park in all its grandeur and spectacular scenery, but also the wildlife. The park protects a large number of threatened, rare and restricted species. Australian record on extinction is very poor.

The airfield is within 10 kilometres of the townships of Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath, so also of the Centre, all of which would be affected. No detailed flight plans have been made public, and the operator simply states that they would not offer short trips (under 15 minutes) nor fly at night (except in an emergency). No undertaking is given as to the frequency of flights, or flight paths. There is no formal regulation to cover this, only an unenforceable voluntary agreement.

The BMNP is described in its plan of management as:

of particular importance because of its spectacular scenery, the diversity of natural features and environments and its role in contributing to a comprehensive, adequate and representative conservation reserve system within the Sydney Basin bioregion and its importance in contributing to the corridor of natural lands along the Great Escarpment (Ollier, 1982). The park protects an unusually wide range of plant and animal species and communities, as well as a large number of threatened, rare and restricted species.

Other conservation values of the park include the range of Aboriginal sites and historic places protected in a natural environment. Blue Mountains National Park is also of importance as a major water catchment area for Sydney.

The park is a major focus for domestic and international tourism as well as for many types of recreation in a natural environment. These range from the passive enjoyment of the park's scenery from easily accessible cliff-top lookouts, to more active wilderness experiences in the park's many canyons and gorges. The large remote areas of the park are of special significance in offering opportunities for both the maintenance of natural processes and self-reliant recreation. <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/blue-mountains-national-park-plan-of-management>

The Department has a community engagement policy, but this process has been deeply flawed. Public drop-in sessions have been held, but the rooms were too small, and the public's comments were not recorded as they should have been. The department's submission form is misleading.

The airfield property is zoned E3 (environmental conservation under the Blue Mountains Local Environment Plan) and an aerodrome is not a permitted use.

Proposed Action

The Katoomba Airfield should be merged into National Park as should have happened in 2008. It could still be used for emergency purposes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 5:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Katoomba Airfield

I wish to register my objection to the possibility of granting a long term lease of the Katoomba Airfield to anyone who wishes to develop a tourism use i.e. joy lights or helicopter flights.

The airstrip currently serves a purpose for emergency use and really would be best returned to the control of National Parks for preservation.

We currently experience emergency helicopter flyovers on a regular basis and would not wish to have added intrusion.

I trust you will consider my objection

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:19 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686: Submission re Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

REFERENCE NO 602686: Submission re Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I have been a resident of the Blue Mountains for most of my life and write in opposition to the proposed use of Crown Land in Medlow Bath for commercial helicopter flights.

I lived in Sydney for several years when I was studying at the University of Sydney, but moved back here to get away from the constant noise, light and air pollution.

The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage Area and many people come here to live permanently, or to visit, because they value not only the amazing natural landscape and sense of community, but the quiet. This is one of the things that many visitors to our home comment on – that we are so lucky to live somewhere that is so quiet and peaceful.

[REDACTED] Varuna, The National Writers' House, which is a writing retreat used by many of Australia's leading authors. The writers come to experience the peacefulness of our surroundings here – it is a place where artistic communities thrive because we have the space and peace to create.

A helicopter business would destroy this serenity. People here associate helicopter noise with two things – search and rescues, and bushfires.

And who would benefit from these helicopter rides that would bring air and noise pollution to our beautiful surroundings? A few rich people who can not be bothered to experience our bushland in a respectful and quiet way, or who want to be flown to various tourism venues, all of which are accessible by road.

We have wheelchair accessible walking tracks for those who are not physically mobile. There is no reason at all to have tourism helicopters in our beautiful mountains.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 5:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi there,

I would like to make a submission opposing the proposed commercial leasing of Katoomba airfield.

I visit the Blue Mountains on a regular basis and primarily stay at a property in Wentworth Falls. The flight path is directly overhead this property. The main reason I go there is to escape the city environment and spend the weekend somewhere quiet. This benefit will no longer exist once the joy flights start. There are likely many others like me that will be less likely to visit the Blue Mountains with the prospect of aircraft constantly overhead.

The proposal seems great for FlyBlue but terrible for the community. The flights will no doubt be popular and FlyBlue will make a lot of money. However, the cost to the community is far too significant. Community members will see the enjoyment of their land decrease substantially with the addition of regular aircraft noise overhead. As mentioned above, tourists and weekend traffic will decrease substantially as the main value of the Blue Mountains to tourists is a "peaceful oasis" or pristine natural environment away from city noise. So you have a small group of people benefiting and a large group suffering for no benefit to them.

This is an opportunity for local and state governments to stand up for the community, save the Blue Mountains and be remembered as heroes. The airfield should be kept for emergency use only and be put into a national park.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 4:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 - Submission: Emergency use only for the old airfield at Medlow Bath, NSW. 2780

To the Review Committee:

I would like to add my voice to the rejection of the proposal to permit the old airfield at Medlow Bath to be used for commercial flights (helicopter or light aircraft).

I completely adhere to the community opinion that: -

1. Public land should remain out of the hands of private investors
2. The land ought be transferred into the hands of National Parks and Wildlife as it is (a) geographically commensurate, & (b) already has an environmental conservation management structure (as part of the Blue Mountains National Parks).
3. A viable working dirt strip is all that is required for occasional emergency fire and ambulance access.

Furthermore however, I would like to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves - the wildlife. The local Newspaper last week postulated that if actioned, the strip would have a quiet zone allocated to flight paths. Of course that consideration is for the exclusive benefit of the humans which surround the airstrip. It deliberately punishes the wildlife who can't complain, can't petition and who suffer in silence.

I am a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation officer. I also happen to [REDACTED] ite [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the landing and transfer site for all local helicopter rescues. So I am not suggesting aircraft noise might have a detrimental effect on wildlife, I am advising you of the fact that it does have a detrimental effect. Because I see it.

Helicopter pre-landing surveillance loop, then landing, transfer, warm-up and takeoff afterwards is deafening if you happen to be within 50m. Again, I am not being metaphorical. You can NOT stand outside during the process without ear protection, even if that is as makeshift as jamming your fingers in your ears.

The unlucky possums, gliders and joeys I happen to have in my care at the time become hysterical with fear at helicopter proximity. They bang about in their cages trying to escape or, for the larger macropods, rocket under bushes in terror. This noise level establishes a flight-of-fright physiological reaction; flooding them with adrenalin, elevating their stress cortisol levels, altering brain chemistry, changing

diurnal rhythms, impinging on reproductive cycles and, for the already sick, it can push them to cardiac arrest.
All while I watch helplessly.

Humans have removed the ecology on which they depend. We have paved their homes in order to set up our homes, and established industries which poison their air and water. We run over their mothers. We poison them with rat bait.

If you have any doubt as to the horrendous impact of humanity on our national wildlife, ask National Parks and Wildlife for the statistics they keep on how many native animals are brought into care every year. The answer is thousands, of every species.

Removing even more of their dwindling natural habitat in the call for promoting private tourist joy flights, would be the most callous action. They can't tell you. They can't object. They just die.

(And for those who would argue that there is plenty more bush for them to move to, away from the noise... I'd remind them of the idea that the North Atlantic could never be fished out.) The bush is far from "endless" anymore.

From an ethical standpoint, there are some actions whose rewards are more valuable than cash.

To quote the renowned Australia ethicist Peter Singer on animal rights, "The suffering we inflict on the animals while they are alive is perhaps an even clearer indication of our speciesism than the fact that we are prepared to kill them (for food). The question is not '*Can they reason?* [Or] *Can they talk?* [But] *Can they suffer?* **If a being suffers, there can be no moral justification for refusing to take that suffering into consideration.**"

[Animal Liberation. Harper Perennial Press 1975]

Quoting our other monumental ethicist Richard Hare "Neither political liberty nor economic equality are of necessity good things of themselves." [P.166]

"It is in accordance with... [a rational, moral stance to such questions] **to assign equal weight.. to all the preferences.**" [P.180]

(Moral Thinking: It's Levels Method and Point - OUP 1981)

Thus, firstly: Taking away the wildlife's peace and substituting that with terror is the epitome of a wilful consignment of suffering - and we ought be under an obligation to stop suffering wherever we see it.

Secondly: The benefit to humans of future economic profit (by building an airstrip for non-essential reasons), fails to treat the animals with the respect of equality. This is speciesism - every bit as abhorrent and unjustifiable as racism.

As a scientist and a wildlife rehabilitation officer, I can assert from direct personal evidential experience, that possums, gliders, macropods, birds and wombats are sentient. (And they are just the species I have direct experience with.) They experience fear and happiness, they dream (both good dreams and bad), they play, they have memories (also good memories and bad memories), they recognise

human faces and the names we temporarily give them, they make eye contact and when annoyed with you they will withdraw eye contact and will even shun you, and they mourn the deaths of those close to them. They are each a little individual with a distinct personality.

Given they are sentient, they fulfil Singer's requirement for equality of consideration.

I beseech the decision committee to act ethically: Consider the native wildlife and the noise impact of powered flight. Attribute their suffering equal measure and recognise our obligation to not create suffering.

--

Yours Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:51 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: MEDLOW BATH/KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

I'm writing to oppose the granting of a commercial lease to open the 'Katoomba Airfield' for private and tourist use, especially joy flights, for the following compelling reasons:

- private joy flights and the noise they create would seriously undermine the integrity of the World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park
- noise created for the benefit of the few who can afford it will impact on the very reasons that visitors of all income-levels come to the mountains -- visitors who want to enjoy the peaceful ambience, nature in all its forms (bushwalking, rockclimbing, birdwatching etc), a relaxed cafe culture in the local villages etc
- while joy flights will benefit the private licensee, other tourist operators and accommodation providers will be disadvantaged from the inevitable downturn in visitor numbers -- visitors will use social media to share their experiences of how noise from helicopters spoiled their enjoyment
- with the upgrade of the highway, visitors can choose to bypass the upper mountains if the ambience has been destroyed, taking their weekend tourist dollars to Bathurst and Mudgee.
- locals who have chosen to live here to escape the noise of the city will have their peace and quiet severely impacted
- what will be the impact of regular helicopter noise on wildlife, especially nesting birds? (See case study below)
- once granted, a commercial lease will be unlikely to be revoked, thus creating a permanent disturbance on locals and the park

Please don't allow the short-term lure of financial gain for a few to seriously diminish this special place. Reserve the National Park for the activities that really matter. Protect the park's natural ambience for the benefit of everyone in the local and wider communities.

A local case study relevant to this submission: our bushcare group at Popes Glen (Blackheath) has received large government grants over 17 years to turn a weed-infested wasteland into a thriving wetland at the headwaters of Popes Glen Creek (which flows through the National Park and into the Gross River). Birds and frogs have returned to the area and the next project being considered is building a bird hide. We've recorded 57 species of birds in Popes Glen which would make it a focal point for visiting bird-watchers and interested tourists. This proposal would be greatly impacted by regular joy flights over nearby Govett's Leap -- the deep mountain valleys amplify the noise -- and possibly have to be abandoned. The Wasteland to Wetland story of Popes Glen can be viewed in this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=610sas330EQ>

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with great concern at the prospect of having Katoomba Airfield used for commercial helicopter joy flights. The mountains is a peaceful haven where people come to get away from the noise pollution and overcrowdedness of the city to recharge their batteries. Tourists come from all over the world and the Mountains' economy is largely based on the tourist dollar.

It is a world heritage listed area as you are aware and visitors come here for the ruggedness and quiet bush walks in order to hear birds and see nature. This injects a lot of money into the community and many businesses survive purely as a result of the tourist dollar. I would not like to come here if I have helicopters disturbing my peace. You must also remember that helicopters flying low overhead in the mountains also makes people feel on edge as they assume there is a fire nearby. This is exactly how I feel and I would not like to come here for holidays to de-stress only to have my anxiety levels heightened by a noise synonymous with a threat.

There are some places on earth that need to be left undisturbed. The human race has spread over the planet assuming we have rights over all.

This land should be left as public land and be included as part of the National Park. The airfield should only be used for emergencies.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 1:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Listen to the people Ref No LX 602686 in the subject line)

i do not want the beautiful Blue mountains to be spoiled by the noise pollution of helicopters or any other flying machine.

Sincerely [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 12:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686, Name: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To KACG,

- We object to this public land being used for commercial purposes
- This crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever
- Keep a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] n behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Airfield reference LX 602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Wed, Jun 19, 2019 at 9:29 AM
Subject: Airfield reference LX 602686
To: <airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

We wish to register a NO to our objection for the Katoomba airfield and YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of their organisation.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 7 July 2019 4:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba airfield

To Whom it may concern,

As a media pilot covering the major tv stations in Sydney, I wish to convey my support for the Katoomba airfield to remain active. It is a vital airfield for our helicopter operations when covering any significant event in the Blue Mountains area. Operating out of this airfield allows us to land and take off from a safe area away from any built up areas. It has also been a great spot to land during times of deteriorating weather and marginal conditions. It would be an absolute shame for this airfield to be closed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 2:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Re: use of crown land (old Medlow Bath airfield) for commercial aviation.

I strongly object to the use of this public land for commercial purposes on the basis that it sits within a world heritage listed National Park and would cause noise and visual pollution. This would not only affect the amenity for residents but compromise tourism by detracting from the quiet and pristine nature of the national park environment which tourists come to enjoy.

I believe that the sight and sound of aircraft and helicopters traversing the Jamison, Grose, Megalong and other valleys in the Blue Mountains would ruin the experience tourists visit the Blue Mountains for, the environment that residents now enjoy and compromise its World Heritage and national park status.

There is already the threat of aviation noise for the Blue Mountains from the Western Sydney airport. This land should be transferred to the National Park and if required the current strip retained for emergencies only.

Yours

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:30 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Blue Mtns airstrip

I strongly object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. It should be kept as a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only.

This Crown land should be transferred to the Blue Mountains National Park so that it remains preserved forever.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 July 2019 1:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airport

Hi,

It is my strong opinion that Katoomba Airfield should not be leased for commercial purposes. As much of this crown land as possible should be incorporated into the surrounding Blue Mountains National Park (BMNP).

A commercial airfield in close proximity to the adjacent Grose Valley wilderness area which is World Heritage listed, is incompatible with the conservation value, and general amenity of this area. The potential for increased flight traffic is incredibly damaging to the appeal this area has to tourists and park users like myself who visit the BMNP. Commercial flights only benefit those on board the aircraft, yet it detracts from the experience of the many more people who are in the Park on the ground. I think it is fundamentally inequitable and grossly unfair to people who use the National Park for its isolating experience to be subjected to an increase in air traffic.

Also the impact of commercial flights on wildlife particularly birds is concerning. The government should be protecting the values of this World Heritage area, not compromising it for commercial gain to only benefit a very small section of the community, to the detriment of all others.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 4:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: 602686

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 10 Jul 2019 at 16:21
Subject: 602686
To: <airfieldsubmissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to share my concern with regards to the development of Katoomba Airfield.

I believe it is important to maintain the dirt strip that is currently there to be used in case of emergencies. However, I object to the further development of this land for commercial purposes. It seems as though this World Heritage Area, which the Blue Mountains is so proud of, is gradually becoming diminished by people wanting to develop it for short-sighted, economic reasons. Can't it just be left alone? Why should the bush, animals and people suffer because of economic ambitions (justified in so many other ways).

Why are there always new ideas about how the natural environment can be exploited yet again?

It's tiring that we still have to argue to preserve the small amount of clean air, water and undeveloped land that still exists on this planet.

This land should be preserved and conserved for ever and the government should change their priorities and make this land National Park.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:20 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed usage of the old Katoomba/Medlow Bath airfield for aviation tourism.

The Blue Mountains are a place of such natural beauty and wonder they have been granted World Heritage status - and to fill a place of clean air, beauty, and peace with the inescapable sounds of touring helicopters does not strike me as in keeping with the area's majesty.

This old air strip is of benefit during emergency procedures. As such, it was kept in working order for some time as a labour of love by a devoted aviationist, until his death, from what I can recall. To lease it for commercial enterprises, benefiting the few (mostly the lessees) at the expense of the many (those who live in the area, *because* of its attributes, and those who come here from all over the world to wonder in peace and tranquility, far from the noise and pollution of the city) does not sit well with me, or with the status of a World Heritage-listed National Park.

People come to these mountains to think, to breathe, to pause in their lives and ponder, surrounded by a sea of trees, sky and wind, and an eerie timeless silence.

Sound travels a great distance in the mountains, echoing across ridges and valleys. When a chopper goes by, looking for a lost bushwalker or perhaps on police business, one cannot escape the sound for some long time. The thought of the mountains ringing out to the sound of tourist choppers, circling the points of greatest natural beauty and destroying the peace, would be reducing the experience of *all* those below, inhabitants and visitors, trapping them as unwilling participants in an ongoing scene from M*A*S*H, for the benefit of a well-off few; and obviously greatly disenchanting the World Heritage nature of the area.

My understanding is that this old airfield is on public land. It should be kept free from commercial purposes, and be retained and protected by National Parks.

Please protect our land, and what little peace there is left in this world.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 6:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Madam/Sir,

Regarding Katoomba Airfield

I am writing to voice my opinion that the proposed commercialisation of Katoomba airfield should not go ahead. The airstrip exists for emergency use currently and this should continue. The airstrip is on public land and allowing it to be used by a private enterprise for commercial purposes is not appropriate.

Commercial flights will disturb the peace and quiet of the Blue Mountains and this is entirely inappropriate in a region of such natural significance and beauty. To have the disturbance from commercial air traffic disrupting the ambience of a national park region is a horrifying prospect.

As someone who lives locally and regularly enjoys the magnificence of the Blue Mountains I feel strongly that the commercialisation should absolutely not proceed.

As a local doctor I believe there to be significant health benefits from people being physically active in the outdoors and commercialising the airstrip will very likely lead to fewer people enjoying physical activity in the Blue Mountains due to the noise disturbance. This is terrible for the public health of our region.

With kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 4:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Your ref: 602686 - proposed airfield at Katoomba

Dear Assessing Officer

This is an objection, in the strongest possible terms, to the proposed airfield lease at Katoomba.

I submit that there is no longer any need for any airfield facilities at all at the existing site, for the reasons set out further below. It has also been shown that aeroplane emissions into the air cause serious health problems and significant increase in premature deaths in people. The unfortunate reality is that all aircraft continuously discharge a range of serious pollutants, and more seriously, many aircraft emissions are micro-particles that easily penetrate lungs and easily get into the bloodstream. It is the micro-particles that cause the most serious damage to health and cause premature deaths. See the following National Geographic article for a summary: <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/10/101005-planes-pollution-deaths-science-environment/>

The reality of premature deaths and serious health damage are a most serious matter that needs to be taken into consideration as well as all the other usual considerations.

Therefore I respectfully submit that:

- the existing airstrip be removed and bushland returned to the entire site so that the site becomes forest again, and
- the whole site be awarded National Parks status and transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service to manage as forest that forms part of the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains forest.

THE LESSEE'S PROPOSALS

It appears the current short-term lessees may not been open with the public about their plans for the site - see the following news article as one

example: <https://www.bluemountaingazette.com.au/story/5691405/airfield-take-off-new-faces-at-katoomba-airfield-medlow-bath/> The article states:

"The Larsens would not reveal details in their business plan but they did admit "high end heli-tours to Mudgee, Rylstone, Orange and other wineries and tourism venues" were part of the tourism proposal in their plans."

If the Gazette article is correct then it is clear the Larsens intend to make a lot of money privately from the site.

Given the serious health and mortality risks to everyone who lives near the airport or near the flight paths, there is no public policy justification for allowing any lease to proceed.

SERIOUS HEALTH AND PREMATURE DEATH RISKS TO EVERY PERSON WHO LIVES NEAR THE AIRFIELD OR ITS FLIGHT PATHS

Please see the following article on the National Geographic website, which explains the reality that aeroplane emissions into the air have been proven to cause severe health problems in people and also have been proven to cause significant increase in premature deaths in people:

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/10/101005-planes-pollution-deaths-science-environment/>

All people who live near the airfield's flight paths will be exposed to serious health and premature death risks, as a result of the ongoing air pollution emitted by aircraft using the airfield. The unfortunate reality is that all aircraft continuously discharge a range of serious pollutants, and more seriously, many aircraft emissions are micro-particles that easily penetrate lungs and easily get into bloodstreams. It is the micro-particles that tend to cause the most serious damage to health and premature deaths.

SERIOUS RISKS TO WORLD HERITAGE FOREST

If the lease is extended it will enrich one private couple. And a second outcome will be that the surrounding World Heritage forest and all its animal and insect inhabitants will run the very serious and ongoing real risk of contamination from fuels stored on site. Experience with fuel storage sites shows that typically some fuel does leak - leakage is generally the reality, it is not merely a maybe.

IN 6 YEARS TIME BADGERYS CREEK AIRPORT WILL OPEN

In approx 6 years time there will be a large airport operating at Badgerys Creek which will provide all the aircraft needs and wants that the Blue Mountains could possibly have. Badgerys Creek Airport will be only 1 hour's drive to Katoomba. The existing Bathurst airport is only 1 hour to Katoomba. This means all villages in the Blue Mountains will be less than 1 hour away from an airport once Badgerys Creek Airport opens.

EXISTING AIR FIELDS

Existing small air fields other than Katoomba already provide all the air landing facilities that anyone in the upper mountains could possibly need or want. An existing small air field is 1 hour or less by road from almost every village in the entire Blue Mountains.

Bathurst airport, by road is:

- less than 1 hour to the upper mountains (Lithgow, Mount Victoria, Blackheath)
- 1 hour to Medlow Bath and Katoomba
- 1 hour 15 minutes to Wentworth Falls

Camden airport, by road is:

- less than 1 hour to the lower mountains (Blaxland to Faulconbridge)
- 1 hour to the mid-mountains (Springwood to Bullaburra)
- 1 hour 15 minutes to Wentworth Falls

SUBMISSION IF THE AIRFIELD IS NOT CLOSED

If the airfield is not closed and returned to forest I will be very disappointed that private profit has been given greater priority than the reality of premature deaths and serious damage to health for people who live near the airfield and near its flight paths.

If leased I respectfully submit that the lease must require that:

- the airstrip must remain unsealed as it is at present, to ensure the airstrip does not become a quasi-commercial airport by stealth, and
- there must be no increase at all in the number of aircraft movements over the current usage.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 6:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref#602686 No Helicopters in our Blue Mountains!

I am writing to give my 2cents worth with this issues with helicopters flying around the Blue Mountains. As a Blackheath resident I say NO because even the few we hear now ruins the experience of living here.

It is NOT acceptable to increase the amount of helicopters or any flying machine over the Blue Mountains. This is a place of peace!!!

regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.
<https://www.avg.com>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 4:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: My opinion regarding the proposed Airfield at Katoomba

Dear Scott Mullen,

I was recently made aware that Katoomba Airfield may possibly be granted a commercial licence. It was good meeting you, and thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the proposal.

While I support the use of Katoomba Airfield as an emergency airstrip, I wish to protest the proposal of a commercial licence in the strongest possible terms.

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains I am well aware of the noise and disruption caused by helicopters. Every fire season and bushfire helicopters make themselves useful - this is appropriate in that it is **a direct benefit to the residents.**

A commercial licence is in-appropriate for the following reasons:-

1. If 'Joy Flights' were permitted, the residents of Katoomba (population 7,964) and surrounding area would be subjected to between 6 and 8 hours of continuous noise **for each helicopter operating.** I live 7 km from the airstrip and, due to the topographical formations of this Heritage, I can still hear aircraft operating from the airstrip.
2. The only people benefiting from the granting of this licence would be the helicopter and fixed wing operators, the licence owner (I have been told this is two people?) and the passengers. There will be of no benefit to the locals. **7,964 to 2 seems like a very unfair ratio to me.**
3. The promise of a Joy-Flight may be appealing to day tourists, but it is unlikely to create an increase the number of 'bums on beds' being booked in the Katoomba area. The best way to see the Blue Mountains Park has always been by 'Shanks' Pony'. One of the major tourist contributors to the Blue Mountains are those who travel up here to experience the walks through this beautiful place. Helicopter noise will destroy their peace and quiet as well. **And these people do contribute to putting 'bums on beds'**
4. **Local wildlife will be adversely affected** by the noise, pressure from the rotor cavitations and pollution. Also, it is unknown what affect commercial use will have on other local environmental matters (ie: Hanging swamps, weed intrusion, groundwater contamination, etc. – For example, The area around the airfield is a regular home to roosting Black Cockatoos.)
5. **What damage will be caused by fuel exhaust?** Anyone living under the flight paths at Sydney Airport will already be aware of the black, greasy,

residue, caused by aircraft exhaust, on horizontal surface around their homes. While I understand that the scale of operations is different, what will happen to the gum trees and other vegetation when exposed to fuel dumps and exhaust fumes over an extended (long term) period of the lease?

6. All of the residents I have spoken to migrated to the Blue Mountains to get away from the stink of petrol fumes, car noise, and the rush and turmoil of the city. They came here for solitude, and peace and quiet and to enjoy the clean air. Are we seriously going to let two petrol-heads, (who I am told don't even live in the Blue Mountains) destroy all that for the sake of greed?

The people of the Blue Mountains have worked long and hard to keep the area pristine and clear. We have said 'No!' to organisation like McDonalds from opening up fast-food outlets, and have instead encouraged and promoted Slo-Food, - why should this proposal, which is really only about 'money', be handled any differently.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 7:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield YKAT: Ref. LX602686

I'd like to have it recorded that I support the redevelopment of Katoomba Airport.

I am a private pilot and often traverse the Blue Mountains from Sydney tracking westerly. I consider the mountains to be, in Aviation Terms, very 'inhospitable' terrain in that there is no other place to safely land insofar as unexpected bad weather or mechanical trouble. I always include Katoomba Airport as a Waypoint in my Flight Plans. This is a VERY daunting piece of landscape to traverse so it's comforting to know there is a 'Halfway Safety House' if necessary.

I know many other pilots of small aircraft both commercial and private who feel the same way. It would be a great loss to lose such a strategically important airfield after almost 51 years.

I live in a bushfire zone in Sydney, [REDACTED], so I know how important it is to have a clear area that can be used as a base for all manner of emergency services.

I have personally met the people of FlyBlue and heard their story. I applaud their efforts and vision to restore this important airfield for future aviators and visitors to the scenic Blue Mountains of the Katoomba area. What a boost the restoration of the Airport would be for the tourist industry of the area. I'm sure also that the directors of FlyBlue would be more than accommodating in making adjustment to any plans either of an infrastructure or flight path nature to suit stakeholders of the area.

Please preserve sensible infrastructure before it is lost forever.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 3:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ref 602686 Proposal for commercial use of Katoomba Airfield.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my total opposition for commercial use of Katoomba Airfield. One of the primary attractions of the Blue Mountains for locals and for visitors is its World Heritage areas of natural beauty away from the noise of the city including road and aircraft traffic noise. For the many people like myself who take considerable effort to walk out to bushland and peaks not accessible any other way and offering rarely found peace and quiet the sound of helicopters and light planes would destroy the experience. I submit that this public land should be put into the National park and the airfield be kept for emergency use only.

A more equitable way of providing the experience of viewing the Blue Mountains National Park and wilderness would be to update and promote the IMax large screen experience that has been available in the past at The Edge Cinema.in Katoomba.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 2:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in respect of the proposed commercial lease which would permit helicopter flights from the Katoomba Airfield. The Blue Mountains is a listed World Heritage area and it is extraordinary that it could be contemplated that helicopter flights be permitted to fly over areas of such quiet beauty. It is even more extraordinary that such a licence be contemplated that does not include sufficient stringent conditions as to permitted flight paths and heights.

I understand that when the Katoomba Airfield was closed (other than for emergency services) it was intended that it be returned to the National Park.

This was never done.

It should be.

One of the great joys of the Blue Mountains National Park is the peace and tranquillity that we can enjoy when using the park area. The park's wonderful natural beauty is best appreciated in tranquillity, such a welcome relief from the machinery noises present in most of our everyday lives. Put simply, the noise of helicopters would be completely destructive of one of the park's great assets.

I support making the Katoomba Airport part of the National Park and can see no reason why it could not still be used for emergency purposes – fire, search and rescue and medivac. I would urge you not to grant the commercial licence which would destroy the public asset of the many for the commercial benefit of the few.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 3:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: FW: Reference No: 602686 - Proposed Katoomba Airfield on Crown Land

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 3:51 PM
To: 'airfieldsubissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au' <airfieldsubissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Reference No: 602686 - Proposed Katoomba Airfield on Crown Land

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to lodge my objection my strenuously to the above proposal, for the following reasons:-

I object to public land being used for commercial purposes and in particular, the emissions from said aircraft, noise, and seemingly lack of any control over number of flights.

This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park and protected. The working strip at this location should only be used for emergency purposes.

Any 'offset programs' proposed by the operators of Katoomba Airfield would be ineffective in addressing emissions. According to Professor Will Steffen for the Climate Council, carbon offsets involving tree planting for example, do not tackle the carbon that has been added to the atmosphere through fossil fuel use. In 2015, airlines spewed 781 million tonnes of co2 into the atmosphere: 2% of man-made co2 emissions. We certainly do not need any more.

The World Heritage National Park surrounding the Blue Mountains and its 27 villages is a major tourism drawcard. We cannot risk emissions and possible noise over this area from the aircraft frequently using this airfield. I am also concerned about the local amenity of residents living near the proposed airfield for aviation tourism.

Supposedly targeting high-end tourism, the proposed airport would do very little to contribute to low-impact cultural tourism, the most desirable form of tourism in our region with its potential to encourage visitors to explore our region for more than one day, experiencing both our unique built and natural environment on foot, or using existing sustainable ways of moving around, and in so doing, also support our local economy.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 12:35 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission - Proposed lease of Katoomba airfield (reference no. 602686)

Dear NSW Department of Industry,

As a frequent visitor to the Blue Mountains and owner of a house in Blackheath, I am concerned by the proposed lease of Katoomba airfield.

There is very little information about the environmental controls that might be implemented, including the number of flights and flight paths. Even with environmental controls, the very nature of a commercial lease of the airfield means that there will need to be a large number of flights in order for it to be profitable. These flights will have negative impacts on the peace and quiet of villages like Blackheath and the Blue Mountains National Park. It will be disappointing to go bushwalking in the national park and have air traffic noise drown out the bird calls, intrude on the serenity and destroy the natural experience.

I go to the Blue Mountains to escape the noise in Sydney and plan to move permanently to Blackheath in the next few years. I live in the Inner West in Sydney and with planes flying over our house everyday, I am very aware of the impact of aircraft noise.

I object to the leasing of public land that is the Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes. The airfield should be kept for emergency use only. The airfield land could be opened up for public visitation in the absence of commercial flights, by incorporating it into the national park or as a council reserve. This will increase public access and protect the natural values that make the Blue Mountains such a delightful place.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 8:19 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

NO to the commercial lease and YES to incorporating the airfield into NP for emergencies.

To the Department of Industry

I am writing to you to object to the granting of a commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield.

I have lived in the upper Blue Mountains for much of my life and now reside in Springwood.

I know that the airfield has been operating for over 50 years and has had commercial leases operating over that period.

However, the current application for a commercial lease by FlyBlue presents a significant increase in the scale of operations compared to those of the past. I fear that this will have large adverse impacts upon the environment and community.

From your review of the submissions being made to you at this time, the overwhelming opposition to the granting of a commercial lease expressed by locals at the community consultation sessions held in Katoomba and the opposition expressed by over 12000 NSW citizens in the petition presented in the NSW parliament on 1st August, I believe the following outcomes must result:

- 1. NO commercial lease should be granted for the airfield**
- 2. The airfield land be incorporated into in surrounding Blue Mountains National Park**
- 3. The airfield be maintained for emergency use only and managed by NPWS with appropriate funding being provided for its upkeep.**

The reasons for my opposition to the granting of a commercial lease follow:

1. TOURISM AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS

The Blue Mountains is known for being a quiet, peaceful place, where millions of tourists flock each year. The noise impact generated by helicopters and other aircraft will reduce the enjoyment for hikers, climbers and canyoners. Many may not revisit the mountains for this reason.

Tourists who arrive or depart by helicopter or undertake pre-paid scenic helicopter tours (Joy flights) are likely to rely upon just a few operators for transport and accommodation. This will concentrate tourist dollars into a few hands and this will mean less money goes to the local economy, such as cafes, pubs, shops, and retail outlets.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Katoomba Airfield is completely surrounded by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Thousands of native species including endangered and threatened species live within this area. Flight paths and nesting areas of many birds including migratory birds will be disrupted by the impact of flights by helicopters and small planes taking place.

Damage to the surrounding rare hanging swamps can result from run-off and erosion caused by increased traffic on Grand Canyon road (especially the unsealed section leading to the airfield) as well as the proposed tarmacing of the runway.

Threats to the environment are posed by the transport of aviation fuel through parts of the GBMWA and its storage at the airfield, where no town water supplies are present in case of emergency such as fire.

The GBMWA's World Heritage status is up for review later this year, this may be affected by the granting of a lease which will allow significant air traffic operating from within the WHA and adds to that risk sur to the proposed changes to Warragamba Dam.

3. LIFESTYLE AND AMENITY

Many residents of the Blue Mountains will be impacted by the noise of helicopters and small planes landing and taking off from Katoomba Airfield. While there are already some joy-flights over the area conducted by other operators which present some issues, this will greatly increase with flights taking off and landing within the WHA. Helicopter noise can travel long distances through the mountains which is dominated by cliffs and canyons and will affect many people in Wentworth Falls, Leura, Katoomba, North Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath.

Fly Neighbourly Advices (FNA's) is self-regulated. Breaches of an FNA are completely unenforceable and open to abuse.

Increased traffic on the roads leading to the airfield pose a risk and will diminish the amenity of people living in the upper Blue Mountains and in particular Medlow Bath. The roads are narrow, have blind corners and crests, pinch points where vehicles cannot safely pass each other and there are no footpaths for pedestrians and bushwalkers. There is an increased risk of accidents causing injury or worse when these roads are used by large fuel tankers, tourist coaches and other vehicles driven by people who are unfamiliar with the area.

4. LACK OF TRANSPERANCY

The problem that I see with the proposed lease is that my community knows almost nothing about the number of flights that are being proposed and that the flight paths planned will take place over and operate from within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and water catchment areas. We do not know anything about the scale of operations that are planned and what the future intentions of the applicants are given that I believe that they have requested a 50 year lease.

The local community has not been informed of the scale of the proposed operations. The lease applicants and the DoI have refused to release any information about this. How can people properly engage in community consultation when they have no information?

Flight paths were only displayed at "drop-in sessions" at Hotel Blue but do not extend beyond the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The Lease Applicants have proposed that the airfield will act as a "hub and spoke" model leading to the central west of NSW but no information was presented about these flight paths.

In the past there have been numerous recommendations that the airfield be incorporated into the surrounding National Park when leases have expired. This does not look like it was even considered as an option when the DoI first put out a call for expressions of interest in 2017.

Why was the community not consulted about the appropriate use of such a sensitive site before they released a tender for a license by direct negotiation with a helicopter tourism business?

I consider that I have been fortunate to live in an area noted for its peace, tranquility and amazing natural beauty. I have a two children and wish very much for them to be able to appreciate the unspoiled beauty of this unique area, its flora and fauna and to not be witness to an area which has been damaged and diminished by development, such as the current lease application, which has gone too far and which benefits a very small few at the expense of so many others.

For these reasons, I believe you must reach the outcomes I noted at the beginning of this submission. The non-approval of the application and the airfield's incorporation into the GBMWHWA under the management of NPWS will see our sensitive and beautiful environment

protected that all may experience its natural beauty and wonder, both now and into the future.

I hope you consider my submission carefully.

I have no issues with my submission being published but do not wish my address to be included.

Sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a horizontal white line indicating a break in the text.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

As a resident of Blackheath I write in response to the community engagement and consultation process regarding the Katoomba airfield lease proposal in Meadowbath which will allow FlyBlue Management Pty. Ltd use of Crown Land for commercial (NOT COMMUNITY) benefit.

Whilst I am not opposed to ensuring the airfield is accessible for use by emergency services, I AM opposed to the use of the airfield for commercial purposes by FlyBlue Management Pty Ltd for the following reasons:

- We have chosen to live in this extraordinary 'World Heritage' area because of the proximity to nature, birdlife, pristine bush, walking tracks and more and are absolutely appalled at the possibility of an active/busy commercial airfield being placed amidst this unique part of Australia (and the world, for that fact).
- We have chosen to live in this extraordinary 'World Heritage' area because of the absolute peace and quiet. Our home sits atop the Grose Valley area where we enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of our surrounds. With the approval of a commercial airfield our peace and quiet will be devastated by the noise and activity of aircraft.
- We run a small holiday letting from our property with all our guests commenting on the peace, quiet and solitude of the area. Visitors from across the world have stayed in our property and marvel at the natural beauty and absolute quietude which is like "no where else in the world". This will be destroyed by a commercial airfield and aircraft which will bring significant noise and activity from early morning to sunset.
- A commercial airfield will therefore significantly impact on our liveability due to noise and disturbance.
- A commercial airfield will significantly impact on the local tourist economy and guest experience where expectations to be at one with nature and amidst nature are lost FOREVER.
- A commercial airfield will be devastating to our lifestyle, business, health and wellbeing.
- A commercially leased airfield will NOT benefit the broader local community but is driven by an economic agenda to benefit a few.
- A commercially leased airfield will impact negatively on the environment and local communities amenity and lifestyle.
- Importantly, the impact of operating a commercial airfield adjacent in a 'World Heritage' is unknown. We have a responsibility to protect this region and the 3,000 native species which are unique to the Blue Mountains National Park.
- And importantly we have a responsibility to protect this unique 'World Heritage' area for ALL to enjoy.

PLEASE do not destroy our home and the reasons why we chose to live here and make this our community. We need your help to ensure this area is protected so it can be enjoyed and sustained by all the community and those who visit.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 5:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Crown Lands,

This is a "YES" Submission.

In "TOTAL" support of the Katoomba Airfield being leased to FlyBlue and the airfield being "totally operational" again.

As a resident of the upper Blue Mountains living in Megalong and a member of the Aviation Community for the past 24 years Katoomba Airfield

has been an important and valued airfield in NSW ever since it was opened in 1968.

As we all fly over the mountains on our way to and from the Sydney basin from Bankstown, Mascot, Camden, Richmond airports

Katoomba Airfield is and always has been our safety airfield should there be any issues while flying over what some call 'tiger country'

i.e. inhospitable terrain should an emergency landing be required due to weather, mechanical or passenger issues.

This airfield has been in place long before many other businesses, developments and residents came to the Blue Mountains and should remain open

and operational purely on the grounds of "pre-existing use".

On the environmental side, this airfield needs this kind of development to bring the site up to an environmentally acceptable area for all of us to use and enjoy.

To be honest, the site has been neglected for some time now and the FlyBlue proposal will do far more to enhance this airfield and the surrounding area

than has ever been undertaken in the past, so much more than any of the so-called local environmentalists have done in the past or will ever do in the future,

they haven't lifted a finger to rectify any of their so-called concerns, i.e. erosion runoff into the nearby swamps.

Emergency use is also an important factor to be considered, bushfires, motor vehicle accidents, or if there is a major incident on the mountains, this airfield

when properly developed with a sealed runway and helipads can be utilised by NSW ambulance aeroplanes and helicopters to enable "fast and efficient"

transport to Sydney's major hospitals. A "very" important reason for this airfield to be approved for development.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Keep Blue Mountains Airfield commercial free Ref No. 602686

Attn: Department of Industry
Re: Medlow Bath Airfield Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a long term resident of The Blue Mountains and been lucky enough to be employed up here for all of it, most of this time in tourism. I understand how important tourism is to the Blue Mountains but how vital it is that this is balanced with protecting the National Park, the World Heritage listing and the people who live up here.

The airstrip at Medlow Bath is of course attractive to tourist operators but is unlikely to create an increased tourist demand to the area just another attraction for people already up here to enjoy. It would definitely increase noise, pollution and negatively impact the quiet lifestyle people enjoy here and probably pose a risk to World Heritage listing.

Even ignoring those reasons the fact that the airstrip is on Crown Land should mean that it is precluded from exploitation of commercial operators looking for a quick profit. I also think that this land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever with the one proviso of keeping the airstrip operational for emergency use only. I had friends lose houses in bushfires and the ability to have use of this airstrip could help mitigate these tragedies.

Please don't allow short term commercial interests to take precedence over the natural environment.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]