
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 8:14 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter tours from Katoomba airfield

Good evening

Please do not allow this operation.

I was recently hiking in the Snowy Mountains and for two days there was a helicopter nearby. It was so noisy that I cancelled my last two days hiking. The idea of the ambiance of the area around Katoomba being destroyed by a helicopter conducting joyflights is just awful!

Bushwalking is a hobby that can be carried out by people from all walks of life no matter what their income is. The idea of their escape from the city being destroyed by a small number of people who are able to afford a helicopter trip is very sad. There are very few places where people in the western suburbs of Sydney can escape suburbia. Please do not destroy one of the last remaining places.

If people want to experience the Blue Mountains they can descend to the valley on the scenic railway or cross on the skyway. They do not need to fly in a helicopter and affect the many thousands of people who enjoy the peaceful valleys daily.

Many thanks

Please

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 11:52 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make a submission to this issue. If this airfield were to go ahead to be used by a private enterprise it could easily lead to creating big disturbances for myself and others in similar situations.

Firstly, as a visitor/temporary resident to the Blue mountains, I regularly visit the Vipassana Mediation Centre which hold courses for anyone interested in practicing morality, concentration and purifying the mind. These courses are like silent retreats, mostly for 10 days, with about 120 people, happening twice a month. Many of these people are new and wanting to try after hearing about it's wonderful benefits from others, and many come back and are committed to the practice after they see changes in their life. When I say benefits I am talking about the ability to be present and not succumb to reacting in an unwholesome way, such as with anger, lust, guilt etc that brings misery. There is much more depth to this practice but for now this will hopefully do. So what is this disturbance that could be caused?

The silence and privacy are important to me and so many others coming to the blue mountains to develop in these wholesome practices. It creates solitude which is a key factor for understanding the nature inside us. It seems quite likely due to the centre's location, 7km from the airfield that this will threaten the peaceful atmosphere and this solitude in particular. Noise and proximity of helicopters and aircrafts can easily bring much more stimulus and agitation to us or anyone who is looking for peace. If we were perfect at not reacting there would be no problem. But many are not and that's why we need a place that provides special conditions for practicing, mainly minimal disturbance.

So please consider this aspect of the issue as so many people serious about trying to do some good in this life would be greatly affected if this decision is not thorough and for the people of and visiting the Blue mountains.

The option to have the airfield as part of the national park and for emergency only seems appealing but ultimately you hold decision. Best of luck for the process.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 9:08 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686

This is my submission in support of the Katoomba Airfield Community group.

I am concerned about the future use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath. I object to public land being used for commercial purposes, especially if those purposes might interfere with the welfare and comfort of local residents and the wildlife in the surrounding national park. For this reason, I would prefer the old airfield at Medlow Bath to be transferred to national park for future protection.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 2:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KATOOMBA airfield ref 602686

Dear Sir or Madam

As a resident of the Blue mountains I would like to express my concern about the plans to use Katoomba airfield for commercial tourist flights. It should be incorporated to the National Park which surrounds it and only used for emergency purposes such as medical or bush fire fighting.

Thank you for considering the above.

With best regards

[REDACTED]

Sent with my Vodafone mobile phone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 6:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

I [REDACTED] a resident of blue mountains object to use of medlow bath old airfield to be of use for helicopters . I agree that this land should be handed to KACG .

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:37 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Leave nature alone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 10:28 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re

It will be a good idea to have a aviation flying pilots school on sight

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 1:08 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I am writing in opposition to the proposed closure of Katoomba airfield. It is essential for fire fighting operations, emergency services air traffic, tourist access, emergency landings and anticipated increase in aerial traffic around western Sydney.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 8:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

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

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:05 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Réf no. 602686

From [REDACTED].

A working airstrip for emergencies might be retained but this public land should not be used for commercial purposes and should be included in the National Park.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 5:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

NO commercial lease
YES for emergency

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 12:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

I object to public land being used for commercial purposes. This crown land at should be transferred to the national park and protected. The airstrip at Medlow Bath must be for emergency use only.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Ref No 602286.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 2:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

I am writing in regard to the proposed commercial use of Katoomba airfield.

In deference to the noisy lobby protesting against this proposal, **I wish to register my wholehearted support for this proposal. It has always been a commercial airfield and should remain so.**

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 9:41 AM
Subject: OLD AIRFIELD AT MEDLOW BATH

reference number 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my objection to the proposal to use the piece of crown land at Mellow Bath for commercial purposes.

This piece of land is situated in a world heritage area and should be protected.

It should continue to be reserved and its only use limited to a minor air strip, as it is now, for the use of fire fighting aircraft in the event of bush fires in the Blue Mountains.

If not already the case it (the said land) should be part of the National Park and protected forever.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 12:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Hello I am writing to formally object to the Katoomba airfield being used by a commercial helicopter operator

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:02 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686

As a local no helicopter joy rides, air strip remain as is for emergency only.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: j
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 11:22 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Submission to oppose helicopter tours

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose the proposed helicopter tours. I am concerned about the noise and impact on wildlife and the peaceful surrounds of this area.

The area should be protected for future generations and low impact tourism. I am very fond of visiting the mountains and bush walking and believe this kind of development will have a negative impact on the natural setting and serenity.

Sincerely,

████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 10:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I truly believe that the revitalisation of YKAT is an absolute necessity, and must be considered to ensure the Blue Mountains does not fall behind further with infrastructure, amenities, and economic opportunities.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 10:08 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

I am a Blue Mountains resident and I want to say NO to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield, and YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 8:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

I am concerned that leasing the airfield to a commercial helicopter tourist organisation will create a disturbance for all who live in the vicinity of this airfield. The cavernous landscape echoes the constant noise to this quiet peaceful environment.

We can make a difference if we work together.

Let's keep the Blue Mountains National Park clean and quiet and peaceful.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 10:18 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: NO AIRFIELD KATOOMBA

Dear Minister Pavey

I am writing this email to object to the commercial lease for an airfield at Katoomba **(THAT IS NO)**

However, I will agree to incorporate an airfield into the National Park for emergency use only. **(THAT IS YES)**

Thank you [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 2:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield objection

Dear sir/ma'am,

This airfield will be a disgrace to the tranquility and serenity of the blue mountains.
Please stop it!

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 12:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Crown Lands,

I would like to object to the use of the Katoomba Airfield for private-enterprise helicopters as they are very noisy, and wildness areas should be kept quiet and peaceful.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 9:15 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield mefloquine bath

Sent from my iPhone. No to airfield !

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 11:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: NO TO COMMERCIAL USE AT KATOOMBA AIRFIELD (reference number 602686)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong stance against the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield.

I do not believe it is in the communities interest to have this commercialisation, nor is it in the environments.

This commercialisation will bring nothing to our local economy, and will be a detriment due to increased noise and air pollution.

I strongly object to any commercial lease of this public land and believe it should be put into the National Park, with the airfield being used for emergencies only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 7:01 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I say NO to commercial lease and YES to incorporating airfield into the national park for emergencies [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PH: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 1:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Submission on the Future of Katoomba Airfield

As residents, we are acutely aware of the increasing severity of the weather and of the increasing danger from bushfires. We are therefore strongly opposed to the commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield, and strongly urge that it continue to be used in emergencies. We ask that the Airfield be incorporated into the National Park.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 6:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield ref 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

The Blue Mountains is a bushfire prone area. The Katoomba airport is vital for public safety. Helicopter joy rides will interfere with this function. Governments are not elected to compromise public safety.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 10:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir.

I would like to strongly support the proposal by FlyBlue Management to operate the Katoomba Airfield. We need this airfield!!

Katoomba airfield has been in existence for a very long time and it is well known to the aviation community. It sits in a perfect geographic location to service the Blue Mountains and it must be preserved for the future. It is virtually impossible to build an airfield anywhere near a major township, so to have this airfield already in existence is something that should be treated as 'gold' and preserved at all cost for the future aviation needs of the Blue Mountains area. The closest airfields to Katoomba are Bathurst, Bankstown and Richmond but these airfields are all about 30 minutes flying time from Katoomba. As such, without Katoomba, there is nowhere to access the Blue Mountains by air. From an environmental perspective, Katoomba sits well away from built up areas and thus is in a unique position to offer aviation access without affecting the local community through noise intrusion or safety concerns.

An operational airfield so close to the Blue Mountains community allows aircraft to easily and quickly access this area amazing . This in turn brings tourists and jobs into the Blue Mountains. Visitors get the unique opportunity to view the Blue Mountains from the air. It enhances civil and military emergency services who can plan for unfettered access to this area at any time - both day and night.

With the recent introduction of larger aeroplanes to conduct water bombing in times of bushfire, this airfield will permit these aircraft to refill their water tanks at Katoomba rather than traveling over 40km to and from alternate airfields to conduct water top ups.

This unique airfield also offers high altitude, mountainous flying training for civil, emergency and military pilots from the Sydney area.

Please allow Katoomba Airfield be given the go ahead to continue operating now and well into the future.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 9:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

I wish to register my strong opposition to the commercial lease of the Katoomba airfield.
It should be used as an emergency only facility and incorporated into the surrounding national park.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No airfield at Katoomba!

Please don't wreck the environment. The medaling valley is for horses and quiet pursuits.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 9:26 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Blue mountain airfield

This airfield will bring in tourists from overseas for the Hydro Majestic international Hotel.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 12:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: In regard to the katoomba airfield I would like to say no this should not be made into a tourist airfield. LX602686

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 9:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi
I would like to acknowledge my support in keeping the Katoomba Airfield (YKAT) open. This airfield has played a pivotal part in the aviation industry over the years and has helped to support numerous emergency events.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 10:13 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield.submission

Dear sir/madam,

I am very strongly opposed to the use/ re establishment of the katoomba/ medlo airfield. Its use, other than for emergency actions is totally out of step with the area, natural ecology, the national park and the wilderness qualities of the immediate and wider area.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 11:25 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I would like to add my support for the **redevelopment of Katoomba Airfield.**

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 8:08 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield issue of lease

The airfield should absolutely not be up for commercial activity! Emergency use only is fair - there is no need for the beautiful serenity of the mountains to be destroyed do that a handful of operators and tourists can squeeze in and ruin it for the majority.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 7:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a resident of the Blue Mountains to please urge to stop this proposed commercial aircraft airfield. We live in a World Heritage National Park and don't want that jeopardised or compromised by the sound and sight of commercial flights, joy flights and so on over our local sky. I understand the airfield would be a great asset for Emergency use. But I am calling on you to please allow this land to be enjoyed by all not for the financial gain of a very few at the expense of the quality of our National Park. Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 11:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

With regard to the Katoomba airfield, I'd like to say NO to the commercial lease and YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 12:49 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I am very concerned about the impact of the new proposal for the airfield in regards to its adverse impact on the surrounding national park and world heritage area, particularly noise, traffic movements, flight path. The area is sensitive as well as being close to several town which are populated.

Regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:53 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

This land should remain Crown land and whoever gets the lease should NOT be able to on sell it.

I do not support this lease.

Id prefer to see this land used for more natural use.

warm regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] my mobile

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 6:15 PM
To: 'Ref No 602686'
Subject: Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

I am most upset that the integrity of the Blue Mountains Nation Park will be forever destroyed with the use of joy flights over the valley. National Parks are places of both beauty and quietness. Turning the airspace into an plane highway is against the ethos of the park. Do not allow commercialization of this priceless asset.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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

I am writing in opposition to any commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.

Clearly this land should included into the National Park and used as an airfield only ever in emergencies

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 6:36 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission on Katoomba Airfield proposal

I am opposed to the proposed use of Katoomba Airfield by commercial interests.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 4:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Please do not not lease this land for aviation tourism. I have lived in the Blue Mountains for 40 years and the aircraft noise has increased so much. We need to protect our National Parks, not have helicopters and aircraft flying over them. Part of the beauty of the bush is the peace and the bird life.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 10:48 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: lx 602686

I totally object to having an airfield constructed at Katoomba; there is no need for it, destroying the Mountains and subjecting citizens to horrible plane roaring. It's bad enough that commercial demons insist to have a new airport at the lower mountain, but to add another is utterly pernicious.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 2:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

To whom it concerns,

I would like to register my objection to this application. The noise from this venture would drastically reduce the utility and enjoyment of all other patrons of the Blue Mountains and only benefit the owners of the flight company rather the wider community.

The reduced numbers of and decreased revenue from tourists and other area users would likely not be balanced the small numbers of users of the flight company.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 8:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airstrip

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to oppose a commercial lease being granted for Katoomba Airstrip.

My family and friends have been discussing this matter and now ask that you incorporate the airfield into the Blue Mountains National Park.

In our opinions , the site should be used during bushfires and for emergency purposes only, not for commercial purposes.

We have lived here for between 30 and 40 years and want the peaceful quality of the National Park restored and maintained.

Thank You

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 9:42 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

To Whom It may Concern

I support the proposed lease of the Katoomba Air Field.

The airfield is an integral part of the Blue Mountains for not only tourism and job creation (with the proposed business), but also as an emergency landing field for pilots like myself, and in the event of a cut-off emergency for the safe and timely delivery of goods to the upper Mountains via aircraft.

--

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 10:04 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear crownland personnel,

My husband and I are residents of [REDACTED] and we are writing to strongly object to the commercial leasing of katoomba airfield for helicopter joy rides and hereby ask that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use purposes only.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 3:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Tranquility..

Hi ;
I'd like to add my support for no helicopter or tourist flights in the Blue mountains.
I am a vipassana meditator who has gained so much from the peaceful surroundings
of Blackheath while learning such a valuable teaching. I believe the area should
keep the quiet , tranquil atmosphere it currently enjoys.

Kind regards ,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 10:11 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Department of Industry,

We absolutely object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. We do not want to hear the helicopter noise over the national park.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 2:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number 602686

To whom it may concern

I Strongly object to any commercial lease being issued for the use of Katoomba airfield. The beauty of the Blue Mountains is that it is one place that you can experience nature's quiet. It would be a great shame to lose this. This is public land and should be enjoyed by everyone for no cost.
Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 2:00 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you because I am extremely concerned that the tranquility of the Blue Mountains may be threatened by public land being used for commercial use.

There are not many places in the world that can be visited to experience peace and quiet. Being so close to Sydney this is a very special asset to NSW and would be totally changed with the noise of jet flights.

This land could be part of the national park to be enjoyed by everyone.

Please listen to the people.

Thank you for your time.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 4:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Katoomba Airfield Reference 602686

We wish to lodge an objection to any use of the Katoomba Airfield other than that for emergency services. Gradual erosion of the integrity of the surrounding National Park must be stopped. Any commercial lease will adversely impact on the quietness, the fauna and flora of this unique environment, a type of environment which is becoming more rare, more endangered and therefore more necessary and needed when close to our main population centres.

Regards,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I object to the use of public land being used for commercial purposes. The Crown Land should be protected and transferred to the National Park with a single working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

Please consider my requests when deciding the fate of this airfield.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 5:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi,

I object to a commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield.

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

The airfield should be used for emergencies only.

Commercial helicopters would ruin this area and goes against what everyone I know enjoys about the area.

This is one of the most beautiful places on earth. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS.

With love and respect,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

Dear Sir/madam,

As a home owner in [REDACTED] I would like to voice my support for Fly Blue and their plans to operate the airfield on approval.

I believe their plans would make a valuable asset to the local area not only on the tourism side but also allowing fixed wing aircraft from various government agencies to use in times of emergencies or when required.

Also allowing a place for refueling and for fire fighting helicopters to fill water bags when time is critical during bushfire emergencies, I believe this could possibly save properties and even lives of the public and emergency personal.

Along with Fly Blue employing locals supporting local businesses and bringing more tourists to the area I believe it's a positive business for the local community.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 8:31 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686 : Objection

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of [REDACTED], I would like to object to any commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. It is public land and in fact, I believe it should be put into the national park. Please keep the airfield for emergency use only and NOT commercial use.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 6:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

Please, please, please do not commercialise this space.

Human beings require sanctuary in nature. We keep destroying natural beauty and wondering why our condition worsens. We as a race won't be here for much longer, really. Let's leave something to be pure. Its good for all organisms involved - not just a couple humans who are gonna make a bit of cash and not give two [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I object to any commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield located on public land within the Blue Mountains World Heritage listed National Park.

This Airfield should be kept for emergency use only.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 9:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Hi, I object to the use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial flights, especially helicopters. This location is totally inappropriate for frequent flights. This in close vicinity of declared wilderness and will greatly affect the character of the area. This is truly incompatible with what most users are going to this place for. This will also facilitate flights over close by Blackheath where tourists go for short walks. Thanks.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 5:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I have been visiting the Blue Mountains and Blackheath and Mt Victoria for 50 years and own my house there. Having the National Park as a treasure where the towns are situated is paramount to the tourist trade and bush walkers and campers who visit and stay. The park has enormous value for the plants, birds and animals that live here. The disturbance of having the proposed airfield opened intrudes on the quiet, peace and protection the park gives to the wildlife and those who choose to live their.

I agree that it is useful as an emergency landing but I don't agree with the proposal to use for sight seeing tours. I want the needs of those who live and work in the mountains to be taken into account in the decision making so that the park is protected and nurtured properly, Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 4:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I wish to strongly object to the possible re-opening Katoomba Airfield as a commercial airfield. I remember decades ago when the airfield had tourist flights from it and the noise and intrusion that caused residents. As we are now living in a world heritage area, it is hardly fitting for an airfield to be able to fly tourist flights and this area must be kept pristine. The best option is to put the airfield in the National Park and only allow it to be used for emergency use as it has been more recently used for. This a very serious issue for us Blue Mountains residents and we most strongly oppose this!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 10:05 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercial asset to australia

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 3:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 [REDACTED]

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,

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 6:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Hi,
In regards to the proposal for using Katoomba for commercial flights, as a local in the area I would beg you to reconsider. The Blue Mountains is a special place to live, and to visit, because of the serenity of its natural beauty. To commercialize our airspace, at the cost of air quality and noise pollution, would be detrimental to both tourists and locals alike.
Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 8:00 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686

Dear Sir,

1. I object to this public land being used for commercial use.
2. If the crownland Department doesn't want to manage this land then transfer it to a department that is capable of doing so such as the National Parks.
3. Keep an emergency dirt airfield at the site for emergency use only.
4. There are too many light fixed wing aircraft and helicopters , flying low over our houses now.
- 5.The process that has been used to consider this lease should be reviewed by a separate authority as it hasn't been transparent.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 7:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial flights

Hi, I object to the use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial flights, especially helicopters. This location is totally inappropriate for frequent flights. This in close vicinity of declared wilderness and will greatly affect the character of the area. This is truly incompatible with what most users are going to this place for. This will also facilitate flights over close by Blackheath where tourists go for short walks. Thanks.

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 7:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

We strongly object to our National Park and surrounding crown land being used for commercial purposes. We live in a world heritage national park and it is totally inappropriate to have a commercial airfield within disturbing our peace and tranquility.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Aviation tourism on Crown Land

I strongly object to this use of public land for commercial purposes.
The noise from this type of aviation tourism would be unwelcome for both local inhabitants and tourists to the area.
This Crown Land should instead be incorporated into national park without the threat posed by these forms of tourism.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 7:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am planning on retiring to Katoomba in a years time to be close to my daughter and her family and I am concerned about the plan for commercial use of the airfield. I strongly object to the commercial lease for this use of public land.

I think that this land should be absorbed into the National Park and the airfield kept for emergency aviation only.

regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 4:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No to the Commercialization of Airfield.

Dear Sir,

I would like to honestly protest the consideration of the Commercialization of Katoomba Airfield .

As a [REDACTED] and supporter of the Vipassana meditation center in Blackheath and as a regular attendee, I sincerely believe any commercialization of the Kstoomba Airfield would seriously jeopardise the excellent work that the Vipassana center offers the community.

Kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:45 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Say NO to airfield

Tell me it's a joke? The airfield is a major part of our fire and rescue crews and should only be used for that reason. I live in what will be the proposed joyflight for tourists flights path. The noise disruption, the invasion of privacy, the havoc to wildlife that I sit and peacefully enjoy. What about our wedgetail Eagles, Are the tourists going to be told to keep an eye out for them? If they don't allow drones to fly over this area why on earth would they allow noisy helicopters to? I say NO to this airfield for joyflight. Kind regards
[REDACTED] resident for 20 years.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 4:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number 602686 Future of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to give my objection to any commercial lease for this public land. I believe that this land should be put into the Blue Mountains National Park and the airfield should be used for emergency use only.

Regards

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:53 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: katoomba airfield 602686

to whom it may concern,
we have lived in the mountains our whole lives and strongly object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. it is our belief that this crown land should be transferred to national park and protected forever. if necessary a working airstrip could be maintained for emergency use only.
we want this area to continue to be enjoyed and preserved for generations to come.
sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 8:49 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

The Blue mountains is a world heritage listed magnificent part of our state ...these terrible noise making helicopters do not belong here...of course we need them in emergency situations..but not for joy flights . This land should be m managed by national parks who will protect it !!!
Please do not let this joy flight entertainment be sanctioned.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au

The proposal is highly destructive of the peace and amenity of this area for both residents and visitors. I won't repeat the many points made by others objecting to this project, they are well-known to you. I urge the government to reject it entirely.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 10:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: NO commercial lease LX602686

please only use the strip for emergencies and dont add more r polution to the Hertigate and natinal parks

thank you

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 2:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Letter of Objection

Hi,

I would like to submit my objection to a commercial lease and that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use only. Providing it to commercial lease will severely impact the communities in and around the region both in terms of their safety and privacy.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 6:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

I strongly object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. And as it is surrounded by World Heritage-listed National Park, the crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever.

However, as it can still be used in an emergency situation, a working dirt strip at the airfield should be maintained.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 8:21 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield ref 602686

This needed for safety reasons, providing tourism and employment for the Blue Mountains.
Fire safety landing strip for helicopters and small aircraft.
Also there is no major landing strip between Bathurst and Sydney Provide a landing strip for small aircraft in an emergency rather than crashing creating fires and pollution.

I who live in Wentworth Falls support the lease.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 10:10 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Petition - LX 602686

I, [REDACTED] am formally writing to you to to ask that you please not lease the Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes. It will disrupt the natural beauty and silence of the surrounding area that is so important for the meditators at the Vipassania centre.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 5:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Council,

I fully support the proposed lease of the Katoomba aerodrome site. The blue mountains can be a difficult area to fly over and there are very few suitable aerodromes which are maintained to a safe standard.

Flying in to Katoomba is an excellent option for those planning to visit the area for a short stay and/or recreational purposes.

I hope the project receives full support from the government.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 11:51 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield ref no 602686

I would like to add my voice and concerns to K.A.C.G.submission in regards to proposed commercial airport at Medlow Bath.
In particular,the use of this piece of Crown Land should not be made available to individual /corporate financial concerns for profit.
This Crown Land should be transferred to the National Park and held there for future generations.
This Crown Land should be maintained and made available to Emergency Personnel only.

Regards [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 8:10 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Anything that gets community from A to B safely and speedily is good.
We retirees love to get around our wonderful State.
It will open up opportunities for the community in general.
Even Uber can be in the mix.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 8:03 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686

Dear Sir

I write to oppose the proposal for a long term lease of Katoomba airfield for aviation tourism. This land is crown land and should be incorporated in the surrounding national park. I object to the proposed use of this public land for commercial purposes. As a member of the RFS, I strongly urge the retention of the existing dirt strip for emergency use, particularly during bushfires.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 3:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I urge you to please reconsider your current plan for the future. There are so many tourists that come to visit the peaceful and the serenity that the blue mountains bring. It would be such a shame to have this kind of disturbance interrupt locals and tourists lives and will definitely impact us gravely.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 8:03 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath Airfield

The Medlow Bath airfield must be kept operational for emergencies, but never used for personal gain. The land belongs to the residents of the Mountains. The helicopter being used for tourism, and to benefit the owners, should not be allowed to fly over our homes. It's excessively noisy and there's enough noise already, from the Highway. And what goes up must come down, not always in the right place.

Helicopters are very useful when there are fires or accidents, but just one accident to a helicopter could cause massive damage if it crashed in one of the valleys.

The Airfield should be gazetted part of the National Park; never be used for commercial gain. There are plenty of ways to enjoy the Mountains without looking down on them. Let's stop messing about and put an end to the misuse of the airport.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 8:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield - LX 602686

G'day,

I am worried about the noise pollution that would be caused by the commercialisation of Katoomba airfield. I urge crown lands to leave the airfield only for emergency use.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

In considering the use of the Crown Land at Medlow Bath airfield I support its transfer to the National Park and use for emergency only. I do not support its for commercial purposes.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 3:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

This is to let you know that I am appalled that commercial helicopter flights will be allowed out of Katoomba Airstrip. I think there is enough of a problem in the future with the new airport without adding to them. I believe the amenity of the Upper Mountains is at risk and I will be extremely disappointed if Council allows this commercialisation to go ahead.

Your Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 2:31 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield proposal

Dear NSW Gov,

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains - [REDACTED] - and am appalled by the thought of a commercial airfield in the World Heritage Region. The activity from this proposed proposal - helicopters and other joy flights will actually destroy the reason people want to go to enjoy the area. The noise and visual pollution and disruption caused by loud helicopters will ruin any experience of the bush and wilderness. It will give pleasure to a few at the expense of the many. Perhaps politicians in Macquarie street don't give a dam about nature but a lot of others do care about it. The few jobs it will create is minuscule to the damage and other job losses.

regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 5:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I highly object to the proposed commercial least and ask that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency use only as was previously agreed given the misuse of the airfield between 1992 and 1995.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 7:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref 602686

I have just rcd a flyer telling me to protest against airfield at katoomba. I wish instead to let the authorities know I actually support this development. Please dont let the noisy idiots stop a potentially beneficial tourist attractor. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 5:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to object to the use of Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes. It is inappropriate given its proximity to built-up areas and location in a world heritage area.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 5:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

Dear Sir,

Re: Katoomba Airfield commercial lease.

In regards to the granting of a lease on Katoomba Air Field for commercial use including helicopters, I suggest that this is an excellent idea.

I suggest that this lease be of long term so that the lessee can have a long term approach to operating a business.

Tourism is a lifeline industry for this area and should be supported in all areas, including this industry.

I urge the department to grant a long term lease for the airport and provide encouragement to the applicant.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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

www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I object to the use of the crown land being used for commercial purposes in regards to katoomba airfield. Especially when this promotes elitist tourism which offers little to the broader community and the mountains social, cultural and environmental longevity. The land should be returned to national Park and protected.

All the very best most sincerest faithful regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 2:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern. I reside in [REDACTED] [REDACTED], a short distance from the Katoomba airfield. I strongly object to the proposal for the commercial development of this facility. The airfield should be incorporated into the national park and be used by National Parks and emergency services only. The Blue Mountains is a unique environmental area that should be preserved without the numerous threats such a development entails. Claims of perceived benefits for the local community are short-sighted. Yours sincerely, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to lodge my objection to the proposed leasing of Katoomba Airfield.

I object to this public land being leased to a company for commercial operations.
This land should be transferred to the Blue Mountains National Park for protection.
A working dirt strip should be maintained for emergency use only, such as in time of bushfire.

regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:17 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX602686

Katoomba needs an airport, not only for emergencies but also, I believe to help our Tourism. Many tourists would appreciate the fact of being able to fly-in when they have limited time, to see our wonderful Blue Mountains. We know that the people wanting to re-open the airport have the best plans for keeping our environment in-tact and we also know that they will not be flying "all the time" as some opponents would like to say.

Please give permission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 9:39 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: submission

I have reviewed the information put forth on the website: <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/on-exhibition/proposed-lease-of-katoomba-airfield>

I [REDACTED], state that i do not consent to the proposal.

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 7:35 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: airspace

Any agreements should not interfere with existing use of airspace by the hangliding and paragliding communities.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 8:38 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Blackheath Airfield LX 602686

No commercial lease ever as proposed at the Blackheath emergency airport.
Incorporate the airfield into tke national park adjacent.

I also register a protest at the use of helicopters directly over our house at 2:30 am, two and a half hour after midnight. These fly to and from the Wolgan Valley resort. They travel at a measure of hundreds of feet. Why, if they are allowed to fly at this time, cannot they be routed over bushland instead of the narrow strip of residential homes along the railway and highway route through the Blue Mountains? Fix it!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 12:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my utter dismay at the proposal to expand the Katoomba Airfield. Joy flights were cancelled in 1995 due to community pressure relating to noise. Regardless of whether there are joy flights or not and regardless of the routes taken, helicopter noise spreads throughout the neighbourhood.

Please take the sensible option and incorporate the airfield into the National Park to give a greater guarantee to the future of our local environment.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 9:54 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield Development

I strongly support the proposed development. The entire area cannot be zoned as no improvements, simply because a few people are always against everything on environmental grounds. The improved airfield will assist in fighting bushfires by providing logistics support for helicopters and in bringing in tourism will help the local economy. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:34 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

As local resident, I'm writing to vote NO to the use of helicopter joy rides in the blue mountains.

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.
4. I'm very concerned about the amount of noise and air pollution this will create for not only locals but to the so many tourists who visit to get away from the city noise/air pollution.
5. Very concerned about how all the noise and air pollution will impact the wildlife and endanger our beautiful birds.
6. I don't agree with someone coming here purely for greedy financial gain with total disregard of the environment.

I hope my vote will count for an outcome of victory to protect our national park.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 5:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Council,

I fully support the proposed lease of the Katoomba aerodrome site. The blue mountains can be a difficult area to fly over and there are very few suitable aerodromes which are maintained to a safe standard.

Flying in to Katoomba is an excellent option for those planning to visit the area for a short stay and/or recreational purposes.

I hope the project receives full support from the government.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 4:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Meditation over Commercialization

Greetings and Namaste. The earth is a wonderful place for all to experience. Let's preserve this pleasure for generations that follow. When the journey of experience begins from within the world is viewed as a part of us. So we can make decisions about the future that can be sustainable and responsible for the next generation. May wisdom guide you towards the best outcome for the airport. Cheers [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 10:05 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi:
We are residents of the upper Blue Mts. We **DO NOT** want the commercial lease to run scenic helicopter flights out of a public-owned airstrip in a World-heritage Area!!! We 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 and tranquility from helicopter noises and pollution. Please help us to protect our unique World-heritage Area, thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 7:35 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba

Would you please balance the needs of local residents with the wider community and keep Katoomba airfield open.

I am not local and I understand that there is lots of local opposition to this airfield. Can we please get some balance here. It doesn't need to be a massive commercial airport but it does need to be there.

If it closes it will remove the only emergency landing site over some very tough country.

Please keep pilots, passengers and locals alive and safe by keeping Katoomba open.

Thanks

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 3:27 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield at Katoomba support

Hello,
I support the airfield at Katoomba being upgraded and operational for the benefit of tourism and safety in times of bushfire and medical emergencies.
Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I fully support Katoomba airfield and FlyBlue Managment Pty Ltd.

I am a fixed Wing and Helicopter pilot.

Over the years I have used Katoomba airfield and we need it for emergency services, Recreational and commercial opps.

There is no other airfield in the vicinity.

I trust Katoomba airfield will be around for many more years as it has in the past.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 7:33 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number 602686

Hello, this email is in dispute of the proposed use of Katoomba Airstrip.
I object to the use of public land for commercial purposes.
This Crown land should be given over to the NPWS for their use to protect the Blue Mountains National Park and surrounding areas in case of emergency.
In my view this airstrip should be solely used for emergency purposes only.
As a local resident of [REDACTED] this proposal directly impact myself and my family along with the entire local community of the upper Blue Mountains.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 2:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Crown land,

No commercial flights over this world heritage area....we are so lucky to have this world heritage peaceful area so close to a major city.....no noisy helicopter flights except for emergencies.....wherever the airstrip is – inside or outside the National Park...For the sake of a few tourists, are we going to wreck it for all the other tourists?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 7:37 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Hi,

I am writing to request that the above lease application be rejected at Katoomba airfield. I believe that this lease will significant noise and air pollution to the blue mountains national park and will seriously jeopardise the world heritage listed status of the park. Introducing large amounts of helicopters will be detrimental to the local tourism economy and will also seriously affect the local residents who live here to enjoy the peace and quiet.

I am sure common sense will prevail and this lease will not be granted.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref.no. 602686

I am writing to oppose the granting of a lease at Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath for the purpose of commercial joy flights for tourists .

Please keep the airfield for emergency use and as part of the national park.

This world heritage area does not need constant plane noise.

An enterprise like this will detract from rather than add to the value of this world heritage area.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

.
.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 11:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX 602686

Hi:
We are residents of the upper Blue Mts. We **DO NOT** want the commercial lease to run scenic helicopter flights out of a public-owned airstrip in a World-heritage Area!!! We 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 and tranquility from helicopter noises and pollution. Please help us to protect our unique World-heritage Area, thank you.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:49 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Regarding the future use of Katoomba Airfield.

I would like to see the airfield at Katoomba become part of the Blue Mountains National Park, and that now commercial use is made of it.

Impacts from tourist flights from the airfield on the surrounding environment are not compatible with the status of the Blue Mountains World Heritage area and declared wilderness.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 4:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no. 602686

Dear department of Industry,

I object to any commercial lease for this public land. (Blue Mountains) This land should be put into the national park.
Please **KEEP** the airfield for emergency use only.
The joy ride helicopters will be destructive and disturbing to the environment and to the community. It is also unnecessary.
We care for and nurture our beautiful environment.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686

To the Department of Industry, Crown Lands:

I am writing in regards to this public land being used for commercial purposes. I object to this. Crown land should be transferred to the national park and be protected.

It also should be noted that this area of the Blue Mountains is inhabited with villages and the people who live here do not want to be subject to on going helicopter noise which is being used for commercial purposes, not emergency services. The air strip at Medlow Bath should have a strip for emergency use only.

Thank you for your attention to this.

From concerned resident

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 10:00 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686

To a Whom it May Concern

I like to object to the Commercialisation Katoomba Airfield.

I have been a meditator since 2003 and I have had enourmous benefits from it, and I agree that subjecting the Centre to such noise will make nearly impossible for new students to get stablished on the practice.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes, it should be transferred to the national park and a dirt strip to be kept for commercial use only. I believe that it is greedy to use the this land for commercial use an would create both sound and physical pollution across the serene and beautiful wold heritage sites of the blue mountains.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 9:36 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference LX602686

Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern!

We strongly oppose the use of the Katoomba airport for joy flights for the following reasons:

Noise & Pollution:

It will effect locals as well as tourist who enjoy the lovely bush walks the National Park has created.

The land should go back to the National Park and the airfield to be used only as an emergency.

yours faithfully [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 10:20 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

I write in regard to plans for Katoomba Airfield

I object strongly to this proposal as it is public land being used for commercial purposes and this land should be transferred to the National Park for ongoing protection

As someone who lives near Katoomba Hospital I am well aware of the noise of helicopters and believe the Medlow Bath airstrip should be kept for emergency aircraft and use only

The World Heritage status of this area needs to be respected

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Opposition to airfield

Dear all

I would really hate to have the peace of the mountains shattered by commercial aircraft.

Please stop this crazy idea.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Regular mountains visitor from Sydney

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 4:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No helicopter noise

I say no to helicopter noise and no commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. Please save and keep the the peaceful of Australian's Blue Mountains and the Vipassana center.

Please keep the beauty and the charm of Katoomba, the calm, the tranquility of this area. The wonderful feeling while watching the mountains, naturally without noise. Only the sounds of the nature and birds. I love Australia for that, because you look after your country and ressources.

Please keep going to take care of the magnificent of your mountains, No helicopter noise !

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownlands.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

[REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] I live in [REDACTED] Blue Mountains and I work in Blackheath. I am a [REDACTED] comes from a war torn country. I moved from central Sydney for the peace and quiet. I love walking in the National Park. I oppose the proposal to run a helicopter joy flights business from the airfield in Medlow Bath because for me, the sound of helicopters will forever remind me of the sounds of war.

Thank you.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to express my objection to any commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield. It is my firm conviction that this airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park. The airfield should be used for emergencies only.

I am deeply concerned about the effect of commercial helicopter flights over the world heritage listed BMNP. I believe that the national park should be protected from such disturbances, both for the well-being of local wildlife, and the so those who wish to enjoy this ancient lanscape may do so, without the air and noise pollution of commercial air traffic.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 7:01 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am a long time resident of the upper Blue Mountains and feel very strongly (as do a great many fellow residents) about the said submission.

Please consider this submission carefully. Most residents of the Blue Mountains are not in favour of living with the air pollution this air field will cause not to mention noise pollution. Further traffic would have to travel on narrow residential roads which are not suitable for extra vehicles.

The Blue Mountains is a wonderful World Heritage area and it would be a travesty to degrade it should this submission go through.

Please, help us protect this sensitive area.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 2:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Use of Katoomba Airfield

Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to voice my objection to the letting of Katoomba Airfield for commercial use as a base for joy flights in the Blue Mountains.

Being crown land in the middle of a aHeritage listed Park, the noise generated would be detrimental to visitors, residents and tourists as well as disruptive to many bird species.

I believe the land should be acquired for the National Park and the airfield retained for emergency use only, managed by National Parks in conjunction with the Rural Fire services.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 3:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Flag Status: Flagged

I wish to indicate my strong objection to the proposal for a commercial operator to run scenic helicopter flights out of the Katoomba Airfield.

I regularly bushwalk in the upper mountains and feel that the noise associated with an operation of this sort is totally incompatible with how a World Heritage area ought to be managed and preserved. There are many opportunities and means for locals and tourists alike to enjoy the outstanding scenic beauty of the area without having to fly within it.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 4:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Reference # 602686

I am writing in regard to the plan to allow Katoomba airfield to used for commercial operations, re joy flights & the like.
The land is crown land, public land and would be far better utilised if it became part of the national park, which it is surrounded by, thus protecting it for future generations.
However, I have no objection for it to continue to be used for emergency helicopters & fire fighting operations as required.
I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.
Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 9:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Reference LX 602686

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my support for the propose reinvigoration of Katoomba Airfield by SkyBlue.

It's important the airfield is not lost, but rather updated, maintained and available for the benefit of all the residences and guests of the mountains.

My family and I have over the years enjoyed the mountains and made many lasting memories.

Also having lived through bushfires and seen the efforts of our emergency services fight to preserve the bush, wildlife and peoples properties, I feel the airfield is a vital resource for the emergency services, which should give everyone comfort.

I hope this proposal will be supported and this important piece of infrastructure restored and maintained.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Hello, just voicing my concerns about the airfield in Katoomba.

- I object to the public land being used for commercial purposes -perhaps the Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it is preserved forever
- maybe we could Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686

To whom it may concern,

I have recently learnt of the potential lease being granted for commercial use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath.

I object to such use of a public space that should quite rightly become National Park lands and be protected forever.

The only use for the airfield should be for emergency services only.

Please consider my request.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 5:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No602686

I object to this valuable piece of Crown Land being given in lease for commercial purposes. It should be utilised for the general public preferably and protected environmentally.
There are too many encroachments into Crown Lands for commercial use and I do not want to see this occurring in our beautiful Blue Mountains environment. it would be disturbing to have the airspace intruded into by any aircraft except if a small strip is kept for emergency use.
Thank you for your attention and taking my concerns into account when making your decision.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 11:42 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I am totally opposed to the leasing of Katoomba Airfield. The helicopters will make a huge noise and disturb the World Heritage National Park which is slowly being whittled away by many commercial initiatives (eg: raising of the Warragamba Dam Wall). We are fortunate to have a World Heritage park on the doorstep of Sydney. It should not be destroyed by noise and traffic.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 11:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: reference number LX 602686

I support the application by FlyBlue for a new lease over the Katoomba (TKAT) under the conditions it proposes.

The continuation of this airport is necessary to provide a safe landing area for aircraft in the vicinity as well as for traffic transiting to and from the Sydney basin to the Western Slopes and Plains. Katoomba TKAT also provides a local staging post for emergency services in the Blue Mountains area that would not be possible if YKAT did not exist.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 3:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref.No.602686.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice my objection to the proposed long term lease of the old airfield at Medlow Bath. As it is completely surrounded by the World Heritage listed national park, I believe that this is a totally inappropriate use of public land. This land should be transferred to the national park and be protected forever. It should be kept as a working dirt airstrip for emergency use only. The long term impact on the park and the amenity of the residents should not be sacrificed for private gain.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 5:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed commercial venture at Katoomba Airfield.

Having lived in Katoomba for nigh on 30 years now, I've witnessed the area change from a quirky village to a bustling town come outer metro suburb. I am fully aware that change is inevitable and that the Mountains' communities will continue to grow as more people discover the advantages of living in such a beautiful environment, something which everyone is entitled to do. However, population growth, together with increased tourist numbers have brought with them traffic congestion, noise, increased construction activity, etc, which have all contributed to a diminishing effect on the much-valued lifestyle we have enjoyed to date. The proposed development is essentially motivated by the almighty dollar and will not really benefit the local community in any long term sense whatsoever.

I see the possibility of a commercial venture of the type proposed being established anywhere in The Mountains, particularly considering that the targeted area is also Crown Land, being totally unacceptable and should be denied without any hesitation – good grief, it won't be that long before we will start to be impacted by the behemoth of Badgery's Creek airport !!! Who wants additional noise and pollution from above when we have enough on the ground as is ?!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 2:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I fully support the proposed plans to improve Katoomba Aerodrome.
It would be great to see another Aerodrome in between Sydney and Bathurst.
Thanks, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:49 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Do not agree

To whom it may concern

As a long term upper Mountains resident I would like to express my dismay at the proposed leasing of Katoomba airfield. Over the past few years air noise levels have risen significantly and this proposal will increase these levels again. In addition Traditional owners should be offered decision making options for this significant place.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 7:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield – LX 602686

Good evening,

I am writing to express my SUPPORT of the proposed lease at Katoomba airfield.

I am appalled at the lies and scaremongering that has been occurring in my town of [REDACTED] from The Conservation Society and other associations formed solely to oppose this venture. I have been yelled at in the streets because I refuse to sign petitions against the airfield, I have watched people blatantly lie and smear the Larsons name. I therefore support flyblue and their proposal as it will improve the quality of the airfield, which is especially important in times of emergency, and I feel it will also increase tourism dollars to the upper mountains.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter proposal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposal to use the Blue Mountains for helicopter tourism.

The beauty of this area is expressed in silence. To have helicopters overhead would destroy this. The many thousands of residents and visitors alike would have their experience of the profundity of this place interrupted by the invasive sound of the helicopter rotor.

I urge you to rethink this very unpopular idea. We agree the Blue Mountains are well worth experiencing and drawing tourism but this is not the way to do it.

Thank-you for considering my expression of concern

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 12:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern,

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. This crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever. Please only keep a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

It is so important that this issue be addressed and the local community voice is understood and listened to. Once this decision is made it cannot be undone, and given the times we are living in, please respect nature and our environment as there is not much left.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is [REDACTED] and we are residents of Artarmon,NSW. We are writing to express our thoughts when we came to know about commercialization of Katoomba Airfield. Apart from diverse wild life and natural flora and fauna, Katoomba also has a meditation centre which provides courses for all people free of cost irrespective of their background. When government is spending millions of dollars for mental health, It is sad to see that you are encouraging commercialization of Katoomba Airfield. This can cause lot of sound pollution and lead to disturbances to the local community and mediators.

We sign this petition and oppose the commercialization. We sincerely request you to reconsider that decision so that the local community and sincere mediators are benefited and can have a positive effect on our country.

--
Thanks&Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 4:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I wish to complain about the idea that a commercial airport could be built in Katoomba.
The world heritage national park is a breath space for huge and growing cities of Sydney and Parramatta. Therefore it needs to remain quiet and tranquil and not have helicopters and small planes disturbing the peace.
This is very important, once given up it can never be regained.
Please give this bit of crown land to the national park

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 9:48 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686 Katoomba Airfield commercial lease

I am opposed to the issue of a commercial licence for use of the Katoomba Airfield.

Any promises made by the operators of a commercial business are only as good as they are kept. Enforcement by authorities, in my experience, cannot be trusted. If the business or lease is sold to another party, what assurance is there that they will be as conscientious in being good neighbours?

I believe that commercial operations on this airfield will create too much noise for local residents, and will pollute the air with fuel emissions. I believe that the airfield should be incorporated within the National Park, to be used for emergency operations only such as bush fires or air-lifting patients to hospital, and the like.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:39 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Hi,

I am writing to request that the above lease application be rejected at Katoomba airfield. I believe that this lease will significant noise and air pollution to the blue mountains national park and will seriously jeopardise the world heritage listed status of the park. Introducing large amounts of helicopters will be detrimental to the local tourism economy and will also seriously affect the local residents who live here to enjoy the peace and quiet.

I am sure common sense will prevail and this lease will not be granted.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 5:21 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello

I've read the background material on this project and would like to say that my view is that the commercial lease should not be supported but I would support the inclusion of the airfield into the National Park for use in emergencies.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 7:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref.602686 Katoomba Airfield

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains (Katoomba) & am dismayed that there is even a discussion about above. The airfield is most necessary in the event of an emergency but more importantly this is CROWN LAND & should be transferred to the Blue Mountains National Park in perpetuity.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 1:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 NO to commercial lease - YES to emergencies

It's not just the noise
but also and excess of VISUAL INTRUSION.
Even if planes were silent they still intrude on private enjoyment of scenery..

Please Please Kind Sirs, Hearken to our plea
to keep blue skies pure and free.

The Eyes of the Soul must have places to rest
free from constant visual pollution,
free from pest.

Thank you for listening, have a great day.
Kindness is All,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

I wish to object to the airfield at Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains being used for commercial purposes namely helicopter flights over the World Heritage Area. This airport has always been used as an A.L.A and therefore should be kept for protection of this World Heritage Area and beyond.I feel that it should be handed over to the National Parks whereby it would be protected as an emergency airport. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] using the Free version of [SPAMfighter](#).
SPAMfighter has removed 15475 of my spam emails to date.

Do you have a [slow PC?](#) Try a free scan!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

I have thoroughly informed myself of all sides of the arguments in regards to this airfield and proposed business plan within it. From this extensive research I deeply feel that the Larsens Flyblue should definitely be allowed to go ahead. They have a very professional outlook which encompasses all areas of consideration to the natural habitat, local industry and residents. All of the local tourism, hospitality and emergency services feel they will benefit greatly from this addition to our infrastructure and safety. It is very important to note that seemingly the only people who are opposed are uneducated, unemployed, ill-informed serial pests to the local area. They are bored with way too much time on their hands and have cruelly launched a very hateful pushy campaign on locals and tourists alike fuelled with lies, self-opinions and maybes. The petition they have garnered should be thrown away as not only have they proven themselves untrustworthy with these lies, but have routinely been so rough with their approach to people that many say they have signed just to get rid of the lunatic shoving it at them, people have also reported they felt threatened if they refused. The persons involved in this pushy hateful display are nothing more than professional protesters who are currently lodging objections to: The Airfield, No 5G in the blue mountains, No raising of the Warragamba dam wall, Veganism, Highway infrastructure and many more. On many levels I feel this is a wonderful project with the right people at the helm who have a passion for their industry as well as the community involved and quite simply my life view has always been those who scream about everything should be listened to about nothing.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 9:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi Team,

My family has grown up in the Blue Mountains for generations, and I would be deeply disappointed if a commercial entity was given any licence to fly commercial flights or scenic tours over the Blue Mountains.

The area is known for tranquility and peace. Commercial flights would impact hotels, residents, bushwalkers and animals. They would threaten the reputation and reality of the mountains as a peaceful wilderness area.

Commercial licensing of this kind has previously failed, between 1992-1995, due to misuse.

My extended family and I strongly object to any further licences of this kind. I request that you incorporate the airfield into the national park for emergency use only.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 8:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To Dept. Crown Lands,

Please don't commercialise the operation of Katoomba Airfield.

I am very concerned about the adverse effects of increased aircraft noise on the peaceful amenity of the Upper Blue Mtns.

I am especially concerned about increased noise and decreased privacy in the vicinity of the Vipassana Meditation Centre at Blackheath.

It is not acceptable that thousands of residents of (and visitors to) this beautiful area should be made to endure such noise for the sake of a privileged few who wish to take helicopter joy flights.

Don't commercialise the airfield and please incorporate it into the existing National Park.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 6:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Letter of objection - LX 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider this my letter of objection to a commercial lease for Katoomba airfield. The Blue Mountains is a listed World Heritage area because of its natural beauty. Attracting tourists from across Australia and overseas. Please don't ruin the peaceful charm of this area with constant helicopter noise and pollution. This is unnecessary and does not add any cultural or natural benefit to the area and to the state of NSW.

I request that the airfield be incorporated into the National Park, for emergency purposes only.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 2:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) - Objection to helicopter flights in the Blue Mounatins

I strongly object to the granting of a licence for helicopter rides over the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains. The noise and the lack of privacy will destroy the peace and tranquility for residents like myself. Surely the entire residential population of the upper mountains are more of a concern than one commercial enterprise.

Tourism in the mountains is expanding without the invasion of helicopters too! Any suggestion that residents can co-exist with helicopter noise is ridiculous, been there, tried that!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Proposed use

Reference No 602686
Proposed use of old air strip at Medlow Bath old airstrip

We have been living in Blackheath [REDACTED] or 21 years. We object to proposals for the granting of a long term lease of the old air strip site for aviation tourism, including commercial helicopter use.

The existing air strip site is surrounded by a National Park. We consider the site should be transferred to that adjoining World Heritage listed National Park, whilst allowing for an airstrip for emergency purposes only.

The noise impacts of commercial helicopter uses are likely to have significant negative noise impacts on existing residential and tourist activities in the vicinity of proposed aviation tourism and commercial helicopter uses.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 11:25 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I don't want any more encouragement of flying small planes or helicopters over the Blue Mountains. They rattle my house badly and deafen us with the noise. We can't hear each other speak, babies crying, music or television or important phone calls. It's happening too often and I don't want the expense of having my home re-stabilised due to others making a large amount of money de-stabilising it, nor can I afford it. If the flight paths don't go over the towns or close to them, most of us would have little or no objection, but mine is a major one as I don't know what greedy profit making companies are likely to do.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 1:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 - NO TO COMMERCIAL OPERATORS

No, we do not need or want a commercial airfield over the "city within a National Park".

At present we are finding light air craft , large airliners, drones, filling the skies at all hours of the day and night.

We need a dedicated airfield for emergencies within this area. Since Blue Mountains City Council SOLD off Blackheath's aerodrome to developers we have no designated emergency drop zone for fire fighting, rescue missions, accident airlifts.

We do not want or need any further tourist endeavours in this area. They come in and use our facilities and go off leaving a mountain of rubbish and cleaning up to be one.

NO COMMERCIAL AERODROME IN MEDLOW BATH - POLLUTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA DO NOT WANT IT EITHER.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 8:22 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airport Katoomba at Medlow Bath

I believe any use of this airporport other than for emergency services and the very occasional use for small private planes would severely impact for the hundreds who seek serenity and walk the local trails [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 8:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Future of Katoomba Airfield: Ref No. 602686

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Ref No. 602686

I wish to express my concerns about the future use of Katoomba Airfield. This important piece of land should be transferred to the National Park and protected for future generations. Forever.

As it is already suitable for the landing of planes/helicopters, there should be some part of it maintained for use as an airfield in case of emergency.

Above all, it should not be used for commercial purposes. Too much of this is happening! It is grossly unfair and will lead to devastation of our environment and amenity.

Yours very sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 7:45 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield use at Medlow Bath.

Both myself and my husband [REDACTED] are very supportive of this venture. Floyd and Derrick of Fly blue are professional and have given the community and neighbour's respect and great information about their vision for the airfield. We support and look forward to the success of their business

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 29 June 2019 12:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

My family and I love the tranquility of the Blue Mountains. There are not many serene special places left on this earth. Please do not destroy yet another one with noise pollution by allowing helicopter joy flights.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Please don't turn this beautiful bushland into a circus for a private helicopter tour operator.

This should be transferred to national parks.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 10:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the public land to be used for commercial purposes. This crown land should be transferred to national park and keep the strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 3:18 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield.

TO WHOM It MAY CONCERN,
NSW PUBLIC LANDS.
June 19 2019.

Until recently, Blue Mountains City Council, NSW Parks & Wildlife & Crown Lands had agreed that the 'Katoomba Airfield' should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park, with on-going use for 'Emergency Services'.

However, instead, the Department of Industry (Lands) is considering granting a commercial lease, over the airfield, which is Public Crown Land.

My question, is HOW & WHY has this 'Consideration to lease'
KATOOMBA AIRFIELD
come about?

The disturbance of the noise level of any helicopter within a National Park area, continues long after the actual machine has passed by. The sound vibration is highly invasive. All living beings are effected by this noise, especially in this geography of escarpment walls, valleys and canyons, which make up the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park area.

I look forward to your response, via email, to my question, before the
Dept. of Industry Session, on Tuesday 25 June 2019, @ Hotel Blue Katoomba.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 11:55 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602685 - commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield

Hi,

I go to silent meditation courses in Blackheath. The tourist helicopter joy flights that will arise from this commercial lease would *severely* impact the functioning of these courses (there are also similar courses held in Medlow Bath) and the amenity of the area. I find it difficult to understand how this proposal has gotten this far as this is a World Heritage listed area. "How's the serenity?" You might as well start holding stock car races up and down the escarpment. This lease was tried before in the '90s and was stopped. Such flights cannot be allowed, please do not grant this lease. You should, in fact, permanently restrict the airfield to emergency traffic only so that this situation doesn't arise again.

thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 1:40 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello,

I am writing a statement of objection to the Katoomba Airfield being used for commercial purposes with the prospect of low aircraft/helicopter flights over the Blue Mountains.

I believe the airfield should be incorporated into the National Park for emergency use only.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 11:34 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield/medlow bath nsw

As a resident of [REDACTED] i am concerned about the number of helicopter flights per day (no information provided on number) the amount of road traffic increase. We live in a quiet village with a bad dirt road to airfield and very thin no kerb roads that are not suitable too increase traffic. I am also concerned about flights over Point Pilcher picnic area a very private,unspoilt area that would be destroyed with continued helicopter flight over area (as on flight plan). I am also a horse owner,with agistment in Shipley, on direct flight path. I fear a major riding accident will result in helicopter flying over paddocks
I would recommend returning the airfield over to an emergency use only airfield.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 5:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Helicopter flights Blue Mountains NSW

Dear Sir,

HELICOPTER FLIGHTS BLUE MOUNTAINS NSW

I wish to register my objections to this proposal because it will add to the destruction of this beautiful world heritage area. This area is a great tourist attraction because of the peace and beauty of the mountains, valleys and natural bush. Tourists look for unspoilt beauty, wild places which speak to the soul and the intrusion of helicopter noise, along with the highway traffic and proposed Badgery's Creek airport will see this area go the same way as the Barrier Reef with the loss of millions in tourist dollars. Let us promote the natural beauty of this unique area by refusing to allow the noise pollution of helicopters of some pristine bushland.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 6:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Objection to private lease of airfield

As a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains National Park, I am disgusted to hear the potential operation for commercial and joy-flights from the Katoomba airbase. It will introduce noise and disruption to an important area of biodiversity and disrupt the thriving eco-tourism potential. The impact on residents and animals alike should be considered paramount and I ask that you DO NOT grant a lease to the private contractor. I for one will be choosing other areas to bring my tourism dollars to should this be the case.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 12:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I 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 airfield for emergency use only

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 7:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Yes to proposed upgrade of Medlow Bath airfield Ref 602686

Hi Crownlands,

I went to Katoomba High and have lived in the Blue Mountains for the [REDACTED].

I'm very much in favour of the proposed upgrade of the Medlow Bath airfield plus the issue of a commercial lease.

Our home was destroyed in the 2013 bushfires. The airfield was a great resource during these fires and others. I believe the proposed improvements will be of great benefit in future disasters, a valuable resource for aviation enthusiasts, plus allow tourist to see our wonderful area, which will be an opportunity for us economically.

I also work in the Blue Mountains and must say that I'm sick of the noisy majority objecting to anything and everything. I do not know of anyone who is against the proposal.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 10:40 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Leasing of Katoomba Airfield

To Whom It May Concern

As long-time residents of the World Heritage Blue Mountains, the peace and tranquility of the Mountains is the main reason we choose to live here and, we believe, is also the reason the Mountains are such a vital tourist destination in NSW.

Although we understand that the proposed lease stipulates that short-cycle/short-duration joy flights into or out of the Katoomba airfield, and circuit training will not be permitted, we strongly believe that any additional use of the airfield, over and beyond its current use, will impact on the environment of the area and have a seriously negative effect on the peaceful activities that make the Mountains a mecca for tourism and a joy for residents.

After attending a community meeting in Katoomba we are also concerned about the impact on birds in the area.

Past experience has shown that although Governments place limits and restrictions on the use of land (eg mines etc) the owner or lessee frequently ignores such restrictions and causes untold damage to the environment. Accordingly **WE STRONGLY OPPOSE** any further development of the airfield, excepting for its use in an emergency.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 8:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686--Katoomba Airfield

As a long-term Blue Mountains resident, I have hoped for the old airfield to be part of the national park, preferably with a dirt landing strip for emergencies. Please make it so!-- [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 4:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: LX602686

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to object in the strongest terms to the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield.

The Blue Mountains is a world heritage listed area, famous the world over. Its peaceful, unspoilt ambience and rugged natural beauty is unique. Helicopter flights are not. Chartered helicopter flights would seriously damage precisely that which draws people to the area in the first place.

Revenue, which is no doubt needed by the state government, should be generated in a less destructive and obtrusive way.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Sent with AquaMail for Android
<https://www.mobisystems.com/aqua-mail>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 4:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Madam/Sir,

I read with foreboding the current plan for the Medlow Bath airport, instead of being for emergency use only, to become a commercial heliport, with a fifty year licence. The prospect of the noise and turbulence of multiple flights daily affecting residents of Medlow Bath and Blackheath and the thousands of tourists who come to these towns and their nearby sights for their quiet beauty is appalling.. I first came to this area of the mountains in the 1960s and walked have walked many miles over the bushwalking trails over the years enjoying the the natural beauty and peace and quiet. I now intend to retire here. The attractiveness of the mountains for the majority residents and tourists can only be diminished by such an unnecessary spoiling of the amenity of the area,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I fully oppose the use of the airfield for commercial purposes. It disastrous to our environment and ludicrous that any level of government would contemplate such action.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 6:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

Hi

I am a local resident and i would like to voice my opposition to the commercial use of the airfield in medlow bath.

My principle thought is of the local wildlife. It is really a place of abundant wildlife. I feel that the vibrations and turbulence from the helicopters would be most upsetting to the birds particularly, but all local wildlife.

It would put more pressure on the local species who already endure temperature extremes, high winds, drought conditions etc.

We need to protect our wildlife as a priority.

We also need to protect the local communities here and their right to live in peace and comfort. People do not move to the blue mountains so that they can listen to helicopters right??

Please return the airfield to nature and emergency services and do not approve the lease.

Thank you for reading my submission.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 1:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I have contacted the Department of Lands many times over the last 14 years regarding the future of Katoomba Airfield. As an inholding, the most appropriate use is for the Airfield to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park for emergency use only.

The community had been aware of positions and statements to in line with such an outcome effect by Council and DLWC a number of years ago. We are heavily invested in issue and I strongly reject the way in which a lease was proposed without any consultation regarding the wider options.

I strong oppose the issuing of a commercial lease.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 12:44 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Lease application to be rejected.

Point out how this proposed helitourism operation would despoil one of the key attractions of the Blue Mountains - its peace and quiet.

Point out the noise can be a safety risk for climbers.

Point out it would undermine the local tourism economy.

Point out it could contribute to the loss of World Heritage status.

Point out the airfield could be managed by National Parks and doesn't need to be commercialised

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 6:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NSW.

1. 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.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 4:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection Ref No 602686

Re: Future Use of Crown Land at Medlow Bath. Ref No. 602686

As residents of [REDACTED] we object to any intended use of this public land for commercial purposes. For many years it has served as an emergency airstrip for light aircraft. It should not be a base for regular commercial flights for tourists because such use will conflict with the purposes of the World Heritage-listed National Park within which it is located.

Yours in good faith, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 7:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Please no aircraft flying anywhere over the blue mountains. It is such a peaceful place which would be ruined by helicopters,!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 8:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

NO TO KATOOMBA AIRFIELD!

I strongly object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. The noise that will disturb our precious National Park with helicopters and joy flights is really unacceptable. This intrusion will destroy the very reason tourists visit our beautiful and peaceful Blue Mountains and why people choose to live here. The storage of large amounts of air fuel at Katoomba Airfield will also pose a serious fire risk within our special pristine wilderness.

This Crown Land should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever! If we don't speak up to protect these sacred resources, it will be spoiled out of greed.

A working dirt strip at the airfield should be kept for emergency use only in times of bush fire or rescue operations.

Very concerned,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 12:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield

The beauty of this should be protected and not not allowed to have it disturbed with helicopters flying in and out disturbing the birds and animals.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 9:22 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

I wish to record my objection to the proposed commercial lease of public land at the Airfield at Katoomba.

After studying the details of this proposal I strongly believe that the land should be made part of the National Park and that the airfield should be used for emergencies only and managed by the NPWS.

I am a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains and do not want to have commercial use of this site for whatever purpose interfering with the beautiful peaceful amenity of the mountains.

Thank you for your consideration of the visiting public of NSW,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 5:25 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686

With regard to the old airfield at Medlow Bath I strongly object to this being handed over for commercial use for helicopter flights. This airfield has always been for emergencies within the Blue Mountains and surrounding areas and I strongly feel it should remain this way. This airfield which is on crown land is completely surrounded by our World Heritage National Park and I feel would benefit by being handed over to the National Park where hopefully it would be protected. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I am using the Free version of [SPAMfighter](#).
SPAMfighter has removed 15401 of my spam emails to date.

Do you have a [slow PC?](#) Try a free scan!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 1:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

No airfield in the Blue Mountains!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Check out our new website](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 12:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield proposal 602686

I need to object to the current proposal to allow commercial flights from this airfield.

This is public land and should remain available for public use and benefit. This benefit should not be compromised by commercial lease for private profit.

To ensure the greatest public use and benefit it should be incorporated into the ue Mountains National Park. This will avoid jeopardizing the quiet enjoyment of the residents and also the visitors who come to the mountains for its quiet amenity and to escape the noisy urban environments.

This airfield is critical for emergencies and should remain for emergency use only.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:58 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 AIRFIELD SUBMISSION

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
I have lived in [REDACTED] for the past 13 years and in the upper Blue Mountains for 35 years. I enjoy the serenity of the area and that is why I came to live in this glorious part of the world. This area has been classified by UNESCO as world heritage and rightly so. Any intrusions by helicopters would impact badly on our quiet enjoyment of this magical place not to mention the disturbance to the migrations of the yellow faced honey eaters
I respectfully request that the application by Fly Blue be denied to preserve the peace and serenity for the Blue Mountains residents, visitors and all the wild life

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 6:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686

I strongly object to granting any commercial lease for Katoomba Airfield, given that this is public land enclosed by World Heritage listed National Park.

The public land in question should be reincorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park, with only a basic airstrip maintained for emergency use.

The prospect Of noisy joy flights in small planes and especially helicopters leaving from within the National Park and spreading out over the Blue Mountains is a revolting one, and would severely detract from, if not ruin, the Blue Mountains for residents and visitors alike. The noise (and local dust nuisance) from helicopters in particular would also adversely affect wildlife in the subject areas. Please do not allow this to happen.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 7:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Please no aircraft flying anywhere over the blue mountains. It is such a peaceful place which would be ruined by helicopters,!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:29 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Ref No 602686

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you concerning the proposed lease of Crown Land at Medlow Bath, occupied by Katoomba Airfield, and hope that my thoughts will be considered during preparation of your report into feedback received.

I do not believe that the proposed lease of the airfield for commercial purposes is in the best interests of our community. Such development of the land would be inappropriate and threaten what is now recognised as World Heritage values. It should not be allowed.

The proposed development of the area would inevitably cause degradation of the surrounding pristine environment through soil erosion and air and noise pollution, with the storage of fuel and other hazardous materials contributing to the risk of fire and chemical leak.

The intrusions of regular low flying aircraft for the pleasure of the few would be disproportionate to the detriment caused to the many who would be affected - millions of visitors to the Blue Mountains as well as neighbouring inhabitants.

The land, lying as it does within a World Heritage listed National Park, would be better incorporated into our Blue Mountains National Park where it could be better managed and protected for the wider good and the gratitude of future generations rather than the long-term damage for the short-term benefit of a few individuals.

Of course the airfield should continue to be used by emergency services such as the RFS

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission: Objection to Katoomba Airfield for commercial use Reference 602686

I object to commercial use of Katoomba Airfield, especially the use of helicopter joy flights. The noise and visual impact would make the pristine world heritage listed national park feel like a war zone. We have a holiday rental property near Scenic World and flights in the area would lead to loss of business and loss of amenity for local residents. Keep the airfield operation for emergency use during bushfires only, an increasing threat with global warming.

--
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 1:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref NO 602686 Medlow Bath airfield

As members of [REDACTED] community we protest that Medlow Bath former airfield is being considered for a public facility. The airfield should only be used in emergencies, particularly fire danger. If the air field is made a public facility the use in emergencies will be hazardous. We have experienced extremely dangerous fires over many years in this area.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 9:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom this may concern

I am writing to express my opposition to a commercial airfield license being granted and commercial flights being operated in the Blue Mountains.

I am a resident of [REDACTED] and I don't support these developments at all. It will destroy the peace and quite of the mountains and it is totally unacceptable to have this sort of activity going on in a WORLD HERITAGE PARK. This is a flagrant disregards for what a World Heritage listing stands for.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686

Hello Department of Crown Industry, Crown Lands

I would like to voice my objection to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. The public has the best interest for this land which is to transfer it to the National Park and protect it forever. To protect it from greed and self interest, it needs to be managed by National Parks who have the expertise and resources to manage this space in the best interest of all stakeholders.

If National Parks can make use of this space as a dirt strip emergency airfield and this is inkeeping with National Parks objectives and environmental scope then this is not objected to.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref LX602686

After having attended one of your information sessions and considering the proposed commercial lease, I wish to object to any commercial use of this land and make the following proposals:

- * That the airfield be used for emergency purposes only, since it is ideally situated on the edge of our National Park for use in fighting bushfires and rescue missions.
- * That it never be used as a base for joy rides, which would benefit a tiny proportion of the people who wish to enjoy the National Park and cause noise pollution for the rest, including residents of the Blue Mountains.
- * That we do not threaten our World Heritage status by creating more pollution from both fuel and noise and further disturbing our wildlife population.

Please take my submission into due consideration.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 9:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686

Hello people from the Katoomba Helicopters project.
I really strongly disagree with the project.
It will absolutely change the atmosphere of the place not just for human beings but for all the fauna living there.
Birds are going to be strongly disturbed.

As a vipassana meditator and user of the Meditation centre in Blackheath I know how many people benefit from this beautiful sanctuary of peace and harmony. The silence of this place makes people take advantage of the healing taken place there and be better beings. This will not be able having helicopters flying around.

Please do not commercialize the beautiful Blue Mountains as a touristic attraction by doing helicopter flights.
Please promote sustainable tourism practices and respect the environment and the peoples of the Blue Mountains.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 3:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Future of Katoomba airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

The possible use of Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes is at odds with the status of the National Park and specifically the designation of the World Heritage Area.

I object to the use of the airfield for a commercial operator to run scenic helicopter flights out of a publicly-owned airstrip in a World Heritage Area which will generate both noise and air pollution to the detriment of the National Park and to residents of the Upper Blue Mountains.

This land should be transferred to the National Park and protected by such status with a working dirt strip at the airfield employed for emergency use only.

To help protect the World Heritage status of the Park, as well as, protect the tourist economy, wild valleys, and escarpments from helicopter noise I ask you to veto this application for commercial usage for helicopter flights.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2019 3:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Hi there

As an extremely concerned local resident I wish to express my displeasure at plans to commence commercial flying activities at the disused Katoomba airfield. Please listen to the voters and tell the relevant minister to get his act together.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 8:52 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir,

I would like to add me and my family's support for the above application regarding FLYBLUE, at Katoomba Airfield.

It is a great asset to the area, and I learned to fly there in the late 1970's, and also have flown in helicopters from there a number of times during bushfire emergencies.

It really needs someone with a long term commitment to keep it well maintained and ensure its availability for emergency services, which are often needed in the rugged terrain that it is located in.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 11:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern,

RE : use of Katoomba Airfield by private helicopter Companies

As a resident of the Blue Mountains, I object to any commercial lease for this public land
This land should be put into the national park.
I am concerned with noise pollution.
Please keep the airfield for emergency use only.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 8:56 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 12:39 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: NO AIRFIELD.

Residents have made enough compromises with the increase of tourism in our town.
WE LIVE HERE.

NO AIRFIELD.
NO AIRFIELD.
NO AIRFIELD.
I hope this is clear.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 12:20 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath Air strip

I object to the use of Medlow Bath air strip, For Commercial Purposes. WE as a community Oppose the noise that helicopters and small planes give out over our beautiful World Heritage- listed National Park., Which might be in doubt if a few bad decisions are made . We need the air strip for emergency use only for now our extended bush fire season. Please let my voice be heard ,The Blue Mountains are changing for the worst, we are not Sydney people come here to get away from it enjoy the peace and quiet. Lets keep it that way!! [REDACTED]
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 9:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Re No 602686

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 9 July 2019 at 8:59:51 pm AEST
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re No 602686

To whom it may concern

I object to the granting of a long term lease to the Katoomba Airfield this is public land and should not be used for commercial purposes.

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

Part of the air strip should be kept as a working airfield for emergency services.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 9:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

Please don't destroy the serenity for any with the noise for a few(unless emergencies) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 11:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

NO to commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield YES to incorporating into the national park for use in emergencies

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

We oppose the airfield to be used as a business in Medlow Bath because of the increase in noise and air pollution across the World Heritage National Park. We do not disagree with a section to be used for emergency aircraft (bushfires etc).

We would like to see the land given to National Parks to ensure it is never built on or used in a corporate environment.

We have already had an increase in aircraft across the mountains particularly at night in recent weeks. It is disruptive and destroys the ambience of this area. Many of us moved here to avoid pollution and noise of Sydney and other cities. Many people living here have mental or physical illnesses and move here for the clean air and quiet.

Thank you
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 3:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference number 602686 No commercial airport at Medlow Bath

Dear Department of Industry representative,

I am completely opposed to the use of this public land for commercial purposes.

This crown land should definitely be transferred to the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park and protected forever.

This existing dirt strip airport should only be used for emergency use in extreme situations.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park is a unique treasure that must be protected against unnecessary commercial overflight.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

--

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 5:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airstrip Ref No 602686

Dear Crownland

I have no concerns with regards to the development of this airfield. It's a vital piece of Blue Mountains Infrastructure which should be used for Fire Fighting, tourism and made available for pilots who need to use it. As someone who has lived in the Blue Mountains his entire life I cannot fathom why there is opposition to this vital piece of infrastructure. All Local Government Area's should have an airstrip - why should the Blue Mountains be any different. It should be sealed for all weather use and made available as soon as practicable.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 9:47 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

Hi,

As a [REDACTED] resident, I must oppose the use of the old airfield for recreational flying. There is already a disturbing number of light planes and helicopters intruding on the serenity of our airspace.

Although I understand how exciting it would be for the joyriders to take in the views from above, I can imagine them flying low, annoying residents and bewildering our abundant bird life.

Please do not allow it to proceed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

My name is [REDACTED]ore and i am also writing on my partners behalf, [REDACTED]. We are 25 and 22 years old and have grown up in the mountains since we were young. We live at [REDACTED] in katoomba. Please dont allow commercial aeroplane access to katoomba airstrip. It is unecessary and we must fight to keep every part of the current national parks as national parks! Its no just the noise and over the top commercialisation, it the problem of allow this through will allow other changes in the mountains through, destroying its beauty and attraction. We already have a lot of the mountains we need to care for as a community. I assume noone was taking into account what the local indigenous people think of this proposal, because their reason is enough to stop this straight away. Stop being greedy.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 5:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference LX602686

NO to the commercial lease!
YES to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

From [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 12:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Hey ,
Please don't destroy the world,
Make the helicopters stay

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 12:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield ref no. 602686

I strongly oppose the airfield being leased for tourism.

This is public land that should not be used for commercial purposes but should be incorporated into the national park and protected.

Our national park is a precious resource and people and wildlife should be able to enjoy the wonderful sounds of the bush, not helicopters.

PLEASE don't lease it for tourism, just keep a working airstrip available for emergency purposes Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 10:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KATOOMBA AIRFIELD ref: # 602686

I object to the increase in noise from flights originating from a commercially operated airfield in Katoomba. The beauty of the World Heritage area and it's ambience would be severely impacted by buzzing aircraft for a select few visitors.

I support the use of the airfield for Emergency Use Only and the land being managed as part of the National Park.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(Personal details not for publication)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 1:06 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

I do not want Katoomba Airfield to be used by a commercial operator to run scenic flights. I live in [REDACTED]. I love living here I do not want the noise or the air pollution that this would make. It is a World Heritage area. It should be part of the surrounding National Park and only used for emergencies. If you care about the Blue Mountains and the people who live here you will say no. Remember we are voters too. [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:38 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed use of Katoomba airfield

This proposal goes against everything the Blue Mtns. Stands for. People come here to escape noise and pollution and even though you say noise will be kept to a minimum why should there be any noise at all. Please leave some parts of this country alone for the sake of future generations and for the animals in the bush.

We don't know how many flights a day will be allowed and also if the number of flights will be permitted to increase later.

What precautions have been made for the water supply

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 12:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref No. 602686

I am writing to declare my opposition to the proposal of granting a long-term lease for private commercialism at the old airfield at Medlow Bath in the World Heritage-listed National Park in the Blue Mountains. I believe that this piece of Crown land should be incorporated in the national park but that a dirt landing strip be in place and regularly maintained for emergency use, so vital during the fire seasons in particular. With the rapid decline of our precious forests and the flora and fauna they support, we need to move positively towards the protection of the area from commercially-inspired activities.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref number 602686

To whom it may concern,

I wish to voice my objection to Katoomba airfield being used for commercial purposes and would like it to be transferred to the national parks and wildlife service for management. I don't think helicopter rides or a commercial airfield is a suitable form of tourism for the region.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 7:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Sir or Madam
Re Proposal regarding Airstrip

My name is [REDACTED]
I feel strongly about the use of the airstrip and how this land should/should not be used.

I feel the land strip should be used as a dirt airstrip for emergency use only. It should be returned to the national park so that it can be protected forever and definitely not used for commercial purposes.

Please give this submission due consideration.

Thanking you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 2:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Lease

As a pilot since [REDACTED] have always regarded the Katoomba Airfield as an important safety valve in the general aviation system. Much light aircraft traffic is from Bankstown to the west of the Blue Mountains and having an emergency airstrip in the midst of some aircraft unfriendly country is prudent and certainly worthy of support. From my understanding of plans for the airfield there is unlikely to be any negative impact on nearby communities.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 4:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter to express that I think it's fantastic that Fly Blue is wanting to improve this runway and develop it into something that will benefit the whole community. It will not only benefit tourism for our town and surrounding areas but will improve the runway that has been unusable for many years. This will make a massive difference for fire fighting and rescue operations.

I'm all for the reopening of the Katoomba Airfield and believe the current leasee's are willing to make it work so that it has little impact on the closely surrounding area and community.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 12:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission, Ref No. 602686, Katoomba Airfield

Submission on the future of Katoomba Airfield.

Ref No. 602686

I object to the use of Katoomba airfield being for commercial flights for the following reasons.

As a former resident and tourism accommodation provider in [REDACTED] I am well aware of the adverse impact that commercial helicopter flights can have. Joy flights for a few can detract from the enjoyment of the environment for many others in the vicinity.

I believe Katoomba airfield is public land and is surrounded by National Park. I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes especially when the intended use will interfere with the enjoyment of park users and local residents.

The airfield should be transferred to the National Park and be retained for use by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and for emergency uses.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 20 July 2019 4:02 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Protect our national park - REF NO: 602686

To the Department of Industry: Crown Lands,

As residents of the Blue Mountains, we appeal to you to do the RIGHT THING about Katoomba Airfield, and not to take actions that will white ant the beauties and peace of our National Park, though the potential disruption of aviation tourism, including the noise of helicopter use..

We strongly object to that land being used for commercial purposes, as this crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever.

We agree to just keep a working dirt airstrip for emergency purposes.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 10:53 AM
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 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, 12 July 2019 5:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern,

We wish to strongly protest about plans to allow commercial helicopter flights over the Blue Mountains area. Our delight in living in the area will be coloured by a constant visual and audible reminder of the commercial and tourist interests these helicopters will cause. There are surely some sacrosanct areas that must NOT be allowed to be spoilt - the beauty of the mountains is to be found largely on foot, not via a birds eye view for groups who feel a helicopter experience gives them any idea of the remoteness and unspoilt nature of the bush below.

We do not support this plan.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 12:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Re LX602686

I wish to register my strong opposition to a commercial lease at Katoomba Airfield and I support the inclusion of the airport into the National Park.

The Airfield should be used only to help fight fires in this World Heritage Area , saving the magnificent Flora ,fauna and of course human life and dwellings.

The cost and responsibility of protecting this W.H Area should rest with the Federal Government.

The idea of joy flights with helicopters and planes must not become reality , it would destroy the quiet enjoyment of the Park and put at risk the overall environment.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:38 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Regarding the Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

I am concerned about the changes to the site. Specially the creation of noise pollution, and ruining the picturesque outlook the Blue Mountains has. The site is very close to the grand canyon track. Any increase in air traffic is going to impact residence, tourists, hikers, climbers, canyoners, horse riders etc for the benefit of a low number of people.

The mountains are often fairly quiet. Having the sound of helicopters etc would take away from what the mountains has to offer. While it might draw in some tourists, ultimately the wider number of visitors would eventually drop as people would no longer have the same magical experiences in the mountains.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 10:03 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: helicopter and all commercial scenic flights

I wish to object to the helicopter flights and to all scenic and other commercial flights over the Crown Lands adjacent to the Blue Mountains, and to such flights over the Blue Mountains, in fact to all scenic and commercial flights over all our national parks and wilderness areas. Noise is pollution. Those below have come to enjoy peace, quiet, beauty, to escape from the noise and hell of urban and city life, not to be bombarded by helicopter or fixed wing engine noise. Similarly, drones should also be banned from such areas.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 3:26 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airport proposal LX 602686

I wish to register my protest against the proposed commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.
The airfield should be incorporated into the national park as an emergency only airfield, not as a commercial venture.

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 4 July 2019 1:52 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom it may concern,

I write in regards to the proposed commercial lease of the Katoomba Airfield.
I strongly oppose the use of the airfield for anything other than emergency use.
My concern is with the extra noise and pollution.
We need to protect our beautiful World Heritage National Park and Save Our Skies!

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 8:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Aviation tourism.

We don't consider it appropriate or relevant to the use of Katoomba airfield. Surrounded, as it is, by the World Heritage -listed National Park, this land is a resource in need of preservation, not inconsiderate "development".

As such we object to this land being used for any commercial purpose.

The only appropriate action is to transfer this land to the national park to ensure it is safe from future thoughtless exploitation by vested interests for short term gain without due consideration to environmental and social impact on the region.

As a safety measure, the existing dirt airstrip should be maintained in its current form.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686

Hello Department of Crown Industry, Crown Lands

I object to the commercial use of Katoomba Airfield. The public has the best interest for this land which is to transfer it to the National Park and protect it forever. To protect it from greed and self interest, it needs to be managed by National Parks who have the expertise and resources to manage this space in the best interest of all stakeholders.

National Parks can make use of this space as a dirt strip emergency airfield and if this is inkeeping with National Parks objectives and environmental scope then this will not be objected to.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 9:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Proposal ref LX 602686

Hello,

I'm writing to say that I am in favour of the commercial lease proposal for Katoomba Airfield as I feel that it is the only way of making sure that the airfield is maintained in a fit state for use as an emergency base for water bombing helicopters in bushfire operations as well as providing a safe landing site for light aircraft in emergencies.

My opinion is that if responsibility for maintenance is left to NPWS(or any other government department for that matter) that the airfield will fall into disrepair due to lack of funding.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 1:07 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear NSW Govt., I am writing to ask you to decide and rule AGAINST the granting of a long-term or short-term lease of the crown land of Katoomba Airport for any kind of commercial purpose, including aviation tourism, now or at any time in the future. I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. This would be the thin end of a very large wedge. I have no objection to a working dirt strip being maintained at the airfield for emergency use only. Yours faithfully, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Resident and Voter.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 11:05 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to proposal for Katoomba Airfield.

Reference LX 602686

I attended the Community Consultation at Katoomba on Wednesday morning on 19 June 2019.

Please register my strong objection to the proposal to allow a commercial operator to lease the airfield for commercial purposes. I support using the airfield for emergency purposes only (fire fighting, ambulance, police etc).

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 5:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686

Please no joy flights/ helicopters over our beautiful blue mountains unless for emergency - this will degrade into many commercial ventures/ noise pollution/noise/ incidents etc

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 11:55 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 objection

To whom it may concern,

I object to the commercialisation of the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield.

The Blue Mountains are a world heritage listed area known around the world. It's visited because of it's beauty and the feeling of nature, quiet and being 'unplugging'. Chartered helicopter flights would seriously damage this experience.

I respect that the state government it seeking to capitalise on Blue Mountains tourism, it being a source of revenue for the state. However this development is unlikely to generate enough revenue to offset the damage, it's a bad investment.

Friendly regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 6:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Love blue mountains

Hi.
I'm tourist from Japan. I love blue mountains.!
This quiet place is very important.
Owl's ring, feet sound walking on the falling leaves, sounds falling in water droplets, sounds in all silence are Blue Mountain treasure.
Please turn on the sound of airfield only for emergency.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 7:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Airfield Submissions,

Supporting our tourism industry is really important and this means we need to fiercely protect our World Heritage areas before we ruin them.

Allowing commercial helicopter flights in and around the greater Blue Mountains National Parks would be an absolute shame.

Please don't allow this.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 10:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi my name is [REDACTED] and I would like to *Say NO to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield, and YES to putting it back into the surrounding national park, to be managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for emergency use only.*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 June 2019 8:09 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: To whom it may concern. In relation to ref 602686 i as a new raas pilot think that the lease proposal for the katoomba airstrip is a fantastic idea and should be approved. Kind regards [REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:09 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref.LX 602686

I agree that this airfield would be a great asset to the area for both emergencies, and tourism , which the Blue Mountains rely on.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 5:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in regard to the future of Katoomba Airfield.

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes, it should be transferred to the national park and protected forever.

Please keep a working strip at the airfield for emergency use only.

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

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 7:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to a commercial lease being established for the Katoomba Airport.

I am concerned that an increase of flights within the Blue Mountains area could adversely effect the local area economically, socially and environmentally.

The airfield in my opinion needs to be incorporated into the National Park and be reserved solely for use only in emergency situations.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 8:18 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern,

We object to this public land being used for commercial purposes. I put it you that we have no use for an outdated airstrip in the Blue Mountains and the land should be transferred entirely to the national park indefinitely.

yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 11:44 AM
To: 'airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: ref: 602686

Hello,
Please consider
Protect our National Park.. Public land is not for commercial ventures.. Shame on anyone thinking about making a dollar from tourists over the
Health and happiness and the people who live there..
No noise in the blue mountains..
I will vote against this in all ways..

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 1:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686 Katoomba airfield

Hello

I am writing to put forward my concerns about the use of public land at medlow bath. Since moving to Katoomba I am amazed at the amount of tourism that the area attracts, for this reason I feel the introduction of helicopter use in the area would greatly detract from the peace and beauty that people come to see. I therefore object to public land being used for commercial us and would encourage government to transfer the land in question to national park. I do agree the introduction of a strip of airfield for emergence use would be advantageous to the area.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 9:26 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref: LX602686

To it may concern,

in reference to LX602686 my husband [REDACTED] and I do not support a commercial operator to run scenic helicopter flights in and out of the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Tourism has increased enough as it is an area that needs to stay natural and pristine. We come for the quiet not the noisy.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 9:40 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

I want to say NO to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield please register my objection. I did not move to Medlow Bath for noise and disruption. Who will stay in the mountains if this goes ahead, it is disgraceful. Protect our bushland from noise. Protect our wild animals from noise. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Please register I say NO.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 2:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Hello Submissions Officer

I want to record my support for this application.

I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] From our house we can hear and see aircraft using this airfield. I have no objections whatsoever with this proposal. This area has low helicopter flyovers at all times of night and day as helicopters access the BMDAM Hospital in Katoomba which are not a problem.

This is an excellent use for this airfield. Also an excellent alternative for tourists in the upper Blue Mountains. Totally support the project.

Can I suggest you approve the proposal on say an 18 month trial?

Kind Regards

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 12:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

****Please ignore my previous submission - a draft, which was recently SENT - rather than being saved to edit!!****

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern that the old airfield at Medlow Bath will possibly become at an airfield for aviation tourism in the Blue Mountains.

I strongly object to the use of this piece of Crown Land for such a purpose.

This land is surrounded by our Blue Mountains National Park, a World Heritage listed site. It's existence, with accompanying noise, pollution and air disturbance, compromises the National Park and its values.

I strongly feel that the best use of the land is to provide an airstrip for emergency use only and that the land should be transferred to the National Park and so be protected forever.

In the forty years that I have lived in the Blue Mountains, I note that The Blue Mountains National Park has been under threat on a continual basis, with its supporters and local residents fighting one battle after another to ensure its integrity is not compromised. The proposed airfield would significantly threaten the integrity of the park, and its existence would disturb both residents and visitors, benefitting only the very few. It is not an proposal to enhance the park but to detract from its tranquility, beauty and wilderness qualities.

I am asking that the proposed development of the airfield at Medlow Bath not go ahead.

Thank you for your attention to this email.

Yours faithfully,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 8:41 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Good morning.

I write to you to express my opposition to the proposed long term commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield.

I have lived in [REDACTED] for 5 years and enjoyed the peaceful beauty of the area for many more. The allure of our treasured world heritage parks is the abundance of wildlife and relative quiet which supports it. I believe that a long term commercial arrangement will pose a threat to this, and will no doubt represent a gradual encroachment upon it. It is our responsibility and duty to protect the area for the enjoyment of future generations rather than private material gains.

Kind regards.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: FW: Katoomba Airfield Submission - Ref No 602686

I am writing to object to the proposal of granting a long term lease for the airfield at Medlow Bath which is surrounded by World Heritage National Park.

I object to this site again being used or upgraded for commercial purposes because of the return of noisy helicopter joy rides and the increase of light plane activity over us and the National Park.

This proposal profoundly affects those below either enjoying a feeling while bushwalking of being in the wilderness and those who have chosen to live such an idyllic mountain life away from the stresses of modern city and suburban living.

I am in favour of adding this Crown Land to the Blue Mountains National Park and used only for emergency reasons.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 June 2019 4:14 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom it may Concern,

Please consider this email as my considered request to say 'No' to a commercial lease and 'YES' to incorporating the land to national park for emergency use.

Many thanks from a concerned resident of the Blue Mountains,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 11:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to register my horror at the news that Katoomba Airfield is to be used for scenic helicopter flights out of a publicly-owned airstrip in a World Heritage Area.

Towns, the tourist economy, wild valleys and escarpments must be protected from helicopter noise and air pollution.

Katoomba Airfield must be kept as an emergency facility only that is incorporated into the surrounding national Park.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 1:35 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed commercial leasing of Katoomba airfield.

This should not be allowed to happen.

The Blue Mountains as everyone in government is well aware is a World Heritage area.

It needs to be cared for and protected . By allowing helicopter flights over this area and letting them land in wilderness areas is certainly not looking after the land.

Noise pollution, air pollution and the destruction of flora and fauna will be the result.

Not to mention the effect the noise and air pollution will have on the thousands of people who live in the mountains and who live here because of the serenity and beautiful unspoilt surroundings.

Why should a crass commercial venture that may reward a few but harm a great many people and the environment be allowed?

Is this type of tourism necessary? No it is not.

If people want to see the Blue Mountains they can come up by train and hike in on the many walking tracks available.

A very definite No the commercial leasing of Katoomba airfield and

Yes to incorporating the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 5:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern

I grew up in [REDACTED] and frequently visit the Blue Mountains to see my family who continue to live in [REDACTED].

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

In my view, it is important that we protect the beautiful habitat that the blue mountains has to offer, including the unique serenity of the area. An airport would significantly impact the serenity of the area and I strongly advocate against the approval of its construction.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 23 June 2019 2:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To whom it concerns,

I like to formally lodge my objections to the commercialisation of the Katiomba Airfield Usage.

I say No to the commercial lease of the airfield

And

YES to incorporating the airfield into the National Park for use in emergencies only.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 5:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

Dear Sir / Madam

I wish to vote NO to a commercial lease for Katoomba airfield.
I wish to say YES to the incorporation of the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.
Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 12:27 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield to be part of National Park

To whom it may concern

As a regular visitor to the Blue Mountains for the peace and tranquility it offers I would like to submit a petition that it become Part of National Park as was supposed to happen some time ago.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 5:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. No 602686 Katoomba Airfield Proposal

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir,

I am writing to raise my objection to the possibility of a lease being granted for commercial use of Katoomba airfield. I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes, and I am concerned about the noise & effects of pollution for nearby residents and those enjoying the serenity of the national park. I am a regular bushwalker and the sounds of bellbirds, whipbirds and waterfalls are a huge part of the appeal, sightseeing aircraft noise is not. These crown lands should be transferred to the national park to ensure ongoing protection of this special area. I have no objection to a working strip being maintained for emergency rescue or firefighting use only.

Yours sincerely,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 12:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to strongly object the use of public land for commercial purposes.

In a world heritage area as the Blue Mountains are this land should be transferred to the national Parks, and have full protection.

The land should continue to be used only in emergency situations.

We are currently faced with increased noise from the proposed Western Sydney Airport, so adding to this with this proposal for Katoomba Airfield will make living in the World Heritage Beautiful Blue Mountains a nightmare that we do not need.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 June 2019 12:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: HELICOPTER JOY FLIGHT PROPOSAL BLUE MOUNTAINS

as a permanent resident of the upper blue area i would like to express my opposition to the proposed development of a helicopter joy flight service in the medlowbath suburb ..
i cannot see any real substantial benefit to the community by having this operation ..any boost to tourism will be offset by the impact to the environment and irregular noise levels to local residentsthe frequency of flights and flight paths have not been researched adequately and communicated to the local population ..the proposal of this kind is NOT acceptable in a declared heritage area ..i object as a resident a proposal of this kind to my community ..
your sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 4:43 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield no

I have lived in katomba all my life and I can tell you the roads and highways get to blocked up on school holidays and good luck getting trough Blackheath on any day that unless major road upgrades are done you would be better off running then trying to get to the airport on a bussy day and also please think of the hotels and hospitality that will be affected why would you want to travel hours or day to sleep under helicopters imagen trying to go on a nice bushwalk while jets are taking off if you want to kill local business and tourism then the airports the best way thank you for giving us the opportunity to have an oppion and have a nice day kind regards - [REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 5:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airport in Blue Mountains

Good Afternoon

I'm writing to voice my strong objection the commercial use of a new airfield in the Blue Mountains, NSW. This will destroy the peace of this beautiful area and will affect it's appeal as a place to get away from it all. This in turn will impact the local economy. Surely it's not going to be built in National Park land?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:37 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The Future of Katoomba Airfield - Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to grant a long term lease allowing the use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath as a commercial aviation business.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I object to the use of crown land for commercial purposes which would impact on the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park - constant helicopter noise would be detrimental to the National Park and residents in the upper mountains.

I urge the government to convert this crown land to national park to protect the site and to only use the airfield in emergency situations such as bush fires.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 12:44 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

1. Public land should not be used for commercial purposes.
1. This crown land should be protected forever as part of the national park.
3. A working airfield air strip shop be kept for emergency use only.

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:35 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - The Future of Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to grant a long term lease allowing the use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath as a commercial aviation business.

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I object to the use of crown land for commercial purposes which would impact on the World Heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park - constant helicopter noise would be detrimental to the National Park and residents in the upper mountains.

I urge the government to convert this crown land to national park to protect the site and to only use the airfield in emergency situations such as bush fires.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 12:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX602686

Hello there,

We are residents of the Upper Blue Mountains with young children and grand children. It is most disturbing to hear the possibility of running scenic helicopter flights on a commercial lease in a World heritage area in Katoomba.

We **DO NOT** want this to happen. We only want the Katoomba Airfield to be incorporated into the National park for use in **EMERGENCIES ONLY**.

We **MUST** try to protect our environment, our economy, our fresh air, our next generations' well being and tranquillity from frequent helicopter noises and pollution.

PLEASE help us to protect our renowned and unique Australian heritage area, for the many generations to come.

Thank you.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield reference no 602686

Katoomba Airfield reference no 602686

One of the most enjoyable things about sightseeing in and around the Grose Valley is the silence. I take many visitors that have come up from Sydney on walks around the lookouts that surround the Grose valley and bushwalking in areas near Fortress ridge to the north and on every occasion they comment on how quite it is, the silence is a large part of their enjoyment. They come from an environment where they are being constantly bombarded with noise from traffic and the people who live nearby. Please don't take this pleasure away from the many just to benefit the few. Do not allow joy flights from Katoomba airfield.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 11:28 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Support proposal

The leasing proposal for Katoomba airfield is well worth supporting as it can also have extra usage by the NSW RFS for a fire fighting point of access on an as required basis.

regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 1:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686) Katoomba airfield

I am writing to object to the granting of a long term lease to a commercial aviation company. I have several concerns, major ones being that the airfield is situated within the Blue Mountains National Park and a commercial lease would be detrimental to the wildlife and sanctity of the park, a threat to World Heritage status, a threat to tourism and a threat to the serenity I enjoy as a resident of Medlow Bath.

The crown land comprising the airstrip should be transferred to National Parks and a working dirt strip maintained for emergency use.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 4:05 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 and recreation activity.

It is located in the Blue Mountains which is 1 of only 12 World Heritage sites in Australia and it would be completely irresponsible for the natural flora and fauna to be affected over profit gains.

The land should be used solely for the emergency rescue and fire services that visitors and residents need for protection of life and property.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 8:45 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Ref LX 602686

To whom it may concern.

Dear Sir / Madam.

I write in full support of the Katoomba Airfield continuing its invaluable service to the blue Mountains Community.

I am saddened by the obvious objection held by some of the residents of Medlow Bath, whom I suspect are very new to the Blue Mountains and who do not understand the importance of such an important facility, in time of Bush Fire and aviation emergencies.

It smacks of 'nimbyism' at it's best!

The plans which Derek has for the Airfield can only be applauded as developing a tourist facility to benefit the residents of the Blue Mountains for many years to come.

In short 'bring it on'!

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 July 2019 10:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Permission

To Whom it May Concern.

It is my understanding that Derek and Floyd Larsen is still seeking public appreciation for their undertaking the lease at Katoomba Airfield and I would like to provide my support for them and can see only good things to come out of their successful tender. The reference number that relates to their submission I believe to be LX602686, and I wish them well in their endeavours, afyter hearing them speak at our Blackheath Rotary club meeting last night. It's only a shame that their request for a 99 year lease was reduced to 50 years, whereas they would love to have the lease there for the longer duration.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED];

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 2:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: The future of Katoomba Airfield. Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my objection to the use of Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes. I am particularly concerned at the prospect that it will be used for aviation tourism, including helicopter use.

I am a resident of [REDACTED] and know from first-hand experience how noisy and intrusive helicopters are when they are buzzing above our house. We live here so as to enjoy the bush, the birdlife and the peace and quiet. I am appalled at the prospect of regular scenic joy flights buzzing above us at weekends and during holiday periods. I know my concerns about the noise and intrusiveness of helicopter flights are shared by other residents.

Katoomba Airfield is on Crown Land that is completely surrounded by World Heritage-listed national park, which should be conserved as pristine wilderness, undisturbed by any development, let alone by regular noisy joy flights. I believe this Crown Land should be transferred to the national park and protected in perpetuity.

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

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 12:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Future of Katoomba Airfield Ref No 602686

To Dept of Industry (Crown Lands)

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I am most concerned at the possibility of you granting an long term lease to allow the the old airfield at Medlow Bath be used for commercial aviation tourism purposes, including helicopter use.

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes and believe the working dirt airstrip should be kept as is for emergency use only. This piece of crown land should be transferred to the National Park and be protected.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern

We are writing to express our concerns on the future of the Katoomba Airfield.

We feel strongly that this crown land should be transferred to the national park and be protected and enjoyed by the public. A working dirt strip at the airfield is to be kept for emergency use only.

This public land should not be used for commercial purposes, especially not where additional noise pollution may be generated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 3:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield

Hello my names [REDACTED]
I'm a Vipassana student from [REDACTED], I heard that your thinking of putting up an airspace around the blue mountains, please don't do this! It will make holding Vipassana courses extremely difficult to run, disturbing the careful peace there required to help heal people.

Thanks for reading this msg
Lots of love

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:26 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number LX602686 Katoomba Airfield proposed lease

Dear Mr Maloney

I object to the proposal to grant a 50 year lease for commercial operation and development of an airfield at Katoomba over Lot 550 DP 751627. The use of the site as an airfield is incompatible with the surrounding land uses and would adversely impact the adjacent Grose Wilderness Area.

I consider that this land should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park after structures have been removed, any contamination addressed and initial phases of site restoration are completed.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 1:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - NO to the airfield as a commercial lease

Hi there

My name is [REDACTED], I'm a Blue Mountains resident and homeowner, and an Australian Tax Payer.

I would like to say NO to the commercial lease and YES to incorporate the airfield into the national park for use in emergencies.

It really isn't okay to allow for a commercial operator to run scenic helicopter flights out of a publicly owned airstrip in a world heritage area.

Stop trying to destroy the mountains for a quick buck!

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 2:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To Crown lands NSW

I would like to put forward this submission on the lease and use of Katoomba Airfield.

Katoomba is in the middle of one of the most dangerous Bushfire zones in the World. As a [REDACTED] year veteran fire fighter [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] i understand more

than most people what a fire can do. For the survival of the Blue Mt and it residents it is essential that a major emergency aviation base be located in the Katoomba area. It is a matter of WHEN we get a major fire in this area not IF. To even consider closing a Airfield at Katoomba that has been there for over 50 years is ridicules . There should be a Airport at Katoomba and the existing Airfield is in a perfect location. This will not only provide a huge amount of safety and security for emergency services and the public but will provide lots of needed jobs – support the tourism industry and bring much needed skills to the area.I could go on and on about the benefits this will provide the community, yet i can not come up with one single sensible realistic reason why this should not be a Airport.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Saying No to the helicopter noise.

Hi

We choose to live in the Blue Mountains 12 years ago because of its peaceful enviroment.

The Blue Mountains are peaceful and serene. Helicopter noise is disturbing and out of character for the peace and tranquility that enhances the beautiful scenery.

Its a critical decision which will change the destiny of this region forever so we are urging you to take actions against the commercialization of Katoomba airfield.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

--

Sent from Mail.ru app for Android

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 5:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Hi

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I would like express my concerns about the proposed use of Katoomba Airfield by commercial operators. The area is surrounded by National Park, there are local bush walks in the area as well as some beautiful lookouts close by to the airfield. Helicopter noise is a major issue in the Blue Mountains and I have experienced this personally from my property [REDACTED], where a private operator was using a helicopter in the area about 5 years ago, which was quickly put a stop to. The noise is deafening when nearby and is not fair to the local residents and visitors in the area who come for peace and quiet. This area should be protected and transferred to National Parks and the airstrip should only be used for emergencies. Please preserve our local bushland and wildlife!

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 12:54 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Put it back in the national park!

I am a great fan of Katoomba and frequently visit the Blue Mountains. How disappointing it is then to hear that the Katoomba Airport is to be provided for increased and noisy flights. Surely it makes better sense to take the opportunity to incorporate the land into the national park in the midst of which it sits, rather than ramp up its usage. People don't go to the blue mountains to listen to helicopters. Very shortsighted to kill the goose that lays the golden egg for short term benefit. At least, have a public inquiry if there's nothing to hide and government wants the best outcome.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 8:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it should concern,

Please please please, no helicopters in our National Park unless it's for emergencies!

Public land should not be used for commercial purposes allowing an exclusive few to gain where everyone else loses out.

Helicopters are noisy and obtrusive, impacting everyone within many kilometres. Their presence kills the peace and quiet associated with our beautiful mountains home. Bad for locals, bad for visitors too.

The Blue Mountains is a World Heritage Area, not a landing strip for rich people and greedy operators.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 6 July 2019 9:22 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

To: Those Considering the Commercial Lease of Katoomba Airfield,

As this airfield is in the middle of a **World Heritage National Park**, where residents, visitors (worldwide) and importantly the wildlife (it IS surrounded by National Park) seek to live in peaceful and relative quiet.

Some years ago, while bushwalking in the nearby Grand Canyon, helicopters were taking off from this airstrip and the noise reverberated off the walls of the canyon itself, then repeated with the takeoffs, flights and landings over again. The noise pollution was severe and completely unacceptable for the purposes of a National Park.

On a more recent walk there (without circling helicopters or possible joy flights) my partner and I were fortunate indeed and saw a Spotted Quoll in the dim light of the canyon.

Yes, maintain the airstrip for emergencies but as residents who love to walk in the Upper Blue Mountains and speaking with my family and friends who live nearby, we ask that commercial activity be ruled out completely. Our Community is saying a definite NO.

There is absolutely nothing of significance to gain from this venture and everything of significance and value to lose.

Thank you for your time with this important matter,
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 11:53 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: NO to commercial use ref LX602686

> Hi,
>
> I would like to say NO to the use of crown land for commercial use!!!
>
> Ref # LX 602686
>
> The airstrip should only ever be used for emergencies!!!
>
> Regards,
> [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear sir, madam ,

I wish to protest the use of this airfield for commercial use.

There have already been a substantial increase in the number of helicopter flights in this wilderness area and over the local VILLAGES since the present owners were given the lease.

Helicopters are VERY noisy.

I am very concerned about the impact this has had and will continue to have on the national park and the existing tourism which relies on the "on the ground" peace & beauty.

I expect that this disruption to the environment & local tourist industry will only become worse. All this so that a very few people can make lots of money at the expense of other people's livelihoods and the environment.

The land should be given to the surrounding national park & the area maintained as it is for emergency airlifted & fire fighting (as it has in the past).

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 10:01 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 proposal for katoomba airfield

Hello,

I'm writing to object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield.
The crown land incorporating and surrounding the airfield should be joined into the national park which is already under overuse pressures.
Why does public land come under increasing commercialisation pressures? When do we recognise that once we increase public land being turned over to commercial interests the heritage, environmental and broader public interest is lost forever.
The airfield is and was intended for emergency use and this should continue.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 11:56 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

Hello Department of Crown Land,

Please do not allow the proposed lease application for Katoomba Airfield to proceed. I believe instead it should be included in the surrounding National Park and given the National Parks and Wildlife Services to be maintained for emergency services only.

The pollutants such as airborne chemicals emitted from helicopters is damaging to the environment. It will not benefit the World Heritage Areas they fly over even worse the main activities of taking off and landing are going to occur within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in copious volumes. The flight paths presented clearly establish they go over local water supplies and the emission of hydrocarbons from helicopters will undoubtedly fall into these water supplies. In case the department is unaware the emitted hydrocarbons are kerosene based.

Noise pollution affects animals and humans alike. There is an abundance of flora and fauna located within a 5km radius noted as critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable on both the EPBC Act of 1999 and The NSW Threatened Species Conservation ACT of 1995. It is disconcerting to me that the department would even consider negotiating this lease application without first conducting a thorough environmental impact study that is then made available for the public to share. It is also of concern that we are expected to comment without this information.

There is also an RSPCA located within 1.5km of the airfield and a flight path that goes right overhead. These animals are already stressed and have not had to endure the continual bombardment of noise 12 hours or more a day.

Also do not forget the businesses that have established themselves in the surrounds of the Katoomba Airfield based on historic use. Meditations Centres, Health Centres, patients suffering from PTSD. Noise will impact all the people as well as the residents who will have to endure the continual overflights. Residents who live for hundreds of kilometres, many whom may not even be aware this air traffic is coming due to the limited scope of the community engagement.

Visual pollution is also a concern. This extends to both tourists and residents. Surely this visual pollution from a tourist's perspective reads like a bad comic book strip. Gone would be the days of clear blue skies and pristine outlooks unmarred by helicopters. In stating the villages will not be flown over there is pretty much only one place to go, the wilderness. I say this fits right into their plan, this is exactly the prime views they want to sell to their potential clients.

Saying there will be no joy flights is a moot point when the department has not defined what a joy flight is or how they would manage wilderness overflights, it just is not possible.

In the end the residents will also pay the price. Any reduction in tourism will have a significant impact on the local economy and risks turning the Blue Mountains into a ghost town, especially if we lose our World Heritage status currently under review.

As visual and noise pollution are a real issue to tourism why has the department even considered negotiating or engaging the community prior to a thorough economic impact analysis made available to the world for review and comment.

I am reminded of my mother who said for every person who writes one letter they are speaking for 20 others who may not have the capacity to do so themselves. This includes the flora and fauna who do not have a voice unless we speak for them and do the right thing putting money and gluttony aside.

All this is unnecessary. this foolishness of having a commercial airfield operating from within a World Heritage Area is utter nonsense. I emphatically request that the department incorporate this land in the surround national park let it be managed by National Parks and Wildlife. They better than Crown Land understand the needs of this special place. The need of this location for emergency services is very basic and it is not in the public interest for it to be commercialised.

Thank for your time and consideration, please feel free to publish this letter but **do not publish my name or address.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 5:34 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No: 602686

I am a resident of [REDACTED]. I am writing to strongly urge that the long history of agreement from BMCC, NSW National Parks and Wildlife and Crown Lands that the Katoomba Airfield be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park and continue to be used for emergency purpose only.

I believe it is vitally important that there be no commercial lease given to a commercial operator to run scenic helicopter flights out of a publicly owned airstrip in a World Heritage area.

It is too easy today to label anyone who challenges 'commercial progress', as being outdated, scaremongers, elitist etc. I'm a realist. I read widely on current issues. I live and work in the Blue Mountains area. My life work has been about improving the lives of people I work with. Unfortunately we live in times where the work and research of respected experts is not heeded when up against the prospect of commercial gains, however short lived and short sighted. I say unfortunately because if we do not take the time now to reflect on the future consequences of allowing a commercial enterprise to operate out of and over a World Heritage area, it will be too late once it has happened and the impact of that decision will be counted in the loss of wildlife, damage to flora and fauna, increased noise and air pollution. The problem is, we are becoming used to this loss.

When I was a child, my parents were persuaded to buy a set of encyclopaedias from a door to door salesman, to foster their children's education. I pored over the books and was particularly drawn to the sepia photographs of wilderness and forest areas around the world. I looked in wonder at photos and stories of the vast areas of the Amazon. It was spectacular. Those photos are spectacular now because in my lifetime the forest, habitat and lives of indigenous people around the world have been reduced to a fringe. The sounds of the forest now are more likely to be the drones of mechanical logging machines.

I urge the Dept of Industry to consider deeply, when looking back on this decision, in ten, twenty years, what will be the impact on the World Heritage Area, in terms of our town, tourist economy, wild valley and escarpment areas?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: 602686 Proposed commercial airfield at Medlow Bath

Dear Sir/Madam

We object to the proposed tourist airfield at Medlow Bath. Our objection is based on the unacceptable influx of tourists that this airfield will bring to the upper mountains. We have already experienced the negative effects of too many tourists in Leura. There has been no thought whatsoever about the impact on residents (and ratepayers) in the village.

We feel that the same will happen in Medlow Bath and the airfield's impact on noise in the surrounding areas. This is Crown Land and should be transferred to the National Park for ever.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 12:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

This public land should not be used for commercial purposes. Tourist helicopters operating out of this area will detrimentally affect the economy of the local area, its reputation as a tranquil escape for hikers, climbers and general tourists and negatively impact over 3000 species of native wildlife living within 5km of the airstrip.

This crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that it can be preserved forever. Tours operating out of this area will decrease the reputation of the mountains area as a 'wilderness experience' and clearly result in fewer tourist visits, logically leading to less money moving through the local economy. Not to mention the potential damage to the rare hanging swamp habitat and the impact on the Blue Mountains Wildlife and it's World Heritage Value.

This should be kept as a working dirt strip for emergency use only. Why has public land been licensed to a private operator to be used for profit instead of for the benefit of the community? Is the vision so short sighted that generating profit in the short term for a small amount of interests is more important than the long term preservation of the community and environment as a whole?

Thank you for your time,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 29 June 2019 3:33 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Community Engagement - Katoomba Airfield

[REDACTED]

Just a further thought on the Katoomba airfield:

Personally, I love the sound of getting up above the mountains and valleys in a helicopter or light plane. For myself and a select few who could fit in, it would be a wonderful experience.

But ... the enjoyment of a few should not override that of entire communities.

My hour or so in the air is not a fair exchange for regular disruptions of the peace each day or every couple of days. Month after month.
As a Katoomba resident, I certainly don't want that.

thanks for the opportunity to comment.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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. 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 10:01 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 proposal for katoomba airfield

Hello,

I'm writing to object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield. The crown land incorporating and surrounding the airfield should be joined into the national park which is already under overuse pressures. Why does public land come under increasing commercialisation pressures? When do we recognise that once we increase public land being turned over to commercial interests the heritage, environmental and broader public interest is lost forever. The airfield is and was intended for emergency use and this should continue.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:53 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Submission on Katoomba Airfield Proposal

Dear Crown Lands,

I have considered both sides of the position regarding the plan to provide a lease for Katoomba Airfield to FlyBlue. Whilst I am not in favour of over development and greatly increased tourism I consider there has been a deliberate scare campaign and much misinformation regarding this issue.

It seems to me that Mr and Mrs Larsen are genuine in their wish to provide maximum benefits to the community in conjunction with a valid business venture.

Contingent upon the requirements of the lease being strictly enforced, I would be in favour of the proposed Katoomba Airfield Development for the following reasons:

- 1. Upgrade and maintenance of the airstrip.** This is essential for the ongoing provision of the emergency service which would benefit the entire community.
The suggestion that National Parks maintain the airfield is not feasible. This is not within the remit of NPWS and, despite claims to the contrary, I understand that they do not maintain other airfields.
FlyBlue is offering to do this to a commercial standard and make emergency use always the first priority. Obviously a private company is not going to maintain a public airstrip without the opportunity to make a profit for themselves but there is nothing wrong with that. Meanwhile they are saving the tax payer considerable expense.
- 2. Encourage sustainable tourism.** There has been a recent increase in day trippers and bus tourists to the Blue Mountains. Many of these do not spend any money here nor contribute to the local economy but they do increase road traffic.
Tourists arriving by air are likely to spend a night or two in mountains' accommodation and patronise local restaurants. The ability to make day trips further west from the airfield would encourage use of our area as a tourist hub bringing economic benefits.
- 3. Environmental Benefits.** The lessees are committed to various environmental initiatives and I can't see how aircraft flying at the minimum permitted altitude would affect native animals or vegetation.
- 4. Better regulation of air traffic.** I do not like noisy aircraft flying overhead. However the flight paths, mandatory height limits, "Conditions of Use" and "Fly Neighbourly" policy should ensure minimal disturbance to residents. In fact regulation of air traffic over the mountains (including joy flights by other operators but not proposed by FlyBlue) may be improved by Fly Blue's presence and control of the airfield.
- 5. Employment.** Upgrading and maintenance of the airfield and surrounding site will provide employment for local people.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:33 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the proposed change of use at the Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath, NSW and wish to strongly register a vote against the change.

I am very concerned about the possibility of it being used for any commercial purpose that will increase helicopter traffic in the area. Our local economy is very much reliant on tourism and I believe that a change as has been suggested will negatively impact peoples desire to come up to the mountains. It is vital to maintain peace and quiet, which will be particularly difficult to continue if helicopter tourism increases. Our wonderful world heritage national park will be compromised and indeed higher noise levels are likely to change the balance of flora and fauna as many animals may need to exit the area if noise becomes a problem. The topography of the area (high-walled canyons) will further exacerbate noise levels. Our community is very reliant on tourism and this proposal seeks to benefit a few at the expense of the majority.

I have been and continue to be concerned about the process to date where I do not believe that the community has been properly consulted and am worried that proper process has not been followed. It seems inappropriate to me that a commercial enterprise be even considered in this highly sensitive area and wonder why this was not properly investigated before the leasee has commenced spending money on the enterprise.

It seems far more appropriate to me that the airfield be handed to National Parks and a small dirt strip be kept open for emergency purposes only.

Should you wish to contact me for any reason I would be very happy to hear from the Department and can be contacted on the above email address or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 1:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Response to Blue Mountains airfield leasing for joyflights

I am dismayed that the Department of Industry is proposing to place the interests of a noisy and intrusive commercial enterprise aimed at wealthy individuals above the Blue Mountains' environment, it's community and the 4 million visitors who seek out the beauty and peacefulness of the mountains every year.

We would like to see the Department of Industry honour the conditions under which the airfield was excised from the National Park in the 1960s; namely that the airfield be returned to the national park estate after the expiration of its lease. This did not happen in 1988 as agreed, but in 2000 the then Department of Land and Water Conservation recommended that this should be done. The airstrip would then be maintained for emergency services and community use.

I hope that the Department will thoughtfully consider the relative value of enabling commercial helicopter flights compared to the impact this will have on the tourism based economy and the local environment.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 9:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

28 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 lived in Blackheath for seven years. Two of my children grew up there. I have many friends in the area who all feel the same. I am an avid bush walker and writer. The Cliff top walk, The Grand Canyon and the walks around Pt Pilcher and Blackheath are my favourites. I love this incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the experience of peaceful silence . 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 rise to sunset will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment I will enjoy when I plan my future trips back to visit.

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.

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, 4 August 2019 6:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Hello Department of Industry (Crown Lands)

I write as one of many people who are concerned about the possibility of the old airfield at Medlow Bath which is on crown land being used for aviation tourism including helicopter use.

The area of the Blue Mountains is such a special and unique natural environment as supported by its classification as a World Heritage-listed National Park.

I believe that the use of the Blue Mountains by all sorts of people including walkers, bike riders, climbers and people seeking retreat from busy city life is essential to the health, both physical and mental, of thousands of people each year.

Being in the peace and quiet of nature is always an antidote to stress and the sound and sight of aeroplanes and/or helicopters is going to destroy the peace and quiet of this stunning place.

I am also concerned about the welfare of the fauna of the Blue Mountains being subjected to the noise of aircraft at close range.

While I object to the crown land being used for commercial purposes it is reasonable that a working dirt strip at the airfield be available for emergency use.

Please, please make the crown land a part of the National Park and protect it forever.

Regards.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern

Department of Industry,

I am taking the time to write this submission to express my opposition to the commercial lease of Crown Land for commercial purposes in terms of joy flights in the upper Blue Mountains. I appreciate the opportunity.

The beauty, appeal and character of the Blue Mountains National Park depends on maintaining as far as possible a pristine environment on land, in waterways and in the atmosphere. This is aim and direction of the Blue Mountains residents and Council. This proposal to grant a long term lease of Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism is counter to these aims and what we value.

Many people escape Sydney to the Blue Mountains for a time from a day to a permanent move to enjoy peace and quiet whatever their activities may be in the Blue Mountains. Overseas visitors love the Blue Mountains as they are at present.

A commercial lease for helicopter or plane charters will mean noise pollution in the air above and this will impact adversely for majority of visitors and residents alike.

I personally moved to the [REDACTED] from Sydney [REDACTED] to escape inevitable increases in traffic noise from the Westconnex M5 extension and noise from traffic increases on [REDACTED]. I object to this proposal and will fight to preserve the peace and quiet I moved here for and cherish.

I understand that the airstrip is located on Crown Land. As such the use should not be transferred to commercial use simply for financial gain for the NSW government and one private company at the expense of thousands of visitors and local citizens. The government earns enough revenue from Stamp Duty, GST, gambling and selling off infrastructure and public assets to the point that it can waste money on unnecessary replacement stadiums. Evidently the NSW government does not need the minimal return to be gained from leasing Crown Land for this commercial enterprise.

The need remains for the maintenance of the airstrip for emergency purposes only and this should continue.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 3:44 PM
To: 'katoombairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com'
Cc: 'airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: REF. LX602686 Helicopter "joy" flights.

Hi. I moved up to [REDACTED] over eight years ago after living near Sydney Airport for [REDACTED]. I wanted a quiet tree change. Less traffic and no aircraft noise. Been very happy here. Now I see that a few people who are not residents of the Blue Mountains want to conduct Helicopter joy flights out of Katoomba airfield. They are paying Less than \$500.0 per annum for the lease. This lease will be for 50 years. NO THANKS!! Other flight operators will be able to use the air field for a fee going to the lease owners. This is CROWN LAND not private land. Why should the residents living in the mountains be subjected to the HIGHLY annoying and potentially constant sound of helicopters buzzing around so a few people can profit?

Thousands of Sydney siders and overseas tourists come up to the upper mountains each month. It's an easy trip from Sydney suburbs. Can you imagine tourist from overseas spending a few days or more in the famous pristine Blue Mountains only to hear helicopter noise throughout their stay. NO THANKS!! Not to mention the disturbance to the flora and fauna living in a WORLD HERITAGE National park. Nothing Just in their proposal and it cannot be allowed to go ahead. Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern regarding the proposed commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield,

As a resident of the [REDACTED], I strongly oppose the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airfield. It is public land that should be used to benefit taxpayers by being given over to National Parks.

My concerns are related to the following aspects of the development:

- * Noise pollution and disturbance over the National Parks, World Heritage Area, and rural valleys
- * Economic damage to the existing large Blue Mountains tourism industry from people turned away by the noise
- * Economic damage from falling property prices as the Blue Mountains becomes a less attractive place to visit and live
- * Cultural damage - excessive noise would preclude various types of cultural endeavours such as filmmaking, outdoor music festivals, writers/artist/meditation retreats and festivals.
- * Environmental damage to flora and fauna with incessant, noisy, and polluting helicopters in sensitive pristine wilderness areas. Threat to endangered species.
- * Process - mismanagement of the required Community Engagement by the Department of Industry
- * Loss of privacy for residents
- * Lack of practically enforceable legal limits on the helicopter traffic numbers and flight paths
- * Serious health risks to residents due to chronic exposure to excessive noise annoyance. Some of the studies out there discuss sleep disturbance, cognitive impairment in children, cardiovascular disease, exacerbated mental health issues, etc. as being related to chronic noise annoyance. Don't take it from me; take it from the World Health Organization

http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/136466/e94888.pdf

And

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4873188/>

That this proposal has got as far as it has without any proper environmental or economic risk assessments, let alone consultation with the public *before* handing over a license for use to Flyblue is outrageous, and speaks to the greater failure of the department's due diligence for this project, or appreciation of who they actually work for. It is ethically far too close for comfort that someone who recently worked for the Department of Industry is now seeking approval from that same department for a long term lease on the Airfield to site a completely inappropriate commercial heli-tourism operation.

To suggest a commercial airfield amidst World Heritage listed pristine wilderness, is so obviously an inappropriate use for this land. This environment belongs to public use - both for emergency services as needed and for the enjoyment of the 4+ million visitors who are drawn to the peace and quiet of this unique area.

Pending proper economic study, it seems logical that the benefits to the local economy this huge number of people bring in every year, far outweigh any benefit the relatively small number of helicopter tourists would bring.

The sort of fast, in-and-out tourism those heli-tourists would be engaging in really doesn't lend itself to the significant injection to local economies that FlyBlue seems to think it can deliver. But without any independent economic assessment, how are we really to know?

Another problem with the invasive introduction of helicopter noise is that it will be hugely amplified when it echoes in the cliff, valley and canyon areas, compounding the problem even more. Who would want to live in or visit this area if its unique peace and quiet is destroyed? Let's not kid ourselves that this won't severely and negatively impact the economy of the Blue Mountains starting with loss of property values, loss of livability tourist destination desirability, and going on from there.

Those tourist dollars will simply go elsewhere. A cursory search on tourist review websites like TripAdvisor show an overwhelming number of negative reviews for places in the world people visit that have been inundated and spoiled by helicopters and their noise. The Grand Canyon in the US is one such place. The Great Ocean Road in Victoria is another. The enjoyment of a few spoils it for the many.

If this proposal is allowed to go ahead, it may contribute (along with further inundation of air traffic through Badgery's Creek airport plus the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam walls) to the loss of the World Heritage listing, which is coming up for re-evaluation in November this year. This major tourist draw card put the Blue Mountains national park on the international map in a major way in the first place. If that is gone, then we have sold out our precious environmental and cultural heritage - for what? The benefit of some heli-tourism operators and a few elite resorts? Not worth it!!

There is apparently no way to practically regulate the number and paths of flights in and out. While I would have no problem with a few flights going around the mountains on any given day, as we currently have in flights from Sydney, the incentive for Fly Blue to maximise their profits will obviously lead to a large number of flights in and out. The sheer volume of helicopters and unregulate-able flight paths is a totally intolerable situation for residents and tourists alike.

We should not be fooled by Flyblue's sweet talk and flashy marketing that were already being seen in brochures around the Mountains back in June! As if this is signed and sealed already!

As an internationally travelled musician, I have visited many unique and beautiful places on our planet, and this proposed airport is representative of the steady creep of overdevelopment that has ruined the environments and economies of so many once-pristine places. We just don't need this sort of tourism here. That is not what the Blue Mountains is about. Our cultural and environmental heritage is precious - as well as income producing - and that quiet beauty needs to be valued and cherished as part of the unique brand of this place. An experience that cannot be found elsewhere. A refuge people come to to get away from it all.

A commercial airfield in Katoomba in the middle of quiet residential and rural areas will be an absolute nightmare for locals being besieged daily by helicopter noise and fuel truck deliveries from dawn until dusk. Not to mention a complete invasion of privacy as there is no way to regulate flight paths when there

are changing weather patterns, let alone the voluntary Fly Neighbourly policy. My family moved halfway around the world for the peace and quiet of this place and now this awful proposal is threatening our way of life and that of thousands of other residents who live in and visit the Blue Mountains.

While I am pro-business, this business proposal is completely the wrong one for the location. If not an emergency airstrip, I can think of so many alternative proposals that would bring in tourist dollars to the community while keeping the peace and quiet, and benefit everyone - a museum, an art gallery, art park with residencies, a creative playground or park, a music performance space, a campground, restaurant, community gardens, bike trails and skate park for kids, youth camp, etc.

Unless there is some hidden corruption going on, I just don't understand why such a predatory and inappropriate proposal has been considered in the first place. Helicopters can fly out of Sydney and other existing locations. Be sensible and ditch this proposal entirely. The majority of residents and tourists don't need or want a commercialised Katoomba Airfield at all. There are so many other ways to develop and build the local economy that doesn't involve ruining it for all but a few, and there are few places on earth as special and unique as the Blue Mountains. Please don't spoil it for us all and future generations. Because once they get their foot in the door, there's no turning back from something like this.

Please publish my submission, but keep my email and mailing address confidential.

Yours sincerely,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 11:38 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: LX 602686

I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes we should keep this area in its natural form as much as possible

The benefit gained by the few is significantly lower than the damage this project will cause to the wellbeing of wildlife and residents of this special peaceful area

This Crown land should be transferred to the National Park so that is is preserved forever

having said that i do think we should keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only

thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 2:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Blue Mountains Airfield Submission Ref No 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

14 July 2019

Dept of Industry, Crown lands
PO Box 2155
DANGAR
NSW 2309

**Re: Blue Mountains Airfield Submission
Ref No 602686**

To whom it may concern

I understand the Department is considering public submissions regarding its proposals for the future use of the Katoomba Airfield situated at Medlow Bath. I wish to make the following submission:

I oppose any proposal to use crown land for private / commercial purposes. This airfield is public land, and therefore any usage should consider how it will benefit the general public not specific persons.

I particularly object to the use of the airfield for recreational flights, including helicopter joy flights. The public amenity that would be destroyed by having commercial helicopter flights traversing the pristine wilderness areas of the Blue Mountains National Park is most alarming.

I have witnessed first-hand the destruction of public amenity from helicopter joy flights over national parks in Western Australia. Apart from the annoyance to people from the constant noise; the impact on bird and other animal habitats is very negative.

I implore the Department in NSW not to make the same mistakes as has been made in the Mitchell Falls area of Western Australia. Please do not put commercial considerations ahead of public amenity and animal welfare.

Finally I would submit that this airfield should be handed over to the Blue Mountains National Park, to be incorporated into it as an emergency airfield. It should not be used for commercial purposes either as freehold or on a lease basis.

I trust you will give my submission careful consideration



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 9:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

26 June 2019

[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 live in [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED], however I lived in up in the Blue Mountains , Blackheath for fifteen years and my husband lived in Medlow Bath from childhood. My children were raised there. I still visit regularly and spend time bushwalking and visiting friends there. The walks around Blackheath are my favourite and I love this incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence . It is a respite from my busy life [REDACTED]. The Blue Mountains National Park 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 rise to sunset will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment the millions of bush walkers who visit each year will enjoy, not to mention the flora and fauna which in our current state of climate emergency are already under threat from increased heat, and bush fire. 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: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 9:05 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

I am a concerned resident of the upper Blue Mountains. I certainly would not like the old airfield at Medlow Bath to be used for aviation tourism.

The noise pollution is one thing but once the tourism is allowed in there, there may be no stopping it. The crown land should be transferred to the national park, which surrounds it anyway. If it is transferred then it can be protected.

There can still be a airstrip which can be used for emergencies, like bush fires.

Please reconsider this matter,

thanks [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 12:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Letter of Objection

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express that I object to the issuing of a lease of Katoomba Airfield to a commercial flying operator, which will run commercial flights and helicopter tours over the Blue Mountains.

Such an operation will destroy the serenity and peaceful silence of Blue Mountains, which local communities as well as visitors from Sydney and overseas enjoy, appreciate and respect.

Katoomba Airfield must not be leased to a commercial flying operator for the noise of the aircrafts will put an end to Blue Mountains' natural and preserved state and make it another polluted and exploited tourist destination to be consumed, not appreciated and not taken in as well as making it impossible for others, who appreciate the beauty of it, to keep taking it in. The natural beauty and calm of Blue Mountains will be constantly and randomly polluted. The howl of the wind, the chirps of the birds and the silence that gives people the feeling of isolation will never be the same.

I've firsthand witnessed how helicopter and plane flights have ruined the natural beauty of the mountains and surrounding towns near glaciers in New Zealand South Island. Same will happen to Blue Mountains, should Katoomba Airfield is leased to a commercial flying operator.

Katoomba Airfield must not be leased to a commercial flying operator.

The tranquility and the harmony of the Blue Mountains must be preserved for current and future generations.

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 3:42 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.

I have lived in the Blue Mountains for [REDACTED]. I can remember when the airfield was last open around 13 years ago. I remember the intrusive noise pollution it generated as helicopters and light aircraft buzzed in and out all day. These were joy-riding sight seers. I remember **accidents and many near accidents as the site of the airfield is surrounded by trees, cliffs and powerlines**. The airfield is subject to strong winds, regular low cloud, fire risk and wildlife on the airfield. With only one landing option in the immediate area, there is no alternative landing strip or even open area should planes or helicopters get into trouble. If you ask around the aviation industry and speak to pilots who have used the strip in the past you will learn that the airfield was known as **very dangerous and surrounded by hazards**.

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 Andrew and Suzanne put in an application to council to rebuild they were declined permission based on the area being considered too higher **bushfire risk**. They were told that council could not approve development in such areas as it would put emergency services at **too greater 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 peoples 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 sensitively 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 responsible decision making to approve the development of the proposed Katoomba airfield.

Yours sincerely,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 7:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: no. 602686 Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern

This World Heritage-listed National Park is a jewel within New South Wales, and - I believe strongly - should remain so, untarnished by using Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes.

Please consider using it as a working dirt strip for emergency use only. It should not be used for commercial purposes as this area is only two hours from Sydney by car, no great hardship for tourists. More noise and extra pollution accompanies a commercial enterprise of this sort: people visit the Blue Mountains' National Park to escape both noise and air pollution.

Please consider transferring this crown land to the national park where it can be protected forever. This is not just about now but the future for all peoples to share.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:48 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 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!

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 10:16 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Hello,
My name is [REDACTED].

I am writing to express my objection to the proposal for a lease being issued to allow commercial flights that will greatly impact (negatively) in the Blue Mountains.

Its a national park, where people go to experience nature in its most raw and natural form - what? and then have helicopters and light planes criss crossing ?

Im also concerned that the Dhamma Bhumi centre would be greatly affected - people come from all over the world to work on bringing peacefull vibrations that benefit the world so please do not disturb this effort.

kind regards,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 2:54 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

Dear Mr Bunny

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

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a resident of [REDACTED] I'm the Blue Mountains. I am writing to lodge my objection to the proposed commercial operation of Katoomba airfield to allow for helicopter rides etc and the subsequent exposure of the National Park, villages and all inhabitants to noise and air pollution for the foreseeable future. It is a short-sighted decision driven by money and indulgence.

Whether they know it or not, the people wanting to pay to fly over the pristine and crucially important National Park, would greatly benefit from the inconvenience of NOT being able to do so, both now and into all of our uncertain future. We need to be encouraging connection with nature, not a tick-box 30 minute viewing from afar. Only then might we start to make some headway towards climate solutions.

I implore you to be informed in your decision making not by money, or the demands of those who are continually looking for more self-indulgent ways to spend their excessive income, but instead by those who do not have such privilege nor power, including and first and foremost, the flora and fauna of the Blue Mountains.

I await your response.

Yours in confidence,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 6:39 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hello,

I am writing to say *I object* to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield, and believe it would be best managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for emergency use only. It's a beautifully peaceful area that would be ruined by commercial helicopter flights.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 10:53 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Good morning,

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains and would like to put forward my support of the proposed projects for Katoomba Airfield.

I believe that access to this airfield will bring increased tourism and access to the Mountains and surrounding areas.

Kindest regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 3:00 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Submissions_ Katoomba Airport REF LX 602686

Attn: Department of Industry (Crown Lands)
Re: Submission in relation to Katoomba Airfield Ref: LX 602686

Background

The Blue Mountains have been a special place to my family for over 30 years, and will continue to be.

My husband and I reside in both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and hope to permanently relocate to [REDACTED] in the next few years.

From time to time we hear helicopters. These are very loud and constant. However, when they are near it tells us someone is in trouble and we are glad to know help is at hand. This is one of the wonders of being part of the Blue Mountains community.

This does not mean we would welcome the regular sound of commercial helicopter 'joy flights' intruding into our peaceful mountain life.

Our home in [REDACTED] would be directly impacted by flights paths heading West, North and South of the airport.

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

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [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@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: FW: 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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ph [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 [REDACTED], 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 [REDACTED] 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: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference LX 602686: Submission in favour of the proposed rejuvenation of the Katoomba airfield

To: Department of Industry (Crown Land and Water)
Reference: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

[REDACTED] is located 3.5 hours from Sydney, and [REDACTED] hours from the Blue Mountains. We have been established for [REDACTED] and our Cellar Door is open to the public 5 days a week (Thursday through to Monday). We are family owned and operated, and produce a range of single estate wines from a [REDACTED] vineyard.

In November 2018 we were awarded [REDACTED] and four of our other wines were in the top categories of NSW wines and in the final national judging. This was an outstanding achievement within the wine industry and has given us much-enhanced visibility in and outside the [REDACTED] wine region.

Our business is focused on our cellar door located on our vineyard, and our wholesale business servicing Australia's top restaurants, hotels and bars around Australia. All areas of our wine business (cellar door, wine club, wholesale) are growing at a compound rate around 50% (albeit off a low base). We have already trebled our cellar door and have ambitious plans over the next few years to enhance a range of facilities on our property. In addition to winning the [REDACTED] the Year in 2018, we are rapidly penetrating the wine lists of many of the top restaurants across Australia (one of the very few NSW wine producers to do so, even in NSW restaurants) and we are one of only 12 wine producers in Australia to have National Wine Agreements with all [REDACTED]. We are doing an extraordinary rate of weekly wine dinners in top restaurants across Australia, to promote our wines and the [REDACTED] region. These successes are bringing an increasing flow of credibility and wine tourists to the [REDACTED] and broader [REDACTED] region. Based on TripAdvisor and Google we are the main attraction for this area, bringing people, dollars and employment to our region.

One of the hurdles we face is encouraging wine tourists to drive 3.5 hours each way from Sydney (or [REDACTED] hours from Katoomba), turning off the main highway, to visit our vineyard - which is in a new wine producing area within the region, and does not benefit from the same traffic of more established areas like Orange and Mudgee.

We have been working closely with FlyBlue to develop tourism packages that will entice local, regional, urban and international visitors to visit us, and surrounding world class businesses in our area. The substantial reduction in travel time by using Helicopters rather than cars between Katoomba and ourselves makes it possible for visitors to enjoy a half or full day visit to our region from a base in the Blue Mountains. One of the key drives for Destination NSW at the moment is to encourage regional tourism. Offering often time poor visitors the opportunity to visit award winning businesses, such as ourselves, whose products are not readily available in their local areas, is a win for them and us, as well as building the awareness, interest and cash inflow in regional parts of NSW.

We fully support the plans proposed by FlyBlue and hope that you will consider their application to rejuvenate the Katoomba airfield favourably.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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 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: Sunday, 16 June 2019 8:19 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

NO to the commercial lease and YES to incorporating the airfield into NP for emergencies.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 10:03 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield Community Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to add my support to efforts by the Katoomba Airfield Community Group to gazette the Katoomba Airfield as an "emergency use only" airstrip and have the area incorporated into the surrounding Blue Mountains National Park.

It is highly inappropriate for helicopter "joy rides" to operate over the National Park for the following reasons:

1. Noise

Low, loud, intrusive helicopter noise blankets out natural sounds: it interrupts wildlife socialising amongst its kind, communicating about the presence of predators, food sources, offspring, etc. It also interrupts human conversation and spoils the quiet contemplation of birdsong, babbling brooks, rushing waterfalls, insects and frogs croaking, wallabies and kangaroos jumping through the bush - all those sounds that are highly-valued qualities of the national park experience for most of us.

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society points out in its July 2019 "Hut News" that there "is no regulatory authority that can monitor and enforce the Fly Neighbourly Agreement - it is industry self-regulation, a guideline only" (page 3). Heavens, so there'd be no public authority to whom the public could appeal regarding nuisance noise anyway!

2. Creating Anxiety and Air Pollution

Helicopters make me think of danger: they evoke emotions of threat, emergency and war. They're great for getting people in trouble out of a tight spot (such as bush-walker rescues), for fire-fighting, and military defence purposes, but that's all!

The proximity of the airfield to Lake Medlow is also of concern: it is imperative that the catchment for our drinking water is kept as clean as possible and untainted by aviation fuel spills or airborne fuel dumping prior to landing near it.

3. Private Profiteering from Public Assets is Wrong

I am very tired of seeing public assets that have been set aside or created by former generations for the on-going good of the community being virtually given away to nobodies with money for their own personal private profit. It's very much time for that sort of corruption to cease. Let's reverse that trend by incorporating this airfield into the surrounding Blue Mountains National Park and wipe away for ever any notion of a commercial leasehold.

4. World Heritage Responsibilities

Did I mention that this airfield is located within a World Heritage Area? An area that the Australian Federal Government has previously committed to protect and maintain for the benefit and enjoyment of all peoples into the future? How incompatible could helicopter so-called "joy rides" possibly be in such a location, where the World Heritage natural values of peace and relative pristine-ness would be drowned out daily by

persistent noise and aviation fuel pollution. It brings to mind a friend's recent visit to New Zealand's Queenstown which was marred the endless despoiling clatter from helicopter "joy-rides" buzzing overhead the whole day.

5. Equity

And lastly, it is neither OK nor logical for the lazy pleasure of a few individuals in helicopters to literally over-ride the peace and tranquility of tens of thousands of people and wildlife living in, and visiting, the Blue Mountains region below. How is this tiny, tiny minority of visitors proposing to compensate the rest of the community and ground-based visitors for fouling their experience of the Blue Mountains' natural beauty while they enjoy theirs?

I hope you will take all these good reasons for my objection to the commercial use of Katoomba airfield into consideration during this community consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

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

From: ■
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

██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 1:42 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Response to Blue Mountains airfield leasing for joyflights

I am dismayed that the Department of Industry is proposing to place the interests of a noisy and intrusive commercial enterprise aimed at wealthy individuals above the Blue Mountains' environment, it's community and the 4 million visitors who seek out the beauty and peacefulness of the mountains every year.

We would like to see the Department of Industry honour the conditions under which the airfield was excised from the National Park in the 1960s; namely that the airfield be returned to the national park estate after the expiration of its lease. This did not happen in 1988 as agreed, but in 2000 the then Department of Land and Water Conservation recommended that this should be done. The airstrip would then be maintained for emergency services and community use.

I hope that the Department will thoughtfully consider the relative value of enabling commercial helicopter flights compared to the impact this will have on the tourism based economy and the local environment.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 3:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Airfield at Medlow Bath

I would like to object to the proposal to use the crown land at Medlow Bath for commercial purposes. The said land is surrounded by National Park and it should be added to it. An airfield is not a compatible use for the area. Helicopter noise is very disturbing. The Blue Mountains is a very beautiful, peaceful place to live. Already helicopters and small planes do disturb that quietness periodically. To imagine a commercial airport functioning is a nightmare. Tourists come to the Mountains to experience the beauty and serenity, noise will interfere with their enjoyment.

I am eighty years old and have devoted my life to conservation projects. I know how important it is to put aside natural areas for those who come after us. People of my generation have been lucky to have been able to experience wilderness. It is very important that our politicians and public servants look forward and reserve as much as we can for those not yet born.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 9:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

28 June 2019

[REDACTED]
[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 lived in Blackheath for seven years. Two of my children grew up there. I have many friends in the area who all feel the same. I am an avid bush walker and writer. The Cliff top walk, The Grand Canyon and the walks around Pt Pilcher and Blackheath are my favourites. I love this incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the experience of peaceful silence . 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 rise to sunset will impact badly on any quiet enjoyment I will enjoy when I plan my future trips back to visit.

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.

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, 4 August 2019 9:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: (LX 602686)

From [REDACTED]

We object to this public land being used commercially. It should only ever be used for emergency reasons.

Its public land & should not be made available for business ventures especially ones that are disruptive & noisy. The area is known for its peace & tranquillity & wildlife. The only things flying around in our sky up here should be the birds.

This piece of land should be given over to the National park.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 2:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Commercial Lease at Katoomba Airfield - Reference No: LX602686

Subject: Reference LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Proposed Commercial Lease

I and my wife live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I wish to record my objection, and say NO! to the proposed commercial lease of the site at Medlow Bath known as 'Katoomba Airfield'.

The proposal to fly helicopters at low level over the surrounding towns and bushland is unacceptable to both we residents and the millions of ground-based tourists who visit the Upper Mountain tourist area each year. A similar activity during the 1990's was strongly opposed and eventually stopped by Blue Mountains residents. We residents of [REDACTED] will be especially disadvantaged due to the passage of fuel tankers and other large support vehicles as well as Tourist Vehicles, on our local minor road system.

The suggestion that an operating airfield at Medlow Bath is necessary for the safety of over-flying aircraft is incorrect. The last crash of an aircraft over-flying the Mountains occurred in 1940. It was an RAAF aircraft on a training flight in misty weather. The last aircraft crash in the Mountains was in 2016 when an aircraft, which took off from this airfield, crashed in Medlow Bath.

The proposal by many persons that the existing airfield be incorporated into its surrounding National Park is a logical solution. Works required to maintain a basic standard of readiness for occasional emergency helicopter operation are minimal and would be professionally carried out by Parks Staff to their standard. Any increased level of helicopter operational facilities required during major bushfire fighting operations can easily be provided at the time, as has occurred often in the past.

I say No! to a commercial airfield in the Blue Mountains and a No! vote to a State Liberal Government which supports and allows it.

Thank you,
[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 9:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Katoomba Airfield

I wish to submit my opposition to the proposed private lease for helicopter joy flights from the site at Medlow Bath for the following reasons This land should be incorporated into the surrounding National Park in a World Heritage area and kept as an emergency airfield only The sound of helicopters would destroy the attraction of peaceful recreation walking in wilderness areas Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 9:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi

My name is [REDACTED]. My family and I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I am writing to advise that I object to the commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.

We moved a year ago to this area to escape noise and to live in a wonderful natural environment. The commercial lease and subsequent use of this airfield is a complete contrast to purpose of establishing the national park.

We have the occasional aircraft that goes overhead and we understand and appreciate that this is necessary for emergency services. It is not frequent and contributes an important service to the community. However when they do fly overhead they are incredibly noisy, even in the house. We experience shaking/rumbling within the structure of our house, in particular when helicopters are nearby. We have young children and they have been woken and upset by these consequences of the aircraft.

I am concerned that frequent and consistent flying from a commercial lease would be disruptive to my family and cause damage to my home

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:41 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no. 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.8.2019

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 all my live and cannot emphasise enough the importance to the environment and community of preserving the natural beauty of this World Heritage area.

The quiet, beauty and the serenity of this area has earnt it a World Heritage listing and for this to be compromised for the sake of commercial gain by joy flights is wrong.

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.

As a member of the RFS, the airstrip could then be kept in working order for emergency services in the event of bushfires.

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.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Madam/Sir

I write to express my strong objection to the privatisation of Katoomba Airfield. I have witnessed an increasing number of helicopters and light air craft over Blackheath in recent months, and find this a total assault on the peace and quiet of this beautiful area. I feel distressed when I hear helicopters flying overhead. This has become particularly noticeable, and with increasing frequency, in the recent weeks and months. The noise is disturbing, even when the aircraft isn't within eye sight. I can only imagine the sound of helicopters must be terrifying and deafening to the hundreds of thousands of native animals living in the mountains. This world heritage national park deserves better, deserves to be protected, and should be respected for its flora, fauna, natural beauty and tranquility.

The airfield is public land and should not be used for commercial gain. Those privileged enough to be able to pay to fly over the mountains are far out numbered by those who live in, or visit the mountains and enjoy the peace, serenity and beauty from the ground.

I urge the government to return the land to the national park so that it can be preserved in its pre-helicopter state of peace for future generations. In years to come, how wonderful if people could look back and see that a major assault on the Blue Mountains was avoided by stopping commercialisation of the airstrip.

The airstrip should be maintained by National Parks as a working strip for emergency use. Blue Mountains National Park is such a tremendous asset for tourism in the state. Providing the necessary finances for upkeep of the airstrip is part of the responsibility of protecting this beautiful natural resource.

It seems unlikely that the introduction of commercial flights will add to tourism, other than for the flight operator. I feel very concerned that the privileged few, who are able to pay for scenic flights, will be welcomed into the beautiful Blue Mountains National Park by an operator who is making profit at the expense of the thousands of residents and other visitors to the park.

I urge you to reconsider the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airstrip. There has never been a more pressing time to tread lightly on the Blue Mountains National Park, protect the environment and care for Mother Earth.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:54 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686: Reject the airfield proposal

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a [REDACTED] resident, keen bushwalker, and a freelance [REDACTED], and I am writing to ask you to reject the proposed application to allow a recreational aviation enterprise to take over the lease of crown land at the Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath.

This development is absolutely the wrong idea at the wrong time in the wrong place.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage-listed wilderness is already under threat. UNESCO - the body that oversees World Heritage listings - has twice [<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1670/>] in recent years [<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-09/warragamba-dam-proposal-un-concerns-world-heritage-site/11194166>] raised concerns about the health of this unique wilderness, which is facing attack from developments such as the Western Sydney airport project and the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

The proposed recreational aviation enterprise at the Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath could be the last straw, that might see this incredible tourist destination listed as under threat, or even delisted, which would have catastrophic consequences not only for the integrity of this environment but also put at risk billions of tourist dollars.

This proposal would lead to a huge increase in noise pollution. We live [REDACTED] from the National Park, and so we already experience helicopter noise associated with the NPWS track repair flights. It's incredibly loud, but we tolerate that relatively infrequent event (once every few months) because it is needed to maintain the walking tracks that enable us to enjoy this beautiful wilderness. We would absolutely not tolerate that level of noise - massively increased to up to 35 flights a day - if it were being inflicted on us for no reason other than profit.

The state government should carefully consider the health effects of this noise pollution on residents of this area, and the tourists visiting. The Federal Government's own department of health has put out a report highlighting the increasing concerns about the negative effects of noise pollution on human health and the environment ([https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/\\$File/health-effects-Environmental-Noise-2018.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/$File/health-effects-Environmental-Noise-2018.pdf)). It also recommends that environmental noise from developments be minimised, yet this airfield proposal would do the absolute opposite. Noise pollution impacts children's development, it is associated with increased stress, which in turn has a huge range of health consequences including cardiovascular disease and mental health issues.

And even more important, this development would add to Australia's already large and increasing greenhouse gas emissions, at a time when other countries are doing everything in their power to strive towards the negative emissions scenario that is now recognised as essential to avoid catastrophic global heating. Australia needs to be drastically reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, not encouraging developments that will do the opposite. Helicopter joy rides are the worst possible reason for consuming fossil fuels: they contribute nothing to the environment and the local community, the profits will not benefit the environment or the local community, and these flights will only appeal to a few rich enough to afford them.

This wilderness is the traditional lands of the Darug and Gundungarra people, whose sacred sites are already being threatened by the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam. Have they been consulted about the impact this will have on the land and wilderness that they have been custodians of for tens of thousands of years?

This proposal embodies all the misguided, ignorant, profit-driven thinking that has brought this globally unique and precious wilderness to its knees. Take a stand against it.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:44 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref 602686

I am very much against the possibility of a change to the lease of Katoomba airfield.

Many people (including myself) come to this area in part at least, because of the peace and tranquility that we experience here.

The occasional loud noise that we hear from light planes and/or helicopters passing overhead is bad enough, but the thought of even more aircraft fling overhead is very far indeed from being a pleasant prospect, helping no doubt to help fill some business man's pocket at the expense of residents of this area who want a peaceful life.

There is an airfield maybe twenty minutes flight away from where I live – [REDACTED], so people can easily avail themselves of the already existing facilities there, without further spoiling what is at the moment, a fairly peaceful area. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:24 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

I am writing to voice my following concerns and objections in regards to the 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 so that it is preserved forever
- 3: Keep a working dirt strip at the site for emergency use only Regards [REDACTED] Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

Please don't commercialise the Katoomba Airfield. This would disturb the beautiful and serenity of our city. The noise would also affect the health of the residents

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 3:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to voice my **objection** to Crown land in a National Park being used for commercial aviation tourism. This pertains to the further development of the old airfield at Medlow Bath.

My reasons are:-

1. Noise pollution over the Blue Mountains. Even now we in [REDACTED] have to put up with noise from helicopters flying overhead.
2. I object to aviation tourism per se. Tourists fly in, stay a couple of hours, fly out, "been there, done it, got the T-shirt". We, however, have to keep living here, being subjected to unnecessary noise and pollution. Tourists come to the Blue Mountains for an all too brief experience of nature, not to land on an airfield, being not even able to travel by train or bus through the countryside to get some impression of Australia outside the city of Sydney.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 4:33 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ILX602686

Please consider this a second submission from the same email address from [REDACTED] Dear Sir.
As a Department representative for giving service to the PUBLIC,how could it be possible to even consider giving precedence to the greed of a minuscule group of rich, self interested “air enthusiasts”,above the wishes of a whole community who aspire to maintain the integrity for THEIR Blue Mountains WORLD HERITAGE environment
??
The applicant’s assurances regarding their rapacious GRAB are pure HYPERBOLE ,and it is OBVIOUS to ALL Its the very outcome of decisions like this that colour the populations' view of the PUBLIC SERVICE [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 7:43 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Medlow Bath Airfield

To whom it may concern,

As a long time Blue Mountains resident, I would be pleased to see the airfield at Medlow Bath renovated and brought back into use. It would be a helpful piece of infrastructure and add to the local economy, generating a couple of extra jobs. I have worked in the environmental restoration industry for almost 20 years, so I fully understand the need to protect the world heritage values of the surrounding area, but if managed correctly, I don't see why the site could not coexist within the world heritage area.

I would like to see a limit on the number of flight movements per day and the time of day that these can take place, so that no local resident is disturbed at night or early in the morning. I'd also like to see mandatory flight paths included in any approval, so the air traffic, light as it may be, would be distributed evenly across the landscape so that no one property or section of the national park was burdened with all the aircraft noise.

I empathise with the concerns of the local environmental groups, but I do believe that if sufficient controls are put in place, the airfield can operate and not cause a significant impact on the surrounding area.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 10:18 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686 old airfield at Medlow Bath

I object to a commercial airfield on this site and the proposal to provide scenic helicopter flights over the Blue Mountains.

1. The site is surrounded by World Heritage National Park and should be incorporated into the park
2. People live in and visit the Katoomba / Blackheath area because of the bushland and the peace of enjoying the natural environment. Scenic Helicopter flights will cause disturbance and disruption to the native fauna, and to people who have come to enjoy the natural environment. I can think of few things worse than having a helicopter fly over when you are enjoying one of the many walks or lookouts for which the area is known.
3. Helicopters over residential areas are also disturbing. Residents and visitors should not be subject to such disruption from a commercial venture. There are enough emergency type flights as it is.
4. This land is Crown public land and should not be leased for commercial purposes and access to the area restricted to members of the general public.

regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 6:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam

I am sending this submission to voice my opposition to an airfield at Katoomba.

I see a commercial airfield running scenic flights over the area will be in essence destroying what the Blue Mountains are all about, nature, peace and quite for all to enjoy, not for a few to view from above whilst spoiling it for those below. How much more of the natural environment is to be degraded and eventually destroyed in the name of supposed progress?

Don't sell out the Blue Mountains to the vested interest of the wealthy few who present it as benefiting the community, how and at what cost?

This isn't real or sustainable progress. Look at the disgraceful developments taking place in Sydney under the guise of benefiting the community that are now being revealed as the sham money making ventures of the unscrupulous.

NO to the airfield!

Yours respectfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 1:38 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield LX 602686

Dear Department of Industry,

I am a resident of [REDACTED] neighbouring Katoomba.

I would like to re-register my protest against the development of the Medlow Bath airfield into a commercially operated airfield, following the initial public consultation.

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, 30 June 2019 3:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to impress my disagreement with the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield and support incorporation into National Park.

I often spend time at Dhamma Aloka in Woori Yallock. The impact of this project 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 (it is just km from the Centre).

Thus, I want to ask you to take action and have my voice in mind.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 3:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Medlow Bath Airfield

Keep public land for public use such as extending the national park.

No commercial use of public land.

Do not allow more noise pollution in our clear clean Blue Mountains skies.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 7:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

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]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 9:53 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission regarding proposed Katoomba airfield

I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed commercial flights over one of NSW's most significant heritage sites.

We moved from Sydney city just under ten years ago and enjoy the serenity and quiet, [REDACTED] environment. Our friends who visit regularly come to stay and spend their money in our community to enjoy the natural environment and quite spaces away from the hustle and bustle of much of our modern world.

I have grave concerns the noise of regular flights over the valleys that are surrounded by cliffs creating a natural amphitheatre may provide some joy to the few on board but will disrupt the serenity for the vast majority not inside the aircraft.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 30 June 2019 5:41 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission of support for the airfield proposal by SkyBlue

I am writing to express my strong support for the redevelopment of the Katoomba airfield.

The proposed redevelopment will:

Be environmentally friendly through the measures discussed in the proposal including regeneration of native trees and grasses and the closure of one runway.

Be environmentally friendly by allowing tourist flights to operate closer to the prime destinations that local, interstate and overseas tourists wish to view from the air. This means flight times are reduced and as a consequence engine emissions decreased.

Support the continued growth of the tourist industry by offering tourists a practical and cost effective way to see the beauty of the region without having to board a scenic flight from Bathurst or Camden/Bankstown.

Provide emergency services with upgraded airfield facilities and an important base of operations for bushfires and other emergencies.

I have no connection with the proposal other than a broad interest in seeing aviation facilities developed to serve the public and the economy.

I can be contacted through this email address or mobile [REDACTED]

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 11:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Submission to oppose helicopter tours

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition and concerns regarding the proposed helicopter tours in the Blue Mountains area.

I grew up visiting family each summer in the mountains and have a strong connection to the beautiful, peaceful natural environment. I now take my own children back to explore and enjoy bush walking in the area.

The proposed helicopter tours would have a devastating impact on one of the only still wild places left to explore. The noise would disturb both people and wildlife. I am very concerned about the impact on local tourism, along with the impact on being able to enjoy the natural setting.

I strongly object to public and being used for commercial purposes, there are already many tourist attractions that impact the serenity of the mountains, however they are relatively contained and adding noisy helicopters would destroy the peace and quiet.

I believe that this crown land should be returned to national parks so that it may be protected for future generations to enjoy and explore with emergency only access for helicopters.

This area should be conserved for the local and global community to enjoy in a low impact way. It should NOT be used for profit.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 6:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

july 28

[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.

My 1st memory is staying at The Hydro Majestic with my grandparents in about 1961. And since then have been spellbound by the natural beauty, incredible landscape, the flora and fauna AND the peaceful silence that I can enjoy.

The Blue Mountains is a unique place and its classification by UNESCO as a World Heritage site is so justified and should be preserved as such.

I feel that the intrusion and noise of Helicopter flight sfrom sun up to sunset will impact badly on all residents and visitors and any quiet enjoyment.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue mountains for all residents, visitors and all wildlife.
your sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 7:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

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]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 7:04 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba air field

I have lived here all my life of [REDACTED] The airfield has never bothered my generation around this area there was never and complaining about it Since the gentleman has died it has all blown out of proportion People that are wingers, jealous, and “Johnny come latelys” seem to have the problem Leave the airfield alone. Its the same as badgers creek they all complain but I bet they will go there when its finished if need to catch a aeroplane. Leave the leasers alone and the airfield as is [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 8:03 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Medlow Bath Airfield 602686

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a resident of [REDACTED] and would like to submit my objection to the plan for Helicopter flights over our important national park.

I was at Govetts Leap yesterday morning watching hundreds of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos fly backwards and forwards in front of the lookout.

This would not have occurred if a helicopter was flying near by. I would also not have heard the birds.

This activity for the sake of a few wealthy tourists will have a negative effect on the hundreds of walkers and bird watchers who are here in large numbers every weekend.

It will also have a negative effect on the large number of businesses near the three lookouts who provide accommodation for nature lovers who appreciate the peace and quiet.

The submission for helicopters should be rejected.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:17 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference: 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

Dear Department of Industry, Crown Lands,

This email is to express my disapproval of the proposed lease application for Katoomba Airfield and that it instead be incorporated into the national park and given to NPWS to maintain for emergency services only.

Supporting my position are numerous key concerns that include but are not limited to.

1. The lease application appears to propose a significant Change of Use
2. The Proposed lease if allowed contravenes the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 conflicts with the guidelines for developments adjoining land managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan
3. The Department of Industry Crown Lands do not have the expertise to manage a Lease for an Aerodrome
4. Who is applying for the lease and why can a company besides the current licensee directly negotiate for a long-term lease?
5. What plans are in the pipeline for Katoomba Airfield by the lease applicant?
6. This is an environmentally sensitive area; commercial aircraft should not be taking off and landing from within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage-listed Area
7. The Blue Mountains brand is "Quiet" persistent noise of helicopters would destroy this brand and impact the 4.25 million tourists who visit this area, this is a serious risk to tourism in the Blue Mountains. Any reduction in tourism would be detrimental to the Lower and Upper Blue Mountains economy.
8. Within the 5.5km flight circuit aircraft can fly at any height in any direction, this renders the FNA's useless
9. If the RFS are not worried about Katoomba Airfield, why should anyone else be?
10. One road in, one road out and a whole community no longer able to enjoy the amenity of walking along this route
11. Real People Real Concerns – If my words are not enough please listen to the voices of the small business, artists, residents, real estate agents via the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxRXvHCSQiGVzSbOxoIXFcA>

Concern 1 - The lease application appears to propose a significant Change of Use

Katoomba Airfield is a small country dirt airfield that has seen little use. In 1992-1995 helicopter scenic/joy flights were run from the airfield and subsequently shut down. I am confused as to why the notion would be considered again. Based on conversations with the Department and meetings the lease applicant spoke at there will be a lot of helicopter flights.

In the life of the airfield and EPA license has never been required.

Should an EPA license be required this is a clear indicator of change of use. Why is it the Department is unclear about how many flights, specifically how many helicopters will land and take off from within the National Park even in the broad sense e.g.: more or less than 30 movements a week?

Protection Of Environment Operations (POEO) Act Schedule 1, Clause 20 states (

<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1997/156/sch1>):

20 Helicopter-related activities

(1) This clause applies to a helicopter-related activity, meaning the landing, taking-off or parking of helicopters (including the use of terminals and the use of buildings for the parking, servicing or maintenance of helicopters), being an activity:

(a) that has an intended use of more than 30 flight movements per week (where take-off and landing are separate flight movements), and

(b) that is conducted within 1 kilometre of a dwelling not associated with the landing, taking-off or parking of helicopters,

but not including an activity that is carried out exclusively for the purposes of emergency aeromedical evacuation, retrieval or rescue.

(2) The activity to which this clause applies is declared to be a scheduled activity

There are at least two existing homes within 1km of the airfield and two additional properties waiting for their DA to build.

The need for an EPA license is evidence of change of use. On Sunday February 3, 2019 12 helicopters landed, dropped off passengers that were then bused to the Fairmont and took off. This represented 24 movements in a single day. There was a minimum of two additional movements in the course of a week. This in my opinion makes it clear 30 movements in a single week will happen.

A change of use necessitating an EPA License will impact the environment, home values, noise levels, road traffic, tourism. Will the Department take full responsibility for compensating home owners, replacing windows with double insulation etc ...

There are also businesses such as:

1. the RSPCA located under proposed flight paths and within 1.5 km of the airfield
2. Meditation centres long established for the values the area represents
3. Artists who rely on the natural quiet of the area to activate their creative processes

Who is going to compensate the animals, people and businesses that were here first?

Concern 2 – The Proposed lease if allowed contravenes the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and conflicts with the guidelines for developments adjoining land managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan

The act of allowing this lease for any duration conflicts with World Heritage values. These values are protected. No NSW government body has the right to enter into an agreement that places these values at risk.

At the National level the EPBC Act (<https://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about>) is the governing article. It lists the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWA) as both a World Heritage Property and National Heritage Place.

Under the EPBC Act, an action that will have or is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values may be taken only if the action is approved by the Australian Government Environment Minister or is taken in accordance with a management plan accredited by the Australian Government Environment Minister.

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) offers the following:

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/guidelines-for-developments-adjoining-land-managed-by-the-office-of-environment-and-heritage>

Section 2.7 Visual, odour, noise, vibration, air quality and amenity impacts

Aim: There is no reduction of amenity on OEH land due to adjacent development.

Risks to OEH land: These impacts may particularly affect native fauna species (for example, noise, vibration and lighting may disrupt foraging and breeding habits). They may also adversely affect the use and public enjoyment of walking trails, camping and picnic areas.

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Strategic Plan <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research-and-publications/publications-search/greater-blue-mountains-world-heritage-area-strategic-plan>

In common with many protected areas, the GBMWA faces a range of threats to its immediate and long-term integrity. These threats vary greatly in scale from incompatible land use on an adjoining property through to global climate change.

The strategic threats include:

1. inappropriate recreation and tourism activities, including the development of tourism infrastructure, under the increasing visitor pressure from Australian, overseas and commercial ventures;
2. loss of biodiversity and geodiversity at all levels;
3. lack of understanding of heritage values

Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 any action that will or is likely to have a significant impact on World Heritage values may be taken only if it is approved by the Australian Government Environment Minister, either directly or via an approved plan of management.

Potential threats to the appreciation of the area's aesthetic values include overflights by helicopters, low-flying jets and other aircraft. A Fly Neighbourly program has previously been established in the Blue Mountains National Park to minimise impacts of aircraft but this needs to be reviewed and stronger and more extensive controls applied.

Desired outcomes:

1. The natural beauty and aesthetic values of the GBMWA are identified, better understood and their significance is formally recognised at State, National and World Heritage level as appropriate.
2. Any adverse impacts on the natural beauty and aesthetic values are prevented, eliminated, or at least minimised.
3. Recreational and tourist overflights do not interfere with the natural quiet, biodiversity and GBMWA aesthetic value

Concern 3 – The Department of Industry Crown Lands do not have the expertise to manage a Lease for an Aerodrome

In a letter dated 23-February 2017 (DOC17/028257, File 08-1364-03)

<https://www.casa.gov.au/file/184486/download?token=cE7WD8JX>

the Department clearly states it is not an Aerodrome operator and speaks to the failures of previous leases. The Department cannot manage what it does not understand, in the drop-in sessions it was clear this lack of knowledge was extensive, something as obvious as an environmental and economic report was not done prior to the Expression of Interest.

In fact, the department in the same letter concedes the land should have been returned in 1988 when the original lease expired.

It is time what should have been done is done! Include the airfield into the National Park, let NPWS maintain it and leave it for emergency services.

Concern 4 - Who is the lessee?

What is interesting and not amusing is that at the drop-in sessions the community new more about the lease applicant than the Department of Industry Crown Land.

Why is it the department is considering a lease application from Fly Blue Management Pty Ltd when it is Blackbird Aviation that was awarded the license via the Expression of Interest process and Derek and Floyd Larsen are listed on the actual license? Is it not Blackbird Aviation that is entitled to direct negotiations under the current act?

Why is it the department is considering a lease applicant with Fly Blue Management Pty Ltd when it does not have an ABN in its own right & is not registered for GST?

To complicate matters Flyblue Management Pty Ltd appears to be the Trustee for FLYBLUE MANAGEMENT TRUST, a Discretionary Trading Trust and due to the discretionary nature of the trust, there is no way of knowing who the beneficial owners of the trust are and accordingly who the beneficial owners of the proposed lease are.

Seemingly the lease applicant is a Discretionary Trust with a Company Trustee. The Trustee Company is owned by another Company that would appear to be Trustee of another trust or holds its shareholding in Flyblue Management P/L on behalf of unknown persons or corporations.

This is hardly a transparent arrangement. Per the Drop-in sessions it was evident the Department was unaware of this raising concerns that the Department is unaware of who the lease applicant really is.

Ownership of the lease could change, and nobody would be the wiser, it is unable to be monitored.

The Department also needs to have a hard look at the character of the lease applicant. The background check needs to be more than financial and should include a police check and character references from his neighbours near the airfield and his current residence and I do not mean the P.O. Box in Blackheath.

I find it extremely disconcerting that the lease applicant worked for the Department of Industry in a senior role while the future of the airfield was being discussed, this is proven by the same letter dated 23-February 2017 (DOC17/028257, File 08-1364-03) mentioned above. The applicant later left the department resurfacing six months later as the successful tenderer of the Katoomba Airfield Expression of Interest.

I suppose this is further complicated by a letter to the editor published in the Blue Mountains Gazette noting that the Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors for Destination NSW, the body responsible for tourism was the CEO of Sydney Airport Corporation and the boss of the lease applicant for the five years he worked there.

Concern 5 - What plans are in the pipeline for Katoomba Airfield by the lease applicant and why is the community expected to engage and comment when we have **NO IDEA** what the full proposal is?

It is extremely unfair that the community is expected to comment on a lease without information regarding the nature and breadth of the lease applicants plans for the property. The department has received a business case that should establish a one- and five-year business case. In a conversation with Scott Mullen it was confirmed that this business case is not a passive investment. Presentations by the lease applicant have provided some details these include:

1. Tarmacking the runway
2. Two new hangars
3. Invitations to every pilot up and down the east coast of Australia to utilise the airfield
4. Blue Sky Aviation is already using the airfield
5. On February 3, 2019 12 helicopters landed and took off dropping off people who were then bused to the Fairmont thereby proving this is not just about joy flights
6. Proposed flight paths fly over the Grose Valley
7. One pilot indicated that the airfield would have 30 helipads
8. The lease applicant's website is an excellent example of greenwashing and marketing spin

The bottom line is the more money that is spent on the ground the more aircraft will be required to take off and land from the Katoomba Airfield to get a return on investment. My conservative estimates suggest that for every \$1 million spent \$20,000 per month minimum will need to be generated to break even. The current ERSA suggests it costs \$35 to land at the airfield that is 571 flights per month just to break even.

This lease application appears to be a serious money-making venture with lots of air traffic landing and taking off from within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The public has a right to know the breadth of the lease applicants plan. The fact that this information is not forthcoming raises the question of why? Is this a ploy to deceive the community? Will the community be in an even bigger uproar because thousands of aircraft will be taking off and landing from within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area every month?

Concern 6 – Katoomba Airfield is in an environmentally sensitive area; commercial aircraft should not be taking off and landing from within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage-listed Area.

I was out for a walk with my [REDACTED]-old son on February 3, 2019 when your current licensee organised 12 helicopters to fly in and drop off tourists to be bused to the Fairmont. The decibel readings for over 1km broke 70db. We were walking the footpath along the airfield, the same footpath that takes walkers from Medlow Bath to Minnehaha Waterfalls in Katoomba. His comment was so simple, Mum if this happens all the animals will leave.

It has been pointed out that Australia has the worst track record in the world when it comes to protecting endangered species and we have lost the most. The fact that allowing a commercial airfield in the middle of a World Heritage Area would even be considered speaks volumes about why Australia has earned this reputation.

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 and the Monkey Gum/Mountain grey gum. Listed as endangered are the Eastern Bristlebird, Spotted-tailed quoll, the Blue Mountains Swamp-Skink, *Epacris hamiltonii*, *Eucalyptus copulans*, Dwarf Mountain Pine and *Leionema lachnaeoides*. Listed as vulnerable are the Broad-Headed Snake, *Zieria involucrate*, Flockton Wattle, *Acrophyllum austral*, *Acacia bynoeana*, *Euphrasia bowdeniae* and *Diuris aequalis*.

Listed on the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 as critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and Slaty Leek Orchid. Listed as an endangered ecological community is the Monkey Gum/Mountain grey gum. Listed as endangered are the Eastern Bristlebird, Giant Dragonfly, Blue Mountains Swamp-Skink, Broad-Headed Snake, *Epacris hamiltonii*, *Zieria involucrate*, *Eucalyptus copulans*, Dwarf Mountain Pine, *Acacia bynoeana*, *Diuris aequalis* and *Leionema lachnaeoides*. Listed as vulnerable are Gang-Gang Cockatoo, Varied Sittella, Glossy BlackCockatoo, Little Lorikeet, Speckled Warbler, Spotted-tailed quoll, Eastern False Pipistrelle, Eastern Pygmy Possum, Flockton Wattle, *Acrophyllum austral* and *Euphrasia bowdeniae*.

Using the table from the following link:

https://www.bazl.admin.ch/dam/bazl/it/dokumente/Politik/Umwelt/helicopter_emissionstable.xls.download.xls/helicopter_emissionstable.xls

We can see the popular Bell 206B capable of carrying 4 passengers and one pilot will use 101kg (176.6 litres) of fuel per hour. Helicopters run Jet A1 fuel; a kerosene-based fuel measured as weight. 1Kg of Jet A1 = 1.742 litres (<https://www.airliners.net/forum/viewtopic.php?t=754781>). In this hour the helicopter will emit 0.82kg (1.43 litres) of unburned hydrocarbons per hour (or aviation fuel/kerosene), emit 1.03kg (1.8 litres) of carbon and 2.34kg (4.09 litres) of nitric oxides. None of which is beneficial to the environment, humans or flora and fauna. These emissions are airborne, and the largest volume will be emitted while taking off and landing from within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area if this unconscionable lease application is progressed.

The lease applicant's website is riddled with greenwashing, the mere suggestion that one tree per helicopter planted somewhere else in the country can stop the contamination of those found locally is ridiculous. It is recognised that forest planting is intrinsically problematic because markets are forward selling an asset that takes time to grow.

The area under threat is famous for its massive sandstone cliffs, clear mountain streams, waterfalls and rivers, the park has long prided itself on sharing some of Australia's most breathtaking vistas, including along the National Pass (Wentworth Falls), Grand Canyon (Blackheath) and Three Sister (Katoomba) walking tracks. Walking tracks cover approximately 320km of the park and attract 1.37 million visitors per year alone. Noise and Eye pollution will be a detraction. High level of emissions will not be beneficial to the flora and fauna that is found in these areas.

There are also numerous studies that clearly establish the impact of helicopters on wildlife. Such studies identify: collision with aircraft, flushing of birds from nests or feeding areas, alteration in movement and activity patterns, decreased foraging efficiency, panic running, decreased survival of young, increased heartrate and adrenal hypertrophy Over 200 published and unpublished reports can be found on the subject. These reports range in

scientific validity from well designed, rigorous studies to professional natural resource manager and pilot reports.
<http://www.nonoise.org/library/npreport/chapter5.htm>

Katoomba Airfield is also located right next to the Blue Mountains water supply catchment and only 1.5km from drinking water storage. The proposed flight paths are taking off and landing at low levels directly over the water catchment area, storage dams. Additionally, the residential homes within several kilometres of the airfield use rainwater collection as their source of water. Will the Department be paying to connect the homes to the main waterline?

What absolutely does my head in is that at the drop-in sessions not a single study had been initiated by the department to this regard. This instead will be done later if it is decided whether to proceed with the lease application. How can this even be considered until all the facts⁸ are known. How can the community be asked to engage and write submissions when all the facts are not on the table?

If the Crown Lands just gives the Katoomba Airfield to NPWS and allow them to include it in the park it will be in the hands of a department who understand the environment and how to best manage this parcel of land for the good of all including its use as for emergency services.

Concern 7 - Blue Mountains brand is “Quiet” persistent noise of helicopters would destroy this brand and impact the 4.25 million tourists who visit this area, this is a serious risk to tourism in the Blue Mountains. Any reduction in tourism would be detrimental to the Lower and Upper Blue Mountains economy.

There is little doubt that the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield will impact tourism. A brief overview of what this tourism consists of follows. The link has full details as outlined by the Department of Industry Destination NSW.

<https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/travel-to-blue-mountains-snapshot-dec-2018.pdf>

Domestic overnight travellers represent 1.1 million visitors of which bushwalking or rainforest walks’ (49.5%) and visit national or state parks (46.6%) were the most popular activities. Sydney (53.4%) was the largest source market in terms of nights in the region followed by regional NSW (27.6%). These visitors spent \$406 million in the region or on average \$158 per night per person.

The Blue Mountains also receives 2.9 million domestic day trippers each year. Top activities are visiting national or state parks (34.6%), sightseeing or looking around (34.4%) and bushwalking or rainforest walks (33%). These visitors spent \$314 million in the region or on average \$108 per person. The views of many of some of these small businesses are represented in the Real People Real Concerns video series.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxRXvHCSQiGVzSbOxolXFcA>

Losing even 10% of this revenue stream will result in businesses closing and a reduction of jobs throughout the Blue Mountains.

It has been said that people forget the fires of 2013 when the Blue Mountains burning was on the front page of the Sydney newspapers. The locals remember how hard it was to make living. Tourism dropped right off and they stopped coming because they thought there was nothing to see. The reverberating thump, thump, of thousands of helicopter rotors will have the same impact.

Quiet is a brand, it is why Sydney flocks here to “their backyard” to escape the hustle and bustle of suburbia and city life and bear witness to clear blue skies, fresh air and quiet. Take this away and the Blue Mountains economy will undoubtedly suffer for what? A private operation operating on Crown Land with no clear definition of who owns the company.

Who has informed the millions of tourists that flock to Australia’s top destination each year that their Blueys is going to be overrun with noise pollution, visual pollution and environmental pollution? The drop-in sessions were focused on the local community. Helicopters and aircraft are airborne and without boundaries. This means there will be hundreds of thousands unsuspecting victims from visitors and residents to those wondering why suddenly, the privacy has been compromised by overflights and they never had a say. Thump, thump.

I say fix the problem. Stop trying to be Aerodrome Managers and allow NSWFP to incorporate the airfield into the national park. Helicopters do not require a runway and fixed wing will never fight fires from the Katoomba Airfield as the runway is too short.

Concern 8 - Within the 5.5km flight circuit aircraft can fly at any height in any direction, this renders the Fly Neighbourly Advice (FNA) useless.

FNA's on any day are only as good as the word of the pilot flying the aircraft. They are not enforceable, never have been and never will be. To quote CASA air space is free it is not owned. CASA also confirmed they know nothing about FNA's, they do not enforce them, end of subject.

"The 'circuit area' would be defined as within a 3 nautical miles (nm) radius of the aerodrome and extending from the surface to 1,500 feet above ground level vertically." 3nm is 5,5 kilometers.

<https://consultation.casa.gov.au/regulatory-program/radio-frequency-consultation/>

In ongoing discussions with CASA the one point that was made clear when calling in complaints to them is that when an aircraft is in the flight circuit and approaching or taking off from the landing area it can fly in any direction at any height. This is at the discretion of the pilot based on the conditions while in the air. http://www6.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/car1988263/s157.html

On February 3rd, when 12 helicopters flew into Katoomba Airfield the local community at a drop-in session was assured by your lease applicant that these helicopters would fly up the south side of the highway, cross in Linden (because there were less home there) then head straight up the Grose Valley to land at Katoomba Airfield. The last four helicopters despite this assurance (which by the way was not acceptable by people and communities up and down the mountain) flew in across Water Board land from the direction of Blackheath. These four helicopters were barely 100 meters above ground and equally as close to homes. Once a liar always a liar I say.

Not only does this mean that all residents in the flight circuit will at the discretion of the pilot have their homes flown over at any possible height including under 500 feet, and this has already happened on February 3, 2019, it also means that around 11km of the Grose Valley is in the flight circuit null and voiding any Fly Neighbourly advise which may exist.

The mere act of the Department of Industry Crown Lands receiving this lease should have prompted a full investigative research to understand the impact of what the lease applicant is proposing then engage the community for a response. Not say hey we have this lease application, we have no idea how it will impact everybody what do you think? To not be able to answer a single question regarding how many flights, change of use, impact on World Heritage Values the environment or the Blue Mountains economy is unconscionable, unfair and disrespectful of the local residents, the wildlife, the environment and the 4.25 million people who visit the mountains because of what it offers right now.

Concern 9 – If the RFS are not worried about Katoomba Airfield why should anyone else be?

In 2017 as noted by the Blue Mountains City Council Minutes date October 17, 2017 Item 24, page 176 the Rural Fire Service (RFS) confirmed that they would **not** be interested in establishing a permanent presence at the site.

In a letter dated 23-February 2017 (DOC17/028257, File 08-1364-03)

<https://www.casa.gov.au/file/184486/download?token=cE7WD8JX> it is written 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.

At the drop-in sessions it was acknowledged by Scott Mullen that RFS do not care about Katoomba Airfield due to the large number of locations that can be used in the mountains for landing helicopters.

Katoomba Airfield is only one of many locations used for setting up a staging area for air defence in the Blue Mountains during a bushfire. Other locations include, but are not limited to, Melrose Park in Katoomba and Warrimoo Sports Grounds which for example in 2014 was the staging area for the Greens Rd fires accommodating 6 helicopters. Distance to the fires is not the only determining factor of the location that will be used. For example, if the wind was to change and smoke to consume the location in use the command centre would likely move to a different location.

Fixed wing aircraft are also used in fighting bush fires for dropping water and retardant. It is highly unlikely that Katoomba Airfield would be used for fixed wing firefighting. This is due to the density of the tree canopy in the Blue Mountains, the smaller fixed wing aircraft used for firefighting are not able to carry enough water or retardant to penetrate the forest canopy. Instead Large Air Tankers (LAT) need to be used. The volume of water or retardant that a LAT can carry has a hitting power capable of penetrating the dense canopy. The LAT's come from Richmond where the runway length and rating are suited to their requirements. Katoomba Airfield even if tarmacked is not long enough for LATs.

While helicopters may be used for firefighting and dropping water much of the firefighting is still done on the ground. In remote areas this entails winching ground crews in and out. Fighting fires from aircraft is also used to slow fires down while ground crews gain access. Weather can often render fighting fires from the air impossible, strong winds may halt their support altogether. Sky cranes can land where there is room to fit and a paved surface is not necessary.

Katoomba Airfield has never been used as command central or ground zero. Katoomba Airfield was used as a staging area for air support in October, November and December of 2009, January 2015 and January and November 2018. Please note that in January 2018 there was no lease or license holder on the premise, nor had it been maintained since closing on May 23rd, 2016. There were many others fires where the airfield was not used including fires in 2007 in Leura and Katoomba, the big fires in 2013 in Springwood and Mt Victoria and the 2014 fires in Warrimoo.

I am extremely disappointed that the Department has allowed whitewashing on this subject by the lease applicants to sway the public. Commercialising Katoomba Airfield is a separate topic from its use by emergency services, the two in no way go hand in hand.

Concern 10 - One road in, one road out and a whole community no longer able to enjoy the amenity of walking along this route.

Should a commercial lease be granted for Katoomba Airfield increased use of local roads by vehicles especially large vehicles such as fuel tankers and coaches going to and from the airfield is deemed a huge concern and risk to the well being of the locals who currently utilise the road for walking, running and bicycle riding.

The increased risk of injury and potentially fatalities to people is unacceptable. There are many blind spots along the roadway and pinch points where two vehicles especially large vehicles cannot pass simultaneously. Drivers unfamiliar with the area would be unaware of these pinch points, blind crests, corners and lack of run off areas.

Environmental impacts caused by a fuel spill should a collision or accident occur are a very real and disconcerting possibility. Case and point on July 18th a flatbed Toyota Land Cruiser was speeding down the road and could audibly be heard by walkers. This vehicle was speeding down a bumpy dirt road carrying two red drums filled with aviation fuel, destination Katoomba Airfield. The vehicle after rounding the bend did not even slow down to ensure safety of the walkers. Sadly, drivers associated with the airfield repeatedly speed down Grand Canyon Rd regularly. This is a problem.

There are three roads that need to be travelled to reach the Katoomba Airfield, Railway Parade, Rutland Rd and Grand Canyon Rd. These roads are mainly uncurbed and without formed pedestrian footpaths. Once you turn onto Rutland Rd, which continues into Grand Canyon Rd there is no choice but to walk on the road. Roughly halfway down Rutland Rd streetlights are not existent. The roads to the airfield narrow in four distinct locations and two vehicles cannot pass. There is a right angle turn without visibility to oncoming traffic. Larger vehicles must cross to the wrong side of the road to negotiate. Two sharp bends have no visibility to oncoming traffic let alone mothers walking children in prams or cyclists. The final 800m through the national park itself is unpaved and riddled with potholes. Overhanging trees along Grand Canyon Rd push oversized vehicles into the centre of the roadway as does the lack of runoff area beside the roadway.

On February 2nd, 2019 on a walk through the airfield it was explained by **your** lease applicant that the roads were not their problem. If someone dies whose problem is it? Is the Department of Industry Crown Land planning to fund the necessary upgrades without pushing it back to the taxpayer?

Many residents use the walking trails next to the runway, this track goes to Minnehaha Falls in Katoomba. Cyclists and runners also use these trails. Nobody wants to walk blue, that is a joke why would anybody want to walk next to helicopters taking off and landing, will gas masks and earmuffs be distributed? The health risks of doing this sort of a thing is enormous. Continued exposure to Aviation fuel and its components is linked to neurological changes and neurodegenerative disorders which have a major role in human development, adaptation and response to disease. https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/benefits%20and%20payments/f111/JFES_Molecular_studies.pdf

Conclusion

The commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield is fraught with a lack of information and knowledge of what the actual proposal is, who the real lessee is, the environmental impacts, the economic impact and the impact on people, flora and fauna locally and afar. The scope and complexity of this lease application has not been addressed by the Department of Industry Crown Lands yet without this knowledge a lease application is being considered and the community expected to comment. The Department does not even have the right to enable a lease that will impact on World heritage values.

There is only one logical conclusion and that is to include it in the surrounding national park as should have occurred on 1988 and as has been requested multiple times since by local council. NPWS understand the sensitive area and can manage it for the limited needs of emergency services. This also supports the 12,200 signatures on a petition to be heard on August 1st, 2019 in the NSW Parliament.

Thank you for your time and consideration. **My letter may be published, please do not include my name and address.**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 1:19 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: [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.

[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, 3 July 2019 12:27 PM
To: 'airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a long time pilot (both military and civilian), a Sydney native and a former Sydney based Helicopter Rescue Pilot, I strongly advocate for the retention of Katoomba Airfield as a viable airfield for both recreational and commercial purposes. I have a long history of operations in the Blue Mountains, both in the air and on the ground, and believe this airfield is a vital part of the future of this area.

As I currently live interstate, I am not able to attend the local meetings, but I support the efforts of Fly Blue and others to keep the airfield operating.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 10:09 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Good Morning,

I fully support upgrading the Katoomba Airfield. It will give tourists another view of the Blue Mountains not readily available. It may also help business person sin providing an aerial service to other airports around Eastern Australia.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 27 June 2019 9:59 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: 602686

Please, we live in Blackheath for the solitude and access to National Parks for walking and bird watching not to listen to helicopters.

This is a horrendous idea. Not in the World Heritage.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:58 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: KATOOMBA AIRFIELD LEASE PROPOSAL – SUBMISSION REF NO: LX 602686

4 August 2019

To: Department of Industry – Crown Lands
PO Box 2155
Dangar NSW 2309
Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Dear whom it may concern,

KATOOMBA AIRFIELD LEASE PROPOSAL – SUBMISSION REF NO: LX 602686

A Submission objecting to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield, Lot 550 in Deposited Plan 751627.

I object to the commercial lease of Katoomba Airfield on the following grounds

- * Environmental Impact - primary concern is noise pollution, risk to World Heritage Area status
- * Economic Impact / Negative Externalities - broad based devaluing of the attractiveness of the Blue Mountains for tourists seeking natural escape, for current & potential residents, and for businesses dependent on quiet surrounds
- * Cultural Impact - incompatible with various cultural activity such as film making, outdoor music performance, and other creative arts
- * Lack of protection against excessive and oppressive aircraft traffic
- * Process failings - DOI management of the leasing process has been flawed
- * Violation of privacy - of residents under flight paths
- * Mental health - of residents subject to sustained air traffic noise
- * A better alternative - incorporate the airfield into the National Park

Environmental Impact

The primary danger of the Katoomba Airfield development by 'Flyblue' is the dramatic increase in noise pollution from multiple helicopters that could use the upgraded airfield as a base for frequent tourist flights out over the escarpments and into the National Park and rural valleys.

Flyblue state in their information packet (<https://flyblue.com.au/>) "Blue Mountains tourism meaning more than just a destination point but can become a true "hub-&-

spoke" model acting as a gateway for tourism to central west with heliflights to wineries, gardens, caves, fishing activities & more..."

Further, Flyblue state "Today there are MANY heli-charter operators offering Joy Flights over the Blue Mountains, coming from airports outside of the Blue Mountains". They reference advertisements to 9 different helicopter companies currently providing these services. By creating a home base for Flyblue helicopters and maybe those from other companies, with potential for refuelling, etc, right in the middle of the Blue Mountains, the number of helicopter flights over our area would be expected to multiply. Flyblue would likely collect a fee for each flight, and so would have an incentive to support as many flights as possible.

This noise pollution would degrade the enjoyment of people coming to the mountains seeking a quiet natural escape. It would degrade the quality of life for residents. It presents risks to native fauna. It would potentially interfere with farmers, frightening animals such as horses. It potentially destroys the ability of the business and cultural community of the Blue Mountains to conduct certain activities such as film making and outdoor concerts.

Australian aviation law limits normal minimum flight altitudes to only 500ft (152m) outside of populated areas. Considering analysis published by the Helicopter Association International - figure 4 of <https://ww.nap.edu/read/23609/chapter/15#72>, which suggests that even small to medium helicopters at 500ft generate over 70-80dB. This is 16-32 times louder than the background noise of a quiet rural area (<http://www.industrialnoisecontrol.com/comparative-noise-examples.htm>). Frequent intrusion of this level of noise would radically change the experience of the Blue Mountains.

I also have significant concerns about the impact of noise on our native wildlife. As far as I know this risk has seen limited study especially in Australia though there are logical indications that the risk is significant for our protected fauna. The following US paper from 2013 (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Clinton_Francis/publication/249962505_A_framework_for_understanding_noise_impacts_on_wildlife_An_urgent_conservation_priority/links/5ce763da299bf14d95b52b88/A-framework-for-understanding-noise-impacts-on-wildlife-An-urgent-conservation-priority.pdf) suggests this deserves particular attention considering the airfield is surrounded by National Park.

Economic Impact / Negative Externalities

To be clear, it is flawed logic to say that the airfield can have broad economic benefits to the region (already visited by over 4 million tourists per year) WHILE satisfying the critical environmental considerations and community concerns. If this particular operation is big enough to make a difference economically it will need a high volume of flights, and the high volume of flights will destroy the peace and quiet (brand) of the mountains and change its environment forever.

The airfield has been in existence and operational for a long time but it has not been used as a daily tourist heliport (with the exception I understand of about 3 years in the

early 1990's when there was an operation ultimately closed due to massive community opposition). For most of the last 20 years, it was a home base for a tiny borderline volunteer flight training operation by Rod Hay - nothing to be worried about. In 2017, my wife and I bought our place in the Megalong Valley with an appreciation that we might see more flights overhead from Western Sydney but no due diligence turned up the possibility that this small dirt airstrip would be sealed and converted into a platform for a potentially sizeable and unconstrained heli-tourism operation. From my perspective, this is a change of use. If this operation goes ahead, it ultimately will devalue our property along with much of the rest of the privately held real estate in the Blue Mountains.

From my perspective, with the continued growth of Sydney directly, and the global tourism industry more broadly, tourism in the Blue Mountains will continue to grow without this commercial heli-tourism venture. I have seen projections that Sydney will grow to 6.5-7+ million over the next 15 years. I suggest that if anything we must pay particular attention to preserving what makes the Blue Mountains special and different from the environment of its neighbouring big city - its peace and quiet.

The experience of the Grand Canyon is instructive for the Blue Mountains. The Grand Canyon attracted 6+m visitors last year (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/253878/number-of-visitors-to-grand-canyon-national-park/>). Blue Mountains attracted 4+m visitors last year (<https://www.destinationnsw.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/blue-mountains-time-series-ye-dec-2018.pdf>). To quote an article in USA Today on helicopters in the Grand Canyon - "Tourists just want to fly" (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/nation-now/2018/02/12/grand-canyon-crowded-airspace-recipe-disaster/328219002/>). It is reasonable to expect the same here, with the spectacular visuals we have, and the attendant negative consequences if we allow a local heli-tourism operation to be set up at our centre.

The following is a set of quotes found searching "helicopter noise" on Tripadvisor:

1. 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
2. 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 2017
3. 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
4. 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

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

6. Gold Coast, Queensland: "Lovely shops. Great ice cream shop, as well as nice cafes and fashion but the helicopter noise is incessant and can spoil a lovely lunch in the wonderful restaurants overlooking the great view." December 2018

7. Seattle, Washington USA: "Really my only complaint is the nearly constant helicopter traffic flying over. Average is about one every 5 mins but frequently you hear the next one before the previous one is out of hearing range." June 2017

8. Cape Town Central, South Africa: "Helicopter blades are nowadays the noise that thunders above Vic Falls" August 2018

9. 12 Apostles, VIC: "Absolutely ruined by constant helicopter noise... As we climbed down the steps to the beach, we became immediately aware of the helicopters grinding and thundering noisily directly overhead every few minutes. The noise was thoroughly obnoxious and out of place in an otherwise beautiful natural location, and it detracted significantly from our enjoyment of the area"

10. Plainfield, Vermont USA: "Nice, except for constant helicopter noise...One HUGE drawback for me was the constant drone of the sightseeing helicopters between 9am and about 4pm, and I mean CONSTANT, 7 days a week. After flying up the Napali coast, they cruise by Hale Makai's beach, then turn inland. Some flew much lower than the 500ft limit. It was very obtrusive and annoying to me, and would keep me from going back there." February 2013

I absolutely consider myself lucky to live in this amazing environment and am happy to share it with visitors, and I welcome the money they bring to our local economy. While I would not consider being selective as to who visits, I do believe that how they visit is important. Ground based tourism is broad, effective, democratic and improving. I travel to and from Sydney with ease by car and train. There are plans for the roads to be improved further and potential for the train service to be also. Air travel is not a low cost option. The only benefit is for people who want to come and go quickly and I don't see they will necessarily spend that much relative to the 100x larger # of people who arrive by car, bus or train with time to stay for a few days. Further, stopping the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield isn't going to stop people travelling here by helicopter. People do that already, it is just a question of how many and what else is done with helicopters based here. To the extent the Blue Mountains is differentiated by its relative lack of heli-tourism facilities, I believe that it will only reinforce peoples' view of the mountains as a priceless escape from the bustle of their city lives.

Cultural Impact

A commercial helicopter tourism home base at Katoomba Airfield is incompatible with various cultural activity such as film making, outdoor music performance, and other creative arts. Many of these have significant cultural AND economic impact.

Lack of protection against excessive and oppressive aircraft traffic

It appears that there would be no legally binding limit to the number of helicopter flights to and from the airport. The aviation regulator CASA has suggested that flights could safely be managed at one per minute!

Using Blue Mountains flight data for May 2019 (over the area cornered by coordinates s33.55,e150.2, s33.85,e150.2, s33.85,e150.65, s33.55,e150.65) provided by flight tracking company FlightRadar24, I was able to determine that on average, there are records of approximately 7-8 helicopter flights daily. While I accept that this perhaps underestimates the number due to some helicopters not carrying an ADS-B tracking device, the number is broadly consistent with my experience of current helicopter flights over my farm averaging less than two or three per day. I would be comfortable and expect some modest increase on that number over time perhaps up to double, even without the commercialisation of the airfield. The problem is that for the airfield to be successful, considering the material capital investment involved, it can and will support a potentially much greater and unbounded number of flights.

I am not against fixed wing use. My objection is bolting on a unconstrained commercial heli-tourism operation to the airfield. I would be comfortable if the lease was granted to Flyblue for fixed wing only (commercial) plus helicopter emergency use.

Per CASA, I understand that the airfield operator has no control over flight paths outside of 3 nautical miles (~5.5km) from the airfield. As noted above, once in the sky, pilots can choose to fly anywhere. I am not prepared to trust the good intentions of the Larsens and Flyblue in part given they haven't trusted the community with solid information about their proposal, including flight numbers etc. A related point on this, Flyblue and the Larsens have made a lot in their promo material of their planned 'Fly Neighbourly' policy eg stating "FLYBLUE's scenic heli-charter on offer will be a minimum of 30 minutes in length, and will not operate in sensitive and populated areas; this will be reflected in the new Katoomba Airfield Fly Neighbourly policy."

(<https://flyblue.com.au/>) but if you look at their actual proposed Fly Neighbourly agreement on their website there is no mention of a minimum 30min flight length (<https://flyblue.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Proposed-YKAT-Noise-Abatement-Procedures-Curfews.pdf> & <https://flyblue.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FlyBlue-YKAT-Fly-Neighbourly-Policy-FLIGHT-PROCEDURES-proposed.pdf>). Further, no-one can guarantee that the Larsens won't sell a controlling stake in Flyblue or even the airfield lease to another entity in future. Even with the best intentions, self regulation is not reliable. CASA states that the Fly Neighbourly Agreements are not-enforceable "Although an FNA must have the concurrence of relevant aviation authorities, it cannot be enforced under aviation law"

(<https://www.casa.gov.au/file/149191/download?token=uvAQUKld>) and regardless, the FNA could be changed in future by Flyblue or its successor.

Process failings

To date, Flyblue has not released to the community at large the details of their business plan. Per the Department of Industry FAQ on the proposed lease, "The department does not generally make lease applications public as they may contain information that is commercially sensitive for the applicant." Further, the Department have stated publicly that it has not been given estimates of flight numbers by Flyblue. The key information that hasn't been shared with the public by Flyblue is projected ranges of flight traffic numbers that might be expected, and further, flight numbers that would be needed to ensure profitability. There are a number of unflattering reasons that I can think of driving Flyblue to want to keep these estimates commercial in confidence, most notably that once the community at large understands the potential number of flights, they would fight even harder against the granting of the lease. This information need to be public for there to be any sensible cost/benefit analysis.

Putting this another way, Flyblue is the only horse in the race right now. There is no other lease applicant being considered presently by the Department of Industry. Further, Flyblue is looking to be in monopoly control of a public asset. They are not going to have direct competitors. They will be in a position to set any price they want. Commercial in confidence is important where the information you have would be used by your competitors for their advantage. But Flyblue have no commercial competitors. The competition if you like is really the community, potentially arguing another non-commercial alternative. So thus commercial in confidence is only logically important to Flyblue to block transparency about their future operations from the community who would be outraged by the truth. Until we have transparency, how can we make a balanced assessment of the net economic impact of this proposed operation?

The issue of process failings has been documented in much more detail in the letter from the Katoomba Airfield Community Group to Crown Lands Commissioner Richard Bush dated 24 July 2019.

Ultimately, the community should not have been put in the position to respond to the lease application. The Department should have respected the previous community guidance, I understand blessed by both National Parks and the Blue Mountains City Council to incorporate the airfield into the National Park, reserved and maintained for emergency use only. It should never have gone to the Expression of Interest.

Violation of privacy

An obvious concern is that helicopters carrying tourists are interested in looking at activities below them. This presents a violation of privacy for residents under the flight paths, especially in the rural valleys such as the Megalong.

Health / Mental health

There are serious health concerns from impact of noise. Consider broader health issues and specifically mental health e.g. “Depression and anxiety increased with the degree of overall noise annoyance. Compared to no annoyance, prevalence ratios for depression, respectively anxiety increased from moderate (PR depression 1.20; 95%CI 1.00 to 1.45; PR anxiety 1.42; 95% CI 1.15 to 1.74) to extreme annoyance (PR depression 1.97; 95%CI 1.62 to 2.39; PR anxiety 2.14; 95% CI 1.71 to 2.67). Compared to other sources, aircraft noise annoyance was prominent affecting almost 60% of the population.” (US National Institute of Health - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4873188/#!po=1.21951>). The World Health Organisation has also begun analysis of this issue with a review of research here - http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/136466/e94888.pdf.

A better alternative

I understand that there are a number of often better alternatives than Katoomba Airfield for emergency service helicopter landings in the mountains and fixed wings are not used for emergency use. As for large scale situations, I understand that the airfield has been a staging ground for some operations but that the existing basic facility is all that is needed. As for funding of basic maintenance, I understand there is funding available from Federal and or NSW level such as under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and Bush Fire Risk Mitigation and Resilience Funding Brigade Mitigation Support Programme. We don't need the airfield commercialised to meet this need.

The Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the National Park and maintained for emergency use only.

Given the above, you may understand why it is my hope that Department of Industry will reject this lease application from the Larsens and Flyblue.

Please publish my submission but keep my address and email confidential.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au; susan.templeman.mp@aph.gov.au; mgreenhill@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; dmcgregor@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; cvanderkley@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; kbrown@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; rhollywood@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; sfoenander@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; bchristie@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; kschreiber@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; bhoare@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; mfell@bmcc.nsw.gov.au; dbowling@bmcc.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield by FlyBlue

To Whom It May Concern.

I am writing to express my total **OPPOSITION** to a Lease being granted by The Department of Industry (Crown Lands) to Derek and Floyd Larsen of FlyBlue.

I own a property in [REDACTED] and reside in Megalong Valley, two of the areas that will be directly impacted by the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. However, this is also an extremely concerning proposal for **ALL** residents of the Upper Blue Mountains and the Blue Mountains as a whole. I believe this potentially large scale commercial operation will impact the amenity of residents from Leura though to Mount Victoria and maybe even further. Aircraft can fly as low as 500 ft in some areas and in certain circumstances even lower. This proposal will have major implications on so many levels and will be of great concern and threat to our World Heritage Listing status.

According to Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise website (bmee.org.au), the Blue Mountains National Park has the highest visitation of any National Park in Australia with more than 4 million visitors per annum. An estimated 1.25 million visitors per annum (Tourism Research Australia statistics) physically undertake a bushwalk and the most popular activities are dining, bushwalking, abseiling and canyoning. The reason for this is that the Blue Mountains are accessible and known for the natural beauty and wilderness areas. This proposal will erode all of this as the visitors who come now to enjoy the peace the Blue Mountains offer will not want to endure potentially constant noise from the drone of helicopters and fixed wing aircraft. This is a start up business so obviously FlyBlue cannot specify minimum or maximum numbers of flights but as with any start up business, they are aiming for success and it is my understanding that the flight numbers may have no restrictions. Other operators will also be allowed to use the airfield for a fee. I am aware that Katoomba Airfield has been under a commercial lease for some years but with very low impact and minimal use. It is imperative that it remains an active airfield for the use of emergency aircraft.

FlyBlue's website is a smokescreen for a large scale commercial enterprise which will not only destroy the ambience of countless numbers of people who have chosen to live here but I believe will negatively impact the tourism of people who come for longer stays to enjoy the serenity the mountains offer.

According to the 2016 Census the population of Mount Victoria, Blackheath, Medlow Bath, Katoomba, Leura and Megalong Valley total 18,780 people. This is not taking into account people who have weekend properties or the visitors and tourists. I believe all of these areas and possibly others, will be impacted by FlyBlue's commercial operations. A petition against this proposal has been signed by 12,000 people, a very large proportion of the local communities.

FlyBlue have described their business model as being destinational 'scenic heli charters' with a minimum of 30 minutes duration. Again this is a smokescreen for joy flights. Where will their tourist dollars be

spent? I feel it will be a fly in/fly out set up and will not have any positive benefits apart from for a few regional tourist based operators. Joy flights operated from Katoomba airfield between 1992 and 1995 but were ceased due to strong community opposition. The aircraft numbers now, some 23 years later would be substantially increased. There are currently aircraft flying over the mountains but if this licence were to be granted, the flight activity would be totally unacceptable.

Other factors to be taken into consideration are:-

The environmental impact on the region, both flora and fauna

The impact on livestock and horse riders, with aircraft in some cases flying as low and maybe lower than 500 ft.

The destruction of the peace and quiet of so many people who have chosen to make the Blue Mountains their home.

The potential invasion of privacy caused by people being able to film or take photos from the various aircraft.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 June 2019 1:55 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref: LX 602686

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I support the reopening and upgrade of katoomba airport.

This airport has historical significance.

It is also essential for aviation safety over the mountains, as the only emergency landing strip available.

It is also a gateway for the tourism industry of the mountains.

We used to land there in the past, and look forward to being able to do so again.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 June 2019 3:16 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Crown Land Team,

Regarding the lease for Katoomba Airport - 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 public interest.

The airfield is an important possible safety stop 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. I have personally used it for this purpose two times in my years of flying.

Thanks you for considering.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 8:43 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686- I object to a private lease of Katoomba airfield LX 602686

Dear Crown Lands,

I am writing to voice my objection to the private lease of the Katoomba airfield.

I believe that the Blue Mountains World Heritage area should act as a global leader in minimal impact eco-tourism. Being a spectacular, wilderness area so close to Sydney we have a unique opportunity to foster environmental appreciation and understanding.

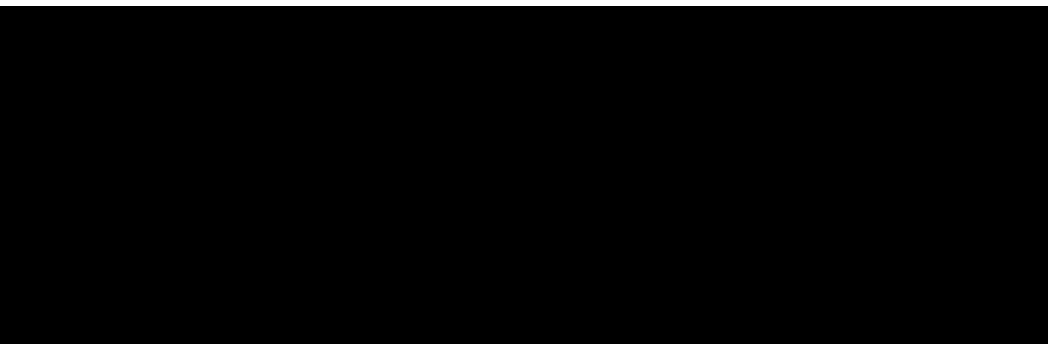
The nature experience is what entices visitors and residents to the Blue Mountains. Noise pollution from Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft jeopardise this powerful experience.

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains I love sharing this special place with visitors. However, we must be thoughtful about how we do this and plan with sustainability and the overall user experience of the BMWH area in mind.

Thank you for taking the time to reading my email. I hope my thoughts are helpful.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 3:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: ref: LX 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

To whom it may concern,

I write to you in support of Flyblue's proposal to lease the crown land known as Katoomba Airfield (YKAT).

By no means exhaustive, I submit some of the issues I would like to raise in support of this submission:

- YKAT has operated as a commercial airfield continuously since it opened in 1968 i.e. 51 years! Although it is currently closed to fixed wing aircraft for safety reasons due to the eroded runways (except in emergencies), 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 therefore not only in the interests of aviation that it remains open but it is also in the public interest!
- The airfield 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.
- FlyBlue's 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.
- Flyblue have already undertaken extensive site restoration work, including removing obsolete and dilapidated structures, abandoned waste materials and equipment. They have also installed two new windsocks, along with a weather station and cameras for use by general aviation www.katoomba.skycam.net.au.
- Flyblue plan to restore, protect and enhance the site including sealing the main RWY 06/24
- Flyblue have partnered with Greenfleet to implement a carbon offset program which would see one tree planted for every flight which left the airfield.
- With current visitor numbers standing at 4.7 million this year, and expected to grow to 5.6 million by 2023, Flyblue expect that their upgrades and long-term lease will help attract more tourism to the Blue Mountains, who we know will stay in local hotels and B&Bs at least one night, visit attractions, dine in restaurants and shop at local shopping centres thereby increasing economic activity in the region.

Thank you for your consideration of my support of Flyblue's leasing of Crown Land at Katoomba Airport.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 3:14 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Opposition to plans for Blue Mountains helicopter facilities LX602686

To whom it may concern

I cannot express strongly enough my opposition to any plans to open up space over Katoomba and the wider Blue Mountains to this option. Every part of life these days is being held hostage to the need for more thrilling experiences, and now the peace of our beautiful home could be invaded by those who could just as easily enjoy its beauty from a clifftop or valley. Pollution of all kinds to add to our clean air and peace, and for what? I doubt that the people planning this are bring in money to locals – they are tourist industry people wanting to make money from our resources, yet again. Who benefits I ask?

I live on a valley which is regularly patrolled by fire helicopters, and while I would never complain about their role here, I know how noisy they are. They are loud enough to wake you up in the morning, and to multiply this effect for a tourist who would be supporting our community with their tourist dollars here anyway, is neither fair nor profitable.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 7:47 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Good morning,
I wanted to say a few words in support of the re-vitalisation of Katoomba airfield.

How am I qualified to make a statement?

- [REDACTED] saw great safety, aviation and tourism potential in having an airfield in the Katoomba area
- I am a private pilot of approx 1000 hours and understand aviation needs, issues and opportunities
- As a business operator, I hold Advanced Eco-certification Accreditation with Eco-Tourism Australia, the peak body for conservation based tourism in Australia
- I hold NPWS eco-pass accreditation as a commercial operator in the Blue Mountains National Park.
- I care about safety and aviation and have personally flown aircraft in eco sensitive areas such as the
 - Blue Mountains NSW,
 - Chambers Pillar NT,
 - Uluru areas NT,
 - Twelve Apostles VIC,
 - Horizontal Waterfalls WA,
 - Cape Leveque WA,
 - Great Barrier Reef and Heart Reef QLD,
 - Hamilton Island QLD,
 - Airlie Beach airfield (Shute Harbour) QLD among others

and feel confident that I understand the need for both an airfield and environmental sensitivity in the Blue Mountains now

The inherent Problem as a commercial operation

Apart from the great vision held by its creators and the great support [REDACTED] from up to 17 government bodies to get the airport constructed back in 1968, it has always been a commercial failure due to several influencing factors.

- Weather,
- Remoteness to Katoomba by road,
- Difficult access by road,
- Close proximity to Sydney*,
- Under resourcing by the operators

**While many opponents to the airfield say that opening the airfield will increase aircraft activity over the Blue Mountains but in reality, it will not. Sydney to the Blue Mountains is approx 12-17 minutes flying time in a small single engine aircraft. Katoomba airfield is NOT suited to the amateur, inexperienced weekend pilot. For these pilots (who do the most flights over the area) it is far easier to depart Sydney (Bankstown, Camden, Warnervale and others) take a flight over the Blue Mountains and head back to Sydney for a coffee; all in under one hour. There is actually no need to stop at Katoomba.*

Whether an airfield exists or not at Katoomba, it won't alter the scenic sky traffic over the Blue Mountains.

The inherent benefit as an airfield

- Fire season safety
- Safe haven for aircraft in trouble (weather, mechanical, etc) over the Blue Mountains
- Tourism opportunities*

**Explained later*

The basis of why I think it should be retained as an active airfield

I'd like to use a small analogy to explain why commercial interests are needed to work hand in hand with environment and safety stake holders.

If I go into a coffee shop, I expect a seat, a table, a glass of water and an opportunity to use the bathroom all before I agree to buy something.

Yet, I know well in advance that the coffee shop has overheads, rent, staff, insurance, stock etc that requires someone to pay. And I know that in order for the shop owner to pay these overheads, someone seated at a table must buy something. In this instance it is me. So I know I need to order a coffee and meal.

This is a normal practice, yet we know many people go into a coffee shop and use the bathroom and leave without buying anything, or order a coffee and sit for hours taking up valuable table space, seemingly without care for the operator needing a turnover of traffic on that seat, or an understanding of the commercial reality of running a business.

In the Katoomba airfield 'coffee shop' scenario, FlyBlue as the current operators (who Crown Land assessed as being the best possible business case to operate an airfield) are running a coffee shop.

FlyBlue are experienced and qualified in business, well resourced, have aviation interests at heart (as opposed to hard-nosed business interests alone) and are passionate.

FlyBlue know:

- They must open for business
- They must provide emergency services access
- They have a responsibility to help keep the Blue Mountains safe in fire and emergency situations
- They must be allowed to improve its operation so they can re-coup some of the outlay by inviting paying customers

We all know:

It has never been a commercial success in its entire life and this is why it needs an operator who is well qualified in business, well resourced, aviation interested (as opposed to hard-nosed business interests alone) and passionate about the survival of the airfield.

In redeveloping the airfield, it could absorb millions in proper development costs. It will require thousands to maintain annually and to allow FlyBlue the opportunity to correctly manage this by allowing income to be generated through aviation related activities is paramount.

Tourism Opportunities Explained

There is the opportunity to expand Katoomba as a destination airfield for greater tourism opportunities.

In allowing FlyBlue to operate, it won't be a commercial success on a dollar in, dollar recovered basis but it will allow:

- emergency services to continue,
- aviation enthusiasts somewhere to fly to and spend money locally and
- it will ensure government bodies such as local council, Crown Land, NPWS, state or federal government WILL NOT need to fund its continuation as an emergency airport.

At one of the meetings in Katoomba that I attended, opponents to the airfield actually said the following comments;

- 1) *'the greedy operators will make millions from it'*
- 2) *'helicopters will be flying low over my home'*
- 3) *'it'll only cost \$80,000 to fix the airport. All the residents can put in \$1 and the council can run it'.*
- 4) *'There will be busloads of Chinese running up and down the road to the airfield'*

All these comments are irrational statements that are unfortunately based on either ignorance or arrogance and lack fact, logic and sensible reasoning. The opponents don't want a commercial operation but still want an emergency airfield.

On point 3 above, I can state factually that there has already been \$150,000 spent on removing long term accumulated rubbish from the airfield. I can only imagine the uproar if a government body such as BMCC had to fund this clean-up at rate payers expense because there was no operator willing to do so.

My Personal View

- 1) Under the FlyBlue business model, Katoomba airfield will become an excellent emergency airfield to enhance the safety of Blue Mountains Residents during emergency situations and fire seasons.
- 2) It will create aviation related tourism opportunities the Blue Mountains (as a tourist destination) can be proud of and
- 3) It will never be a commercial cash cow for an investor and as such it requires an operator who is well qualified in business, well resourced, has an interest in aviation (as opposed to hard-nosed business interests alone) and is passionate.

In closing

In order to offer a free bathroom, free water and table service, a café must present a nice coffee shop and encourage paying customers through good facilities and good service.

In order for the Blue Mountains to have an emergency services airfield, the operator must be allowed to present a nice facility and be allowed to encourage paying with good facilities and good service customers.

I can be contacted anytime on [REDACTED] for further comment.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 12:47 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission for the Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield.

To the Proper Officer,

The EPA have received a submission in response to the exhibition of the Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield. Can you please ensure that this submission is considered in your determination of the proposal ?

The submission comes from a resident of [REDACTED] and is as follows;

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

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on the below details.

Kind Regards,

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



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Any views expressed in this email are those of the individual sender except where the sender expressly and with authority states them to be the views of the Environment Protection Authority.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:48 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission - Proposed Lease of Katoomba Airfield

Good evening,

Please accept my submission regarding the proposed lease of Crown Land at Katoomba Airfield, your reference 602686.

As the content of this submission may differ from the views of my employer, I ask that my contact details be treated as confidential. The body of the submission may be published on the basis that all personally identifying information is removed, including my name and email address.

I will start by acknowledging that Katoomba Airfield has been in operation as an airfield for several decades and the proposed lease represents a continuation of long-standing uses of the site. However, the proposal to redevelop the site by the potential lessees, under the trading name of [FlyBlue](#), will be a significant intensification of use of the site. The use of the airfield in a commercial capacity therefore has significant potential for impacts on environmental and aesthetic values of the surrounding areas, and loss of amenity for nearby residents and other areas within approach and departure corridors. These issues are addressed below.

Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area

Katoomba Airfield is effectively an inholding within Blue Mountains National Park, which is part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. While the world heritage listing is based on the assemblage of eucalypt-based ecosystems throughout the reserve system, the conservation value of the Blue Mountains landscape goes well beyond the diversity of eucalypts.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority [Environmental Implications Guidelines](#), which relate to assessment of proposed changes to airspace management, specifically note (page 2):

“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.”

The development of a commercial airfield and intensification of use of the site is therefore clearly in conflict with the outstanding universal values of the surrounding National Park.

Grose Valley Wilderness

A large portion of the Grose River catchment was declared as wilderness in May 2001. This declaration recognises that the landscape in this area has a low level of human impact with little to no built infrastructure or modification of the landscape. While the area immediately adjoining the airfield are not part of this declared wilderness area, the landscape values in this surrounding area are very similar to those elsewhere in the valley and are equally worthy of this tier of conservation status. Approach and departure corridors associated with the airfield necessitate low-level flight over declared wilderness.

Commercialisation of Katoomba airfield, and subsequent intensification of general aviation traffic into and out of the site, is therefore incompatible with the wilderness values of the Grose Valley. See the statement noted above from CASA regarding flight paths over National Parks and nature reserves.

Further to this, the proposal to upgrade and seal one runway on the site will greatly increase stormwater runoff from the area. Water being discharged from sealed surfaces such as this has a different chemical balance to water that originates from natural areas, and peak flows, such as those occurring during storm events, will be more intense and exit the site at greater velocity. Stormwater impacts like these can be significant and can impact natural systems for many kilometres downstream of the discharge point. Stormwater detention systems can mitigate these impacts to some extent, but the scale of this proposal will likely exceed the capacity of such measures to limit these effects.

Hostility of Terrain

Katoomba Airfield is located on a ridge-top in mountainous terrain in the upper Blue Mountains. The airfield site itself and the surrounding areas are also heavily forested. Regardless of how well maintained the runway is, the surrounding environment and terrain are extremely unforgiving and provide no opportunity for an emergency landing should an aircraft encounter a problem (see accident history below). A large proportion of aviation accidents occur during take-off and landing, and commercialisation of the site and intensification of use will therefore increase the likelihood of aviation emergencies and exacerbate risks to airfield users.

Accident History

A number of accidents are recorded as having occurred at or in the vicinity of Katoomba Airfield. Accident summaries are available from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau [website](#). Common themes in relation to these accidents include turbulent and unpredictable winds, likely related to mountainous terrain, and the presence of forested areas very close to the runways. Commercialisation of the site and intensification of aircraft movements will likely increase the likelihood of serious accidents occurring in the area.

Given the hostility of the terrain and environment in the locality, a substantial commitment of emergency services resources can be required when accidents occur. The fatal 2016 incident provides a relevant recent example, where deployment of [AMSA assets](#) and resources from the [NSW Police Force and NSW Ambulance](#) were required over a 24 hours period before the wreckage was located. Recovery of the pilot's body and wreckage required further allocation of emergency services personnel and equipment.

Bird Strike

Impacts with birds is a well-known hazard in the aviation industry. Katoomba Airfield is located within forested country and the occurrence of birds within the airfield site and on approach and departure is highly likely. Although there is no recorded history of bird strike in this area, any intensification of use is almost certain to increase the risk of the interaction between birds and aircraft using the airfield. See notes above regarding the hostility of terrain should an accident occur and the potential draw on emergency services resources should such an event occur.

Power Lines

High voltage power lines are located both east and west of the site. Although these lines have markers installed, their presence poses another significant hazard to airfield users. Should an aircraft impact either of these lines, not only would there be a significant aviation incident but the loss of electricity supply would adversely affect communities well away from the accident site.

Capacity of the Site for Further Development

The airfield is located in a remote area and does not currently have access to essential services such as reticulated water or sewerage. The capacity of the site to sustain an intensification of use, without causing significant adverse impacts, appears highly limited.

Further to this, road access to the site is via a narrow residential street and approximately 1km of unsealed road. This road is currently not designed or constructed to a standard that permits any increased use of the area, such as the importing of fuel, water and other materials needed for maintenance of the airfield. Substantial upgrade of access would be required to facilitate commercialisation of the site, which would have other undesirable consequences, such as stormwater runoff impacts on the surrounding National Park and on residential amenity.

Impacts on Residential Amenity

Rural residential homes are located on Grand Canyon Road less than 1km from the western end of runway 06, as well as further back towards the village of Medlow Bath. Aircraft noise, particularly that generated by helicopters, can travel significant distances and therefore any intensification of use of the site has significant potential to affect residential amenity in the locality. I acknowledge that the applicants have issued a proposed [fly neighbourly advice](#) to limit impacts on nearby homes, however, this proposal simply shifts noise impacts onto the natural environment and detrimentally affects natural values and visitor experience (see notes above re noise).

Conclusion and Alternate Options

The site is currently a quiet and seldom used area that has a low level of impact on the surrounding natural environment and the scenic and aesthetic values of the area. The proposal to convert the airfield into a commercially operated site would change this and generate an array of adverse impacts, as noted above. As such, the Department of Industry are respectfully requested to *refuse* the application for a long-term lease on the basis of the concerns noted in this submission.

It is acknowledged that there are a number of issues with the site that require active management. The following alternate approaches are therefore proposed in place of a lease to a commercial operator:

- Transfer management of the site to the National Parks and Wildlife Service as part of Blue Mountains National Park
- Clean up general refuse and redundant infrastructure on the site.
- Rip and rehabilitate/allow natural revegetation on runway 10/28 (east-west)
- Rip and rehabilitate/allow natural revegetation on runway 06/24 (NE-SW) north of the intersection with runway 10/28
- Retain the portion of runway 06/24 south of the intersection with runway 10/28, undertake relevant soil conservation measures and allow natural ground/grass cover to become established.
- Maintain the retained portion of runway for emergency helicopter operations only, particularly aerial firefighting.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter and I hope that my submission is treated seriously and the matters raised within it are given careful consideration by the Department of Industry.

Regards,

██████████
██████████
██████████

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 9:06 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: AIRFIELD AT KATOOMBA : REF NO: 60286

Hello and To Whom it may Concern

I live in [REDACTED] and regularly, average once per month, to my warehouse in [REDACTED].
I have 6 staff members permanently employed at these premises, 4 at my premises in [REDACTED], 2 in [REDACTED] and 1 in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is the hub of my business and hence I travel there fairly often, and for combined business meetings, my staff would also travel there. Similarly, my staff need to travel to [REDACTED].

Travelling by air is the most appropriate way to travel – driving takes 5 hours and is fraught with dangers and delays, from animals on the road, to the risk of a possible speed offence.

Having a suitable airport will facilitate our travel and improve our business conditions in Lawson.

Best regards

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

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 21 June 2019 4:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Submission

Importance: High

Dear Department of Industries

I am writing to object to the commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.

I believe any commercial airplane usage of this land is completely inconsistent with the World Heritage status of this public land.

I believe this land should be absorbed into National Parks and is of such community value that it should not be commercially leased and be used for emergency aircraft only.

Any such development of the airfield and its impact on the World Heritage area would impact irretrievably the amenity of the area and negate the value propositions of many local businesses, offering a chance for visitors to enjoy the mountains wilderness without the encroachments of daily urban stresses like aircraft and helicopter noise.

As small business operators in this area we are currently involved in the active transport field and are planning to move into active travel in the Upper Mountains over the coming period. Our business is an example of a business like many other local businesses which do not pollute or impede upon the amenity of others and which are aligned with a sustainable, slow tourism approach. The Mountains business community has spent many years branding itself in line with sustainable, slow tourism and fly in fly out tourism would threaten this established direction and the viability of existing businesses. The plane routes as we understand them as presented to the community engagement session of 20/6/2019 fly over extremely popular bushwalks, cycling and trail running routes as well as potentially impacting the Greater Blue Mountains Heritage Walk – a link which is currently being extended to Mt Victoria and some hope through to Mudgee at some future point. Overseas and in other Australian states cycle tourism is booming – The European Cycling Federation 2016 cites figures of 2.3 billion cycle tourism trips per year in Europe of which 20.4 million include overnight stays.
https://ecf.com/sites/ecf.com/files/63_S3-1%20Adam%20Bordor.pdf

The very nature of the wilderness experience is under threat. This is the experience tourists visit the mountains for and what many residents have moved to the area for.

Many visitors come to the Blue Mountains specifically to escape from aircraft and vehicle noise and to touch the world that once was – one free of noise pollution and intrusive technologies. This is a major drawcard of the mountains. It is one of the last remaining places within reach of Sydney where visitors can be free of urban sensory overload. Established research shows this respite is necessary for mental health and physical wellbeing and the health of our communities.

We strongly reject turning this unique region into a showcase for quick stay tourists. We are not convinced such visitors will spend money in line with other forms of tourism like walkers and cyclists and whose commitment to experiencing the area is very short term. The longer stay tourists are more likely to repeat visit and connect to the area as well as bring friends and family.

Additionally as a business connected to the local youth we are concerned about employment opportunities for our young people. The Upper Mountains economic profile reflects one of below average New South Wales household income. ABS figures 2016 show average weekly income in Mt Vic was \$1065 while the average for NSW was \$1486 – significantly lower.

Additionally many people are employed part time and I know anecdotally this is not by choice. It seems prudent from an economic and community point of view to support those industries which will offer the most benefit to local communities and tourists and not choose a path whose benefits are for fewer people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the points raised.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 10:53 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Katoomba Airfield YKAT

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as a formal confirmation of my support for FLYBLUE Management Pty Ltd as they proactively seek a long term commercial lease over YKAY Katoomba Airfield.

My support is extended from four generations of pilots (11 pilots current in 2019 and actively flying) within my family in both rotary and fixed wing operations in the commercial and private sectors.

As a previous emergency services helicopter crewman myself and private fixed wing pilot I can personally vouch that YKAT plays a vital role for emergency service aircraft during events such as bushfires/emergency events and it is therefore not only in the interests of aviation that it remains open but it is also in the public interest. Our family owned and operated aviation company is contracted in both New South Wales and Victoria to assist the governments air wing each year for the summer periods on both standby and CWN for the bushfire season along with flood and emergency relief as required across the states. It is airfields such as the one in question that allows a known and approved staging area for our personal and government authorities to work efficiently and safely from and allows all parties to co-ordinate the best suppression and relief for surrounding residents in the area that maybe at threat or require assistance.

In addition to this the airfield 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 known and quickly referenced viable and safe landing area on the Blue Mountains between Bathurst/Mudgee and Sydney for all General Aviation aircraft when traversing inhospitable terrain. I regularly fly this route through to Bankstown and Camden for both business and private reasons and plan YKAT as an overfly point in the unlikely event a forced landing is required be it for mechanical or meteorological reasons.

Agreed the airfield requires maintenance to allow safe transitions for all aircraft types be it fixed or rotary wing and I believe FLYBLUE have considered and can proactively act on all concerns be it general maintenance and up keep , environmental impacts and improvements along with being considerate and working with the surrounding community. I also believe that with government and community support FLYBLUE can greatly assist with economically boosting the surrounding areas by increasing tourism which in turn has a flow in effect for the local businesses.

Please consider my support for FLYBLUE to be genuine for the aviation and surrounding community and is without commercial or financial interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss further.

Regards,

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

W: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 11:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No to commercial use of Medlow Bath for an airfield.

Dear Sir/Madam:

I strongly object to ANY commercial lease for the public land at Medlow Bath for it being used as an airfield of any type.

I object on the grounds of noise and air pollution, danger to wildlife, nuisance to local people, disturbance of the peace.

I object because we live in a World Heritage National park and this land must be given over to The National Park.

This theft by increment is dishonest.

Please tell me who the proposers are, nationality and interests?

I urge you to halt this pollution of air and land immediately.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Proposal LX602686

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Katoomba Airfield proposal, LX 602686

I am writing to object to the proposed Airfield proposal for the following reasons:

We live in a National Park and we are a leading tourism site. People come here for the tranquil unspoiled bush. By allowing aircraft to pollute the pristine bush we are spoiling the original reason people come to the Blue Mountains.

We moved to the Blue Mountains years ago so we could live in an unspoiled environment. It infuriates me some joy flight business thinks they have the right to destroy our home.

I do support the proposal to incorporate the airfield and National park. This way the airfield could be used only for emergency flights. Thereby keeping pollution down to a minimum. I totally object to joy flights however.

Warmest Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 4:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

Dear Madam/Sir,

I wish to raise objections to the proposal to use the Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath for commercial purposes.

More air traffic in the air than is necessary would be highly undesirable. This is a World Heritage area that is deemed so because of its unique natural wonders. It attracts visitors from around the world who sight see and bush walk through this iconic environment. More air traffic would be detrimental lowering the quality of the surroundings.

The airfield at Medlow Bath should instead be incorporated into the Blue Mountains Nation Park and only be used for emergency air traffic.

I am also concerned about the resulting increase in traffic through Medlow Bath. This would alter the tranquil nature of the town and there would be no benefits to the community.

I hope that you take into consideration the important views of the local community.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 8:12 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Dear Sirs/ Madams

I am mortified that we might consider a proposal to allow commercial tourist flights over our Blue Mountains and I absolutely object to this idea. It would wreck the tranquility and special attraction of this gorgeous place.

My wife and I live in [REDACTED] because we love the mountains. I am a climber and walker . This preposterous idea is devoid of any sensitivity to what The Bluees is about. The intrusion of increased tourist small aircraft or helicopters beyond existing into this sanctuary is totally unacceptable and disproportionate to the many people who currently enjoy these mountains compared to the few who want a joy ride. Ghastly thought!!

I object in the strongest possible way!!

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 July 2019 7:43 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference Number: 602686

Hi there, my name is [REDACTED] and I live in [REDACTED]
I love the Blue Mountains National Park and spend most weekends immersed in it somewhere.
One of the most important things for me is that you can look out into the valleys such as the Grose and see and hear nothing but wilderness !!
There are so few places left where people can escape the pressures of humanity and simply enjoy and experience nature.
I completely understand the need for helicopters for use in emergencies and also for the work required by The National Parks and Wildlife Service as well as other organisations conducting work.
I do however have a problem with helicopter joy flights.
With the possibility of machines going up and down the valleys at regular intervals just adds yet another human disturbance to the wildness of the national park.
It's annoying enough having drones flying around which I am also very much against.
Let the wilderness stay that way and allow all the critters of nature to enjoy living in peace.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:58 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - Reference Number 602686

Hello! I wish to submit a response in regard to the proposed future use of the Katoomba Airfield at Medlow Bath.

As a local resident of the Upper Blue Mountains, I vehemently object to the commercial use of this site, such as tourism. We do not need more aircraft buzzing around our area, creating unwanted noise.

With the site located on Crown Land, it should be transferred to the National Park and protected and maintained in perpetuity.

A basic, maintained airfield should remain for emergency use only, such as bushfire control.

Regards,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2019 8:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: No helicopters over the Blue Mountains

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

I am objecting to the possibility of commercial helicopter flights for tourism purposes over the Blue Mountains National Park. The Crown Land at Medlow Bath that is being sighted for this activity should be incorporated into the National Park.

As a resident I would object to the noise pollution this activity would create.

Thank you.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 7:25 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airport

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply opposed to the the Katoomba airport.

I think that this will ruin the peaceful nature of the Blue Mountains and have a negative impact on tourism as the noise created by joy flights will turn away bushwalkers and other tourists wishing to come up to the mountains to be in the nature. A helicopter will only give pleasure to the people in it and create horrible noise pollution for thousands at the same time.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 15 June 2019 7:15 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF lx602686

Dear Minister

I want to advise that I am steadfastly in opposition to the commercialisation of the katoomber airfield in any form.

It is clear that this proposal is not in the best interests of our community, local tourism operators or the majority of domestic and international inbound tourists.

I support the use of a emergency airfield and I support its amalgamation into the current national park

All The Best

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 6:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Commercial Lease

I'm writing to voice both my strong opposition, and frankly, my bewilderment, that a commercial aviation lease would even be considered in the Blue Mountains. A place used by so many to escape the urban sprawl, to escape the noise and confines of the city, to reconnect with nature and in so doing, with themselves, would be so degraded by a commercial aviation lease being granted out of Katoomba Airfield. The stress and the impact on the communities in the region, on the immense numbers of people that visit the place for its unbridled beauty and serenity, and not to mention, on the natural fauna and flora, surely is not secondary to the financial gains of a very small few.

A World Heritage listed site like the Blue Mountains needs to be preserved at all costs, from pollution both air and land borne. Australia has an increasingly poor record among developed nations in regards to protecting its natural wonders, I implore you, DO NOT add this to the list,

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 10:55 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to a commercial lease being established for the Katoomba Airport.

I am concerned that an increase of flights within the Blue Mountains area could adversely effect the local area economically, socially and environmentally.

The airfield in my opinion needs to be incorporated into the National Park and be reserved solely for use only in emergency situations.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 2:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Department of Industry (Crown Lands) personnel,

I am writing to lodge my objection to the proposed use of the old airfield at Medlow Bath in The Blue Mountains for commercial purposes - namely aviation tourism. Helicopter jaunts for well-heeled tourists will only serve to degrade the on ground experience of bushwalkers and nearby residents in what is a World heritage listed National Park. The effect on flora and fauna also cannot be ignored.

In the short term, chasing the tourist dollar will only succeed in delivering a third-rate experience for all tourists and a compromised lifestyle for Blue Mountains residents, of which I am one. In the long term, this increasing monetization of all things will affect the fate of our planet.

I ask that the application for commercial aviation purposes be rejected and that the Crown land be transferred to the National Park in perpetuity and the airstrip be available only for emergency use.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 27 July 2019 5:39 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield - ref: 602686

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am most concerned about the future use of the Crown land at Medlow Bath being considered for commercial aviation.

I believe this land should be made part of the surrounding National Park and keep a dirt strip for emergency aircraft only.

I am particularly concerned about the effect helicopter tourism will have on the fragile landscape and, more importantly, on the bird life. This is a heritage listed area and should be kept as natural and pristine as possible.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 13 July 2019 5:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: (LX 602686)

I oppose the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. It should be returned to national park and used in emergencies only.

The commercial use of the airfield for helicopter flights will greatly impact wildlife, local residents and tourists who come to this spectacular area to enjoy the peace.

Why destroy the area for all for the benefit of only a few?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:03 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Our reference: 602686- Proposal for Katoomba Airfield.

I'm writing to express my disappointment that such a proposal has been submitted.

The Blue Mountains National Park is Heritage listed - as a place of natural environment - a place for creative folk from all walks of the creative sphere. People come here to find that type of environment and visitors come to enjoy the beauty and the sounds of this unique place.

A commercial airfield smack bang in the middle of such an area would be a travesty - noise pollution is not something we welcome in this part of the world - peace and quiet is what we're about.

I urge you to consider the environment and the creative energy in the Blue Mountains and reject the commercial airport proposal.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 8:41 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear sir/madam,

I write to you in deep concern regarding the proposal to facilitate the increased use of helicopters for tourists by building an airfield in the Blue Mountains

As an experienced bushwalker of many decades I find this proposal extremely concerning for the long term peaceful use of the natural landscape and a complete invasion of the environment with virtually no true recognition or consideration for the carers of said environment. Commercial use of the area through use of low flying helicopters is in complete disharmony with the peaceful surrounds of one of Australia's world class heritage sites. Commercial gain by such means? Disgraceful

Please reconsider, especially in the light of such widespread concern and objection already raised by thousands of other equally concerned Blue Mountains residents, carers, and bushwalking enthusiasts as well as tourists who rightfully understand the unnecessary invasion and damage that is proposed on such a beautiful, natural environment

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]

Friday, 14 June 2019 8:18 PM

airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Re- Reference No LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield Submission

Dear Customer Service

I wish to submit my objection to the commercial lease of Helicopter Scenic flights a definite “NO” within the Blue Mountain National Park, based on noise pollution. I also object to the Katoomba Airfield being utilized for aerial joy rides based also on “severe noise pollution” in the area. This airfield should be incorporated into the National Park to be used for emergency air flights only.

Regards

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 2:35 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref # 602686 : No to the proposed Katoomba Airfield Lease

I am a Katoomba resident in [REDACTED] a quiet part of town not far from Echo Point and the Blue Mountains National Park.

I have been a Katoomba resident for over 30 years and value living in a city of the arts , a slow city with international Cittaslow accreditation, in the Blue Mountains World Heritage area. I have walked across the blue mountains along Gundungurra ancestral pathways 3 times and [REDACTED] about the cultural and environmental significance of the areas covered with the Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association.

I object to any commercial lease of the public airfield space - the negative impact of the helicopter and plane traffic to our culture and environment would be significant.

The land surrounding the airfield should be incorporated the National Park with the airfield opetating for emergency use only.

I thank the representatives of Department of Industry Crown Lands for coming to Katoomba to listen to our concerns.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 24 June 2019 4:32 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

The Blue Mountains does not need an airport. It is less than 2 hours to Sydney airport from Blackheath by car and very convenient by train. It will be even closer to Badgerys Creek.
We do not have an orthopaedic surgeon either. This is the trade-off we accept for living in an area less populated due to the restrictions placed on its being surrounded by a world heritage national park.
The national park includes the Blue Gum Forest – a magical place - which appears to be directly under the proposed helicopter flight path. This is unacceptable.
The Blue Gum Forest was fought hard for and saved by Miles Dunphy and his bunch of bush walkers in the 1930s. The Blueys is a tourist area for those who love the bush – not helicopter noise. Please do not jeopardise our draw card by making it an extension of Sydney city.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 2:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Commercial lease on Katoomba Airfield

My name is [REDACTED] and I live at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I wish to record that I have the strongest objection to the grant of a commercial license in respect of Katoomba Airfield. The airfield must be incorporated in the National Park and managed by NPWS for emergency and bushfire fighting purposes only.

As an avid birdwatcher and a member of Blue Mountains Bird Observers club, I am particularly concerned about the impact of scenic joy flights and other commercial aviation activities on birds, including threatened species, in the environment surrounding the airfield and on the annual migration of honeyeaters through this part of the Blue Mountains.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 9:38 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Katoomba Airport

The Minister,
Dept of Industry, Crown Lands

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are very concerned about the proposal to grant a commercial lease over Katoomba Airfield. This airfield is crucially located within the Blue Mountains National Park and should be incorporated into Parks estate. The increasing number and severity of bushfires means that such an airfield is essential for emergency services. It should be under the management of NPWS.

it is also located in an ecologically sensitive area which would be badly impacted by regular commercial flights. This is simply joyriding for a select few that impacts on the many users of the Parks seeking a peaceful bushwalking experience.

We request that the land be transferred to the National Park for emergency use and thereby protecting this unique World Heritage Area.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 8:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re- Reference No LX 602686 Katoomba Airfield Submission relating to Helicopter Scenic Flights

Dear Customer Service

I wish to submit my objection to the commercial lease of Helicopter Scenic flights a definite “NO” within the Blue Mountain National Park, based on noise pollution. I also object to the Katoomba Airfield being utilized for aerial joy rides based also on “severe noise pollution” in the area. This airfield should be incorporated into the National Park to be used for emergency air flights only.

Regards

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 10:25 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Government,

My 10-day experience at the Dhamma Bhumi Meditation Centre last year as a [REDACTED] 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 treat (also very important for my wellbeing and life-changing) and am already planning to do another this year.

For this reason, the idea that the Katoomba airfield commercial lease be 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.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 2:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref. no. 602686

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

I'm writing about the proposal to reopen the Katoomba air field. A am opposed to this idea.

[REDACTED] the proposed flight path in a house surrounded by bush. Planes flying over at low levels will make lots of noise and disturb the peace and quiet. I like walking outside and listening to the birds and the rustling of the trees, having planes fly over my head all the time will destroy the quiet of the bush.

When planes fly over they will be able to see my house, in fact, if I am outside you will be able to see ME.

I'm not sure if you agree but I love spotting paragliders. If you open this airport the flight path goes right over their launch pad on Mt Blackheath.

I will not put up with the noise and pollution that this will make nor let people spy on me or stop the paragliders from flying.

It would break my heart to see the once beautiful sky clouded with planes.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 June 2019 9:27 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au

Ref No 602686

To whom it may concern

Professionally regulated, Helicopter tourism and general Aviation is a positive activity for any wilderness area, why do we as a state with so much natural beauty continue with the NSWNP approach of locking everyone out of our wilderness areas.

Tasmania does a great job of managing helicopters within the cradle MT area, Victoria and the 12 apostles , NT and Uluru, QLD and the Great Barrier Reef, and let's not forget the great work the aviation industry provides to the New Zealand wilderness areas.

Please do not lock out the Aviation community from having access to the blue Mountains Katoomba Airfield.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:16 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Neal Mortensen 40 Farnells Rd Katoomba

I object to this public land, which is located in the middle of a national park to be used for unessential commercial purposes
This crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected forever
It would be wiser to keep a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only
I object to the possibility that this water catchment area would be polluted by the chemicals used to fight fuel fires.



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:44 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]

Email sent using Optus Webmail

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 10:30 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: No commercialisation of the airfeild.

The airfield at Katoomba was a private airstrip that was leased to a new operator. The Airfield is used during fire emergencies in the blue mountains as an air base for helicopter operations. This would affect commercial operations if it was to go ahead. The aircraft industry is out of control with no regulation just as with Western Sydney Airport. Aircraft noise creates poorer living standards for residents, hazard to wildlife and interrupts education of our children. It is not what modern society is about. There are no fire appliances available or water at this airstrip for any emergencies. The blue Mountains is a world heritage area and deserves to be protected just as the humans that live there. Flying time from the new WSA would see little need for the airstrip being used.

[REDACTED]

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

I'm opposed to the development of the Katoomba Airfield. We moved to the mountains around [REDACTED] ago. As a keen paraglider pilot moving to [REDACTED] offered being close to nature in a peaceful setting and have flying available. This is all at risk if the airfield is developed. As a pilot i have major safety concerns with low flying aircraft in the proximity of our main take off at Mt Blackheath. Our club has been active since 1987 and many pilots have enjoyed flying and the beautiful settings of the Blue Mountains. We are slow moving non powered aircraft who regularly thermal up to 10000 feet. Adding high speed low flying aircraft to the mix would be like putting a speed boat in a swimming pool... not safe.

In addition to my safety concerns noise pollution from numerous low flying aircraft in the area will seriously detract from the quality of life of all the residents living in the Upper Mountains.

It seems the airport development would benefit a small few but widely disadvantage the majority. Keep it as a dirt strip for emergency landing and emergency operations.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 12:13 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Support for Katoomba Airport - your reference: 602686

Good evening,

As a long term resident of the Blue Mountains I would like to add my strong support to the proposed improvement of Katoomba Airport at Medlow Bath.

Background

I grew up on the NSW Central Coast, but have frequented the Blue Mountains over a period 45 years, beginning as a child staying at the Hydro Majestic with my grandparents during the school holidays. I had relatives at Mt Wilson and my parents often visited Sorenson's at Leura to buy flowering cherry, prunus and ash trees for their's and my grandmother's extensive gardens. I returned to live in the Blue Mountains in 2003 (after years Interstate with work) and the rest of my days will be spent enjoying these beautiful mountains and climate. I re-married at [REDACTED].

I have also held a General Aviation (GA) pilot's license since 1986 and, as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED], I have an obvious passion for aviation. I am a qualified/experienced [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for several years, so I know my fair share about professional and general aviation and helicopters. Aviation safety and Emergency Response have been a intrinsic part of my employment for three decades.

I believe my broad experience in aviation and a vested interest in protecting the Blue Mountains offers a meaningful perspective to your consideration of the Katoomba Airport improvement proposal.

Location

For good reason, the entire Great Dividing Range is generally referred to as 'tiger country' - a heavily wooded and rocky treacherous region where there are few safe landing strips to divert to in the event of an inflight emergency (as rare as that is). A significant percentage of General Aviation traffic deliberately routes between Sydney and the western plains over Katoomba because there is no intrinsically safe passage for 90km the south and 180km to the north of that route. There has been an air navigation beacon at Katoomba (1.2km SE of Explorers Tree) for as long as I can remember and literally thousands of inbound and outbound flights per annum fly over this navigation point (both military, private and commercial flights). It is no surprise (to pilots) that it took 30 years for the first explorers to discover a route across these mountains because of the rugged terrain - which must be seen from the air to be believed, especially in setting sun illuminating all escarpments' beautiful colours. Countless times I have flown over Katoomba from Richmond, Bankstown, Camden and Wedderburn to Bathurst, Cowra, Orange, Mudgee, Rylstone, Parkes, Narromine and Dubbo and other regional areas with friends and family to explore the region. Never has anyone complained about visitors arriving by air to share the wonders of their tourist attractions, spend money in their friendly local community on food, accommodation, entertainment and other wares ... we have always felt most welcome.

Katoomba Airport

Katoomba Airfield itself is unsuitable as a major aviation hub. The site is constrained by geography, weather, runway slope and cannot be meaningfully extended beyond its 900m length to accommodate large or heavy aircraft. The runway has been closed to fixed wing aircraft for some time after falling into

disrepair, with ruts and rocks both damaging to expensive propellers and unsuitably rough for small aircraft. However, Katoomba Airfield is ideally situated near the heart of our historic attractions and, if sealed and improved, would be a wonderful way for a small, but important sector of the market to arrive and depart our beautiful region by air. Fly neighbourly practices are applied at multiple airport sites around the country to minimise noise disturbance, and Katoomba would be no exception. There is no reason to conduct circuit training or repetitive flyovers of densely populated areas in proximity of Katoomba airport. For the most part, light aircraft can approach the area on descent from higher altitudes or via inconspicuous neighbourly routes at low power so as to be almost undetectable by local residents. Of course, high power is required on takeoff, but only briefly before the aircraft has sufficient speed to depart the area at moderate power with minimal noise disruption, also possibly undetectable to locals depending on the wind. By geography, Katoomba Airfield does not lend itself to night arrivals and departures and is best suited to day only use, especially given the propensity for low cloud and/or fog in cold air. Katoomba is also a strategically important site for emergency response, especially fire fighting, which is unnecessarily constrained given that rotary wing aerial firebombing efforts cannot be supplemented with agile light fixed wing firebombers and spotter aircraft.

Local perceptions

We all enjoy the serenity of the Blue Mountains and it is perfectly understandable that local residents may be concerned about the potential aircraft noise, particularly from persistent helicopter flights loitering around landmarks. However, there are many means and ways of managing aircraft noise, especially with Katoomba Airport situated over 2km from the nearest houses. Furthermore, the sorts of flight profiles that may be permissible after departing the airport itself is an entirely different management question to the use of the airport for arrivals and departures. To my mind, offering the opportunity for visitors to arrive by light aircraft for the purposes of then touring the Blue Mountains and all its attractions by ground-based vehicle is a fantastic idea worthy of very special consideration and investment. I believe for the most part that residents of the Blue Mountains would be oblivious to the difference between the comings and goings of light aircraft in and out of Katoomba Airport and the hundreds that flight directly overhead on their way west or east every month during the day.

I commend the Katoomba Airport improvement project to you as a great opportunity for tourism with minimal noise and impact to the community. Whether or not you subsequently permit helicopter sightseeing in the area is an entirely separate question that should not, in itself, define whether the airport improvement project goes ahead.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:40 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Submission opposing the lease of Katoomb Airfield

22 July 2019

Dept. of industry and Crown Lands

LX 602686 Submission opposing the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath, NSW

This follows an earlier submission sent prior to the current exhibition period. The intervening time has only elevated my concerns about this proposal, for reasons that follow.

I absolutely oppose the granting of a lease to facilitate the development of this small, little used airstrip into a very busy and noisy commercial tourist aviation hub. The Crown Land in question is situated in the middle of the most visited section of the Blue Mountains World Heritage listed National Park. The Airfields proximity to the Grose Valley Escarpment, The Grand Canyon walking track, indeed, the entire walking track network of the Grose Valley and cliff tops would have a devastating impact if the lease were to be granted.

For the most part, the millions of tourist's that visit the Blue Mountains do so to enjoy the peace and quiet of the BNP, it's numerous walking tracks and the sublime views from the many lookout's. These are the people that constitute opportunities for the many small businesses that depend on tourism, people that come to escape the chaos and noise of the city, to spend time in a beautiful, accessible and quiet place.

Should the proposed airfield lease proceed, this will no longer be a quiet place. The noise generated by, even a single helicopter is highly intrusive and disturbs the peace for a considerable distance, especially if flying over the cliff lined valleys of the BNP. Proposed flight paths released by the lease applicant, Flyblue Management, traverse much of the Grose Valley and many iconic and easily accessible neighbouring bushwalking destinations. Frankly, it is virtually impossible to operate a commercial aviation business from this site without having a serious noise impact on, either residential areas or the World Heritage listed NP.

The Lease application should be rejected in any shape or form. The site is grossly unsuitable and the only beneficiaries would Flyblue Management and possibly owners of the larger hotels in the area, the main one of which is currently under investigation for exploitation of migrant workers on temporary employment visas. So much for local employment.

The Airfield site should be added to the Blue Mountains National Park, as has been promised on numerous occasions over many years. If it's required as an Emergency Services facility, for fire fighting or search and rescue operations it only requires a small portion of the site to be maintained to a minimal standard. The cost of that would be insignificant.

The community consultation process

This entire process has been a disgrace. Surely, community consultation should have been initiated prior to any decision being made regarding the future use of the site. Instead, a company called Blackbird

Aviation was granted a licence allowing them to use the airfield on a, supposedly, temporary basis while they prepared a business plan, prior to requesting a long term lease.

Nobody was aware of this until the licence holders, under a new identity, Flyblue Management, started spruiking their very slick PR campaign, by which time they clearly regarded the granting of a long term lease as nothing more than a formality.

It appears that the DOI have been doing everything possible to minimize community opposition to this proposal. In some instances, early and confidential communications between concerned organizations and individuals and then project manager, Mark Mulloney had replies cc'd to Derek Larsen, one of the licence holders. In general, replies to queries were so favourable to the intentions of Flyblue, they may as well have been written by their PR company and when the licence holders arranged a meeting to lobby Blue Mountains City Councillors, they were accompanied by the DOI project manager.

The supposed community information sessions, held in Katoomba, were located in a seriously inadequate venue, incapable of accommodating the number of people in attendance. The DOI staff attempted to address queries in private on a one to one basis, thus preventing debate and minimizing any difficult questions. Fortunately the attendees managed to force a town hall style debate at three of the four sessions. Conditions were far less than optimal, given the constraints of the space and the absence of audio equipment, in spite of the fact that it was obviously needed after the first session. Additionally, the DOI staff present really didn't have any information that wasn't already widely available, mainly PR spin on the Flyblue website.

It is well known that Derek Larsen worked for the DOI at the time the lease proposal was under discussion and also, according to a letter in the Blue Mountains Gazette, the deputy chairman of the board of directors for a government dept., Destination NSW was his boss during a five year term of employment at the Sydney Airport Corporation. Of course, this doesn't suggest any wrong doing but in view of the opacity and mismanagement of the entire process it raises concerns that otherwise wouldn't exist.

Flyblue seem very confident of success, even to the point of placing full page advertisements in Blue Mountains tourist publications – it appears, as far as they're concerned, it's a done deal.

Noise pollution

Clearly, noise is one of the greatest concerns. There's simply no way of ameliorating this, either residential areas cop it or the BNP does, most likely both. Flyblue argue that there are already numerous companies, mostly from Sydney, operating flights over the Blue Mountains. This is true, we hear them and they are very intrusive and annoying. However, they are relatively infrequent and generally they appear to adhere to the Fly Neighbourly Policy, which, although grossly inadequate does mean that they aren't flying at very low altitudes.

Flyblue say they will strictly adhere to the FNP, but obviously, all of their activity is concentrated around the Katoomba Airfield. Every aircraft, either fixed wing or helicopter will descend or take off from this site, surrounded by the World Heritage listed BNP and very close to the towns of Blackheath, Medlow Bath and Katoomba. They can only minimize disturbance in residential areas by maximizing flights over the NP and given the proposed flight paths, as mentioned above, this will utterly destroy the quiet and solitude of the Grose Valley along with other areas they intend to fly. Flyblue seem to think this is of no importance, the selfish pleasure of a few rich tourists that prefer to view landscapes from the air, outweighs the passive experience of the millions of visitors that come here every year to experience the landscape up close and in a manner that employs all senses, sight, natural sounds and the smell of the bush.

Whilst the FNP may be of some use in minimizing noise from current scenic flights originating from elsewhere, it's likely to be irrelevant for aircraft using Katoomba Airfield, as, according to CASA, it doesn't apply to aircraft within the flight circuit of an airfield, meaning aircraft within 3nm's [5.5 kms] of the airfield can fly at any altitude and in any direction they choose and they will.

Although Flyblue and the DOI have been very careful not to reveal the extent of their intentions it's quite clear that they propose to invest a considerable amount of money in this venture. Consequently, it will only be financially viable if they are able to maximize usage of the site. We know they intend to have tourists fly in and out from the East Coast and locations to the West of the Blue mountains and that the Airfield will be open to any aircraft that choose to use it. They have also stated that they intend to operate from dawn to dusk seven days per week. As the Blue Mountains is one of the most heavily visited tourist locations in Australia and with many overseas tourists visiting on day trips from Sydney, the potential for almost non stop flight activity is utterly alarming. This has the potential to destroy the integrity of the Blue Mountains forever.

Environmental impacts on wildlife

There are numerous international studies on the impacts of aircraft noise on wildlife and as far as I'm aware they are all highly critical. It's very likely that frequent aircraft noise in locations that, until now have been free from such intrusions will cause serious behavioural changes.

Birdlife International listed GBMWA as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area in 2017. Every Autumn there is a huge migration of Yellow Faced Honey Eaters that ascend the Blue Mountains Plateau from the valleys to the South and spread across the Blue Mountains, some migrating across the Grose Valley to destinations further North. These huge flocks of birds, numbering tens of thousands have been observed to be alarmed by aircraft noise during annual counts of the flocks. The airfield itself and adjacent NP is a haven for bird species.

The GBMWA should be a sanctuary from high impact human disturbance. If not, where is?

I believe the NSW and federal governments have a duty to protect the GBMWA from activities that will clearly have negative impacts for both human visitation and more importantly, the wild life that inhabits the area.

Site rehabilitation

Flyblue have made a big issue of their plans to rehabilitate degraded areas of the site, with a particular emphasis on their plans to have a tree planted for every flight. Planting trees elsewhere does nothing to ameliorate the impact of their intended operations at Medlow Bath and ironically, they propose to clear significant areas of semi mature forest regrowth to make way for their buildings. I was present at an Airfield site inspection earlier in the year and it was apparent that the licence holders have no understanding of bush regeneration principles whatsoever. Unless they were obliged to employ a professional bush regeneration company approved by either BMCC or National Parks their rehabilitation efforts would almost certainly result in further site degradation, most likely, from the importation of weed infested materials.

Conclusion

The DOI has been extremely negligent in the handling of this process, it's failure to consider the wider implications of the lease proposal on the residents of the Blue Mountains, the visitors and the GBMWA is beyond belief.

The only beneficiaries in this proposal are the lease applicants and possibly some of their business partners. There is nothing positive in this for the residents of the Blue Mountains, local businesses, the

many visitors and of course the wonderful flora and fauna that have made this place home for thousands of years.

The Katoomba Airfield should be added to the Blue Mountains NP ASAP.

Please publish my submission but withhold my name and address

██████████

██████████ ████████████████████

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 name]

[Redacted title]

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: 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: Thursday, 18 July 2019 3:11 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you with regards to a call for submissions regarding the proposed use of the airfield located in the suburb of Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains. Based on my experience in a policing / emergency response capacity having worked in the Blue Mountains I feel that the airfield provides a unique parcel of land of considerable strategic value. I have observed the use of the airfield in a variety of scenario's, from a large scale bush fire response whereby numerous rotary aircraft operated from the location though to use a staging post for emergency operations for missing bush walkers.

I've also had first hand experience of the area being used to train Royal Australian Air Force cadets attached to both the local Glenbrook Squadron and hosting larger annual camps from Squadrons all over the Sydney Metropolitan region. The use of the airfield in my opinion was critical to the training exercises conducted by the aforementioned organisation.

[REDACTED] matter concerning the death of the previous airfield operator Mr Rodney Hay.

[REDACTED] and I outlined in more detail the significant strategic value this location has. I am happy to outline the results of my enquiries if you deem it of some benefit in making a determination with regards to the future use of the airfield.

I am happy to be contacted on my mobile number [REDACTED] should you have any queries.

Kind Regards.

[REDACTED]

This email and any attachments may be confidential and contain privileged information. It is intended for the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose, copy or distribute this communication. Confidentiality or privilege are not waived or lost by reason of the mistaken delivery to you. If you have received this message in error, please delete and notify the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 3:00 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Re: Submissions_ Katoomba Airport REF LX 602686

Attn: Department of Industry (Crown Lands)
Re: Submission in relation to Katoomba Airfield Ref: LX 602686

Background

The Blue Mountains have been a special place to my family for over 30 years, and will continue to be.

My husband and I reside in both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and hope to permanently relocate to Medlow Bath in the next few years.

From time to time we hear helicopters. These are very loud and constant. However, when they are near it tells us someone is in trouble and we are glad to know help is at hand. This is one of the wonders of being part of the Blue Mountains community.

This does not mean we would welcome the regular sound of commercial helicopter 'joy flights' intruding into our peaceful mountain life.

Our home in Medlow Bath would be directly impacted by flights paths heading West, North and South of the airport.

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

Yours faithfully




 Email: 



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern please find the below email as a offer of support in keeping the Katoomba Airfield open.

[Redacted] provides aerial surveillance to various utility companies in NSW for their Power Transmission Networks in the areas of bush fire mitigation programmes. This airfield provides a critical base support which allows us to carry out this very important work for the bush fire mitigation programmes that the Utility companies undertake each year. Without this location our ferry times would become very long & expensive, therefore this cost would now need to be passed back to the Utility companies that we work for. Other facilities in the region are not suitable for the work that we carry out, hence why we require Katoomba Airfield to remain open. Annually we work through & are based in this area for approx 6-8 weeks per year.

There is also an additional economic flow on into the Katoomba area as our crews (typically 2-3 crews, each of 2 staff, plus data support & fuel truck operators), renting accommodation, meals & services within this area for the 6-8 weeks that we operate in there.

Thanks for your time in this matter & if you require any further information please feel free to contact me.

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted] this electronic mail message is hereby deemed confidential and privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee ("the intended recipient") [Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 June 2019 10:08 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.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]

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]

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

From: **Katoomba Airfield Community Group** <change@e.change.org>
Date: Tue, 30 Jul. 2019, 7:31 pm
Subject: August 4th: Last chance to have your say about Katoomba Airfield
To: [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 4:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Lease

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield to FlyBlue. This proposal is a disaster for the Blue Mountains, its residents and its visitors. If approved it would be a classic example of how the privileged few prosper at the cost of the many.

The proposal has few merits, with huge costs and no measurable benefits for the Blue Mountains. It will detract from current and traditional uses of the mountains and have real costs to the local economy and landowners. It represents an unacceptable safety risk to the community. The proposal is either deliberately misleading or flawed, making the scant public information that is available from the proponents useless in evaluating the project. All of the reported benefits from the project either exist today or are meaningless marketing promises.

World Heritage values

The proposal will result in dozens (in private conversation, the proponents suggest in excess of 35) of flights each day over Blue Mountains National Park and the Megalong Valley. On average, that is an aircraft take off or landing every five minutes during daylight hours. These flights will interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the out-of-doors that millions of annual visitors to the Blue Mountains expect.

The flights directly impact some of the most iconic places in the mountains, including Govetts Leap, The Grose Valley, The Blue Gum Forest, Grand Canyon, Pulpit Rock, Hanging Rock, Victoria Falls, Pierces Pass, Lockleys Pylon, Rodriguez Pass, Nellies Glen, The Six Foot Track, Radiata Plateau, Blacks Ladder (a traditional Aboriginal track noted on the first maps of the Blue Mountains), The Coliseum, Coachwood Glen, Mermaids Cave, to list only a few of the better known landmarks.

They will directly overfly no less than 20 popular climbing crags. They will also threaten several riding stables, a paragliding launch site, mountain biking tracks, canyons, camp grounds, swimming holes, and the list goes on.

People who come to (or live in) the mountains for the peace and solitude that accompany a World Heritage listed region will have their enjoyment shattered by frequent low altitude aircraft movements.

Safety concerns

Aside from annoying visitors and residents of the World Heritage area, aircraft noise presents a real danger to traditional activities in the mountains.

The sudden appearance of a helicopter or plane over the escarpment can be a danger to rock climbers who will not be able to hear their partner's instructions, and who may be dangerously startled by the noise.

Likewise, horse riding activities will become much more dangerous in the Megalong and Kanimbla valleys when horses shy from the erratic movements of joy flights, especially low-level helicopters.

Users of the Mount Blackheath paragliding launch will be in a direct line of approach for both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, presenting the potential for midair collisions.

Terrain collisions are the most common type of accident in general and recreational aviation in Australia, and the convoluted and difficult approaches along the escarpments of the Blue Mountains would make this a

dangerous airport. My family home (see the next section) lies in a direct line of approach and would be vulnerable to collision or collateral damage from bushfire should mishaps occur.

Personal loss

I took great care and invested an enormous amount of money and effort to build my family home just under [REDACTED], in a tranquil and secluded location in [REDACTED] - a place that is protected by strong land use management and a City Council that believes in the stewardship of natural resources. I built the house with my own hands and it stands as a testament to its sensitive environment - entirely off grid and carbon neutral. I also own the adjoining property, which I purchased as a buffer to preserve the bush and the peace.

Both of these properties are immediately under the flight path from [REDACTED]. This means that aircraft will be at their lowest approach and take-off altitudes immediately above my roof. My home is surrounded by a natural amphitheatre of cliff faces, so the noise will be amplified and reflected into our windows. Pilots and passengers will look directly into my home as they pass overhead.

It will be impossible to pursue the quiet enjoyment and privacy of my own home if the project goes ahead. Additionally, increased activity at the airfield will result in actual economic losses for me due to reduced property values and the scuttled ability to run an accommodation business there.

I am certainly not the only property owner who will experience this; all of my neighbours in the [REDACTED] and Medlow Bath will face the same destruction of value.

Proposal flaws

The proposal has several flaws, not least of which is a substantial lack of detail. The only substantial source of information about planned use of the old airfield is the FlyBlue website. Much of the information provided on the site is fictional, misleading, or obfuscating. There is no information about the volume of traffic at the airfield, the types of flights, the number of customers to be served, the number and type of jobs that will be created.

The only concrete pieces of information on the site are images of the proposed flight paths, which are, to say the least, a work of fiction. The FlyBlue maps of YKAT procedures show fixed wing aircraft miraculously landing at 45-degree angles to the landing strip. This is a deliberate attempt to hide the fact that approaching aircraft will make circuits of the airfield on descent, overflying - possibly multiple times - the populated no-fly zones.

Additionally the maps show that the aircraft will at all times maintain an altitude of no less than 4500 feet above sea level. At some point the aircraft will have to descend below this altitude, otherwise it might be hard to land. The flight plans need to show the altitude planes must maintain on approach and take off to be meaningful. Additionally, the current "minimum" height is just 400 metres above the height of the airfield.

Approval of the project will result in these 'oversights' being corrected, with amendments to conditions, at the expense of local residents who will have no redress and will simply have to endure overflights of their homes.

Other promises made in the marketing information provided on the FlyBlue website are nothing short of fantasy:

- The project will be a net economic drain on the community because it will reduce the number of people who choose to visit the areas impacted by aircraft noise and because it will reduce property values for owners who are under the flight paths.
- Knowledgeable scientists are highly sceptical of carbon offsets. Promises to plant trees are a furphy. Already aviation puts 22 million tonnes of carbon into the atmosphere in Australia. Additional petroleum-based recreation will only contribute more carbon to this environmental catastrophe.

- No one in their right mind would go for a bush walk on a walking track immediately adjacent to an active airstrip. The promises to 'reopen' the site are empty.
- The proponents provide such gobbledygook as the project being a 'net positive environmental homogenous rejuvenation'. This is obvious balderdash designed to greenwash an environmentally unfriendly project.

Recreational flights are an environmental cost by any measure. They pollute the atmosphere with carbon dioxide, noise and fuel emissions.

Planning, Industry and Environment

The job of The New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is to provide effective and sustainable planning and the development of industry to support the growth in the state of New South Wales. The proposal fails to meet the standards of that mission; it is not environmentally sound, nor sustainable. And it is a net detriment to the development of the tourism, accommodation, restaurant, service, outdoor and housing industries in the upper Blue Mountains.

Keep in mind that 4 million visitors come to the Blue Mountains today. They come primarily for peace and quiet in outdoor pursuits. This proposal would serve only a few thousand customers per year at maximum capacity, but would annoy the millions (and chase many of them away). The cost is not proportionate.

No matter the conditions that might be applied to the project, the conditions would not be able to protect the environmental values of the Blue Mountains. The Department asserts in its information sheet on the project that it will not permit short-duration joy flights, but that is exactly what the proposal envisions.

The airfield will be 'uncontrolled' - that is without a control tower to instruct incoming and outgoing pilots on how to use the air space. This means that each pilot will simply make up an approach or departure that suits them, and there is no requirement or oversight that compels them to follow the prescribed flight paths. This means they will overfly populated and protected airspace without retribution.

What's worse is that there is no government agency with authority, will or manpower to police the activities of the airfield. Overreaches will not be punished and the operator will be able to continue abuses with impunity. Additionally, conditions are unlikely to stand. The operator can apply for (or ask forgiveness for) changes to its operations at any time in the future.

Alternative solutions

It is important to note that an emergency landing strip is a desirable asset for the Blue Mountains community. However, this can be achieved without opening up the airfield to high-frequency recreational flight operators. There are a number of community groups willing to take on the stabilisation of the airstrip and the management of the property in a way that would provide a real benefit to the community - with no costs.

FlyBlue should consider sites that are further from the sensitive nucleus of a World Heritage area. They could mount their operations from airfields in Bankstown or Bathurst, or could find a greenfield site with fewer impacts on the many residents and visitors of the Blue Mountains.

Summary

The proposal by FlyBlue should be denied and any other attempt to shoehorn open flight operations into the Katoomba Airfield should be rejected.

The Department of Industry must manage our important and sensitive assets for the greatest benefit to the greatest number, and not allow one business to profit at the expense of an entire community and the millions of visitors to a globally significant World Heritage site.

Thank you for considering my submission,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 2:04 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi,
I'd like to make a submission on why the Katoomba airfield must be kept.
Often in the recent history of our country we have been prone to lay to waste precious infrastructure, forward to near sightedness or unawareness of the usefulness of such.
The Katoomba airfield is a precious asset that must be protected at all costs.

- 1- Emergencies : if there is a fire emergency, it can be used as a safe muster point for general population and also as a point from which emergency services (airborne or not) can safely work from. Australian lives can be saved.
- 2- Ecology: this airfield is a perfect safe location from which the national park is accessible to discover new species and monitor human impact.
- 3- Recreation: flying is a healthy recreational activity. As an ultralight pilot myself, I am aware that there is a massive demand for spaces to learn.
- 4- Culture: star gazing. What better location to watch the night skies without the interference of low level dust in the atmosphere or man made light pollution?
- 5- Development: an airfield is the ultimate sign of community development for an area. This airfield is the ultimate symbol of a tourist destination.

Thank you for considering my submission.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to commercial helicopter flights in Blue Mountains

Dear Sir / Madam

I oppose the proposal to grant a commercial lease for helicopter flights on public lands.

I do live in [REDACTED] and go bushwalking at Govetts Leap Blackheath frequently.

My major concern is the noise pollution in a treasured World Heritage area, a place of rest and contemplation.

For hundreds and thousands of tourists it ia a chance to get away from noisy congested Sydney .

This land is public land should be not be used for any commercial purposes.

This is such an important crossroad , please preserve this land for National Park

and retain the airstrip for emergency service aircraft only.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 2:54 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To whom it concerns,

My wife and I are very concerned about a loss of amenity for residents and visitors alike if the Medlow Bath airstrip or Katoomba airfield is granted a long lease to operate commercial flights over this Blue Mountains World Heritage region. The noise omitted by helicopters in particular is intensified by the topography of the area. We live on Hat Hill Road opposite the National Parks headquarters and experience first hand the noise of the necessary helicopter flights, when they are deployed to rescue injured rock climbers and bushwalkers.

We believe the Medlow Bath airstrip or Katoomba airfield should be part of the Blue Mountains National Park and be kept operational for emergency purposes only.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 7:50 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686 COMMERCIAL LEASE OF KATOOMBA AIRFIELD

To whom it may concerned.

I am alarmed and disappointed to learn of the proposal for the commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.

I believe the negative impacts greatly outweigh the benefits, if any to the general public, of such a lease in regards to:

- The local economy due to significant depreciation of surrounding property value within the flight path and money spending visitors who are likely to reduce in number vs the very few people who would be brought to the area to utilise the airfield if they can afford it.
- The environment with pollution to the flora and fauna, Noise to locals and wildlife.
- The potential for an aircraft disaster and subsequent injury and impact to the area would
- Greater fire hazard to the area which already is a high risk zone and damage taken place would be huge.

The greater Blue Mountains is an amazing area worth of world heritage status and a commercial lease of an airport within it would be devastating.

I do not support this idea and I hope also that the application will be and should be revoked.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 6:10 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Australia

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 Melbourne however I grew up in the Blue Mountains , Blackheath and I regularly spend time , bushwalking and rock climbing. The Grand Canyon is my favourite walk and I love this incredible landscape, the flora and fauna and the peaceful silence that I always enjoy. It is a respite from my busy life in inner city Melbourne. 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.

I respectfully ask you to preserve the peace of the Blue Mountains for residents, visitors and all wild life.

sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I am strongly opposed to the plan to use this Crown Land (public land) for private commercial purposes. I feel it should be transferred to the adjoining National Park where it would be protected forever and where it will complement the quiet and peaceful atmosphere enjoyed by the many tourists who choose to visit, and also hike and camp in, our beautiful Blue Mountains National Park.

The noise of the helicopters will completely ruin this peace and quiet which attracts the many tourists who come here and on which our tourism thrives. It would also greatly disturb and stress all the native animals and birds which are part of this ecosystem.

This site is already used as an emergency airfield during bush fires and of course I have no objection to that.

Please take my reasons for opposing this proposal into account when considering this application for a commercial airfield.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 1:41 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - objection to Katoomba Airfield

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I a resident in [REDACTED] Blue Mountains. I am writing to express my objection to the airfield proposed in Medlow Bath/Katoomba. I am very concerned about this development of a commercial lease on public land. Although tourism is important for the local economy, I believe there are ways in which tourism can be expanded without impacting adversely onto the environment and local residents. I regularly walk in the national park and know many people who admire the majestic beauty of the Blue Mountains National Park. I fear that commercial flights over our national park will threaten the status of it being World Heritage Listed which is completely detrimental to the local economy.

What is also concerning is that this commercial lease appears to be another one of those developments that benefit the developer but does not benefit the local economy or community. I believe that this airfield should be kept for emergency purposes only.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 4:20 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield proposal: LX 602686

To Crown Lands NSW,

I am writing to make a submission to the proposed Katoomba airfield: LX 602686

I am against the current proposal for the following reasons:

1. This is inside a national park and I think the land use should reflect this. It should be going to a less intense land utilisation type and definitely not to a higher land utilisation type. Especially not a private-for-profit type. Why should one person/corporation get to profit of exploiting the location inside a national park?
2. The strip should be available as a low-environmental footprint emergency airstrip.
3. The process of approval thus far has been un-democratic. Those if us who live in the blue mountains and would be subject to increased use of our local infrastructure were not a part of the process.

I think this should be decided by local meeting of residents in the area.

Sincerely,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 10:19 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 - Katoomba Airfield

I am writing in relation to the above matter.

I object to the public land located on Grand Canyon Road, Medlow Bath, being used for commercial purposes.

This crown land should be transferred to the Blue Mountains National Park and protected for the benefit of future generations.

A working dirt strip should be maintained for emergency use only, such as during bush fires.

I can be contacted on the details below if further information is required.

Regards

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to commercial helicopter flights in Blue Mountains

Dear Sir / Madam

I oppose the proposal to grant a commercial lease for helicopter flights on public lands.

I do live in [REDACTED] and go bushwalking at Govetts Leap Blackheath frequently.

My major concern is the noise pollution in a treasured World Heritage area, a place of rest and contemplation.

For hundreds and thousands of tourists it ia a chance to get away from noisy congested Sydney .

This land is public land should be not be used for any commercial purposes.

This is such an important crossroad , please preserve this land for National Park

and retain the airstrip for emergency service aircraft only.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 7:57 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

I am strongly opposed to the plan to use this Crown Land (public land) for private commercial purposes. I feel it should be transferred to the adjoining National Park where it would be protected forever and where it will complement the quiet and peaceful atmosphere enjoyed by the many tourists who choose to visit, and also hike and camp in, our beautiful Blue Mountains National Park.

The noise of the helicopters will completely ruin this peace and quiet which attracts the many tourists who come here and on which our tourism thrives. It would also greatly disturb and stress all the native animals and birds which are part of this ecosystem.

This site is already used as an emergency airfield during bush fires and of course I have no objection to that.

Please take my reasons for opposing this proposal into account when considering this application for a commercial airfield.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 8:47 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Please consider the wishes of many residents and visitors and do not allow the Katoomba Airfield to be leased for aviation tourism. This beautiful, world-heritage listed area will only lose if the decision to allow commercial flights into the area.

The only winners will be the wealthy tourists who can afford to take joy flights, and the companies that truck them in. The residents will have to suffer increased noise. The potential for bushfires is greater should one of the planes or helicopter crash. The wildlife will be disturbed. Air pollution will be increased.

Public land should not be used for commercial purposes, to bring in profit for only a few. Instead, this piece of crown land should be transferred to the national park and protected. A dirt airstip at the site could be maintained for emergency use.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 28 July 2019 8:11 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield proposal.

To whom it may concern

I am opposed to this site being used as an airfield. We do not need the airplane noise from this site. We certainly don't need tourist flights from this site either.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 4:30 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Our reference: 602686

RE: Crown Land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield

A resident whose family will be impacted by the proposed leasing of Katoomba Airfield, I wish to object to the use of the land described as Crown Land at Medlow Bath reference 602686 as an airfield or heliport or helipad.

This land must be part of the National Park.

The private money making use of Crown Land by interference via aircraft and helicopters, to residents and visitors is absurd.

We in the upper Blue Mts are about to have Badgery's Creek airport operating 24/7; there is a flight beacon somewhere near Katoomba which brings Katoomba Leura Blackheath under the flight-path of planes, (some are even from New Zealand at 3am); and now we have this application to operate a tourism fly-in fly-out from Medlow Bath is of enormous concern and anxiety.

The application says they will not do tourist flights - well, why do they want an airfield?

Please make this land part of the National Park and not for commercial use.

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 7:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No LX 602686 Katoomba airfield commercialisation

Dear Government Person Concerned,

I would like you to note that I strongly object to the commercialisation of the Katoomba airfield.

The pristine, unspoilt Blue Mountains will diminish as a tourist destination if this humbug noise factor of small aircraft and helicopters is allowed to dominate the area in any way at all.

It is the exquisite, unruffled beauty of the Blue Mountains that makes it the special place it has become.

Any aircraft noise will echo around the mountains and gullies and spoil the attractiveness of the place.

Aircraft commercialisation will destroy the tourist draw-card for the Sydney area that the Blue Mountains has earned.

The sanctity of the area should be maintained and aircraft commercialism rejected.

Please listen to those of us who live and work in this area.

Thanking you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 5:18 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

I am writing with regard to the consideration being given to a proposal for aviation tourism at Katoomba Airfield and would like to voice my objection to this proposal.

As the airstrip is surrounded by World Heritage-listed National Park, a commercial enterprise would make a mockery of the word National Park and the proposed aviation tourism would destroy the peace and ambience of the surrounding areas.

Please consider the damage this would ultimately do.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 6:56 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No. 602686 Future of Katoomba Airfield

I am voicing my strong opposition to the proposal that the public land at the old airfield at Medlow Bath, situated in the middle of the World Heritage Listed National Park, be used for aviation tourism.

It should not be used for commercial purposes and this proposal poses a threat to the wildlife and to the peace and tranquility of the whole National Park for residents, tourists and wildlife.

This land would serve the people and the wildlife better if it was transferred to the greater national park and protected in perpetuity.

However, it may be wise to maintain a working dirt strip for emergencies only.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2019 9:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

[REDACTED],
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED]. I have only just moved to the beautiful town of [REDACTED] I have been living and working in Sydney and I moved up here recently because I value the peace, the quiet and the wonderful sense of community the Blue Mountains has to offer. I am writing a submission because I am worried that the proposal to allow a private company to operate out of the Medlow Bath Airstrip will compromise the very qualities that I moved up here to enjoy.

I am [REDACTED]. The sounds of helicopters overhead will forever remind me and bring back the traumatic experiences of war. Each time I hear the sounds my heart rate increases and I feel a sense of unease. I would like to enjoy the peace and quiet of my new home. Please listen to the voices of the Blue Mountains community who oppose this proposal.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 August 2019 5:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Dear Decision-makers,

I am absolutely outraged that the airfield at Katoomba, which is public land, is being considered for commercial use as a helicopter joy flight pad.

As an [REDACTED] living in the Blue Mountains I understand the costs and the benefits of such a change to the use of the Katoomba airfield. The costs are of course imposed on the silent majority who will be subjected to the noise of moving and hovering helicopters. And it is not just residents and tourists who will suffer; it is the wildlife of the mountains, already under threat in a myriad of ways. The benefits on the other hand will accrue to a limited minority. How dare the government propose to privatise for the benefit of the few not only public land but also the airspace above the Blue Mountains and its townships!

As public land the Katoomba airfield should be incorporated into national park and used only for emergencies.

As an [REDACTED] and as a resident of Leura I strongly object to any leasing of the Katoomba airfield.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2019 2:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

Hi

I am writing as a resident of [REDACTED] in objection to the proposed commercial license for the Katoomba airfield.

I live on the [REDACTED], overlooking the national park and Mt Hay to the north. I relocated from Sydney several years ago to enjoy the uninterrupted views and tranquility of this area. I also overlook the ridge where the airfield is situated.

If the proposed operation were to go ahead all this would be gone. The prospect of flights overhead each and every day is causing me stress and anxiety. Blue Mountains residents are accustomed to hearing helicopters when there is a rescue operation or a fire, so the noise is associated with bad situations. The noise is also very intrusive. It carries through the valleys and impacts on our peaceful environment with loud, aggressive, unpleasant engine and blade noise. This is not what I came here for. I also did not come here for constant surveillance overhead; the privacy I enjoy with my family is of great value to me.

The proposed flights would impact on us all in a negative way via constant noise, privacy infringement and unsightly helicopter interference of our wilderness views. This will in turn impact negatively on the health and well being of residents in this area, and I have concerns for my family. We are also facing the prospect of a significant devaluation of property values due to these impacts.

Please oppose this commercial license when it is tabled before Parliament. No one here wants it. The Mountains already caters to tourism to intrusive levels in our villages, shops, highway, and on our national parks walks. This proposal goes too far.

Thank you for considering my submission. Please do not let this go ahead.

Sincerely,

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 11:03 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ref.602686

I'm [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
I'm really really sad and confused because [REDACTED] and that this country that promotes and preserves nature will allow to destroy a wonderful and unique natural area such as that of Katoomba and its surroundings
I have been attending the meditation center of Blackheath for the last 9 years and I feel fortunate to be able to have a wonderful center of peace and meditation, since I have known the news of the mentioned project, I have not been able to understand how it is possible to go to damage this place of true nature and heritage of humanity. We are thousands of people who are working for our inner peace and that of all sentient beings for La Paz del mundo and that is how all the meditators who regularly attend VIPASANA, have been sharing and healing our minds for the good of the universe. In my name and for La Paz of the world, I request that you continue to keep this place as it is and that you are not affected by this project.

[On 1 August](#) the [NSW Parliament](#) will debate the future of Katoomba airfield, Medlow Bath. Over 12,000 people have signed a petition objecting to a proposal to add commercial flights to the airfield.

Presently, the airfield is used only for bushfire fighting, and medical evacuations. The noise of flights taking off and landing, and flying overhead at Dhamma Bhumi, would seriously impact the Centre's silence and privacy.

This is not just an issue for the Centre. 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 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 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.

Please do not allow this project to be carried out, as the consequences would be disastrous.

Best regards,



Meditator Vipassana

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 July 2019 5:19 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX602686

As a resident of Katoomba I send this submission In my objection of a private enterprise using this Unesco world Heritage listed National Park to be used for personal gain. It should remain in the hands of a public institution such as the Rural Fire Service and SES for emergencies such as bush fire and rescue.

As a bush walker and a resident we do not need noise constantly destroying the peace and tranquility of this beautiful area.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 July 2019 7:47 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: R.E. NO to proposed Airfield in Katoomba

To whom it concerns,

R.E. The proposed Airfield in Katoomba

I write to you to express that I oppose the notion of a private commercial airfield at the Katoomba site. Lease of this property for use as a private airfield will have detrimental impacts on this area in terms of community, heritage, environment and land value.

Local amenity will be affected through noise pollution, visual impact and the loss of privacy. The loss of amenity will extend to businesses and lower property values the area. This area is a home to many people. There will be unarguable contribution to pollution of the physical environment that affect flora and fauna. This would be a disgrace in a World Heritage National Park. An area designated as such needs to be preserved for the benefit of all and for the future. Not used as a playground for a few people from a small sector of society to view from afar.

I am, along with many others saying no to the commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2019 6:45 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 permit any form of commercial development and commercial use of the crown land known as the Katoomba Airfield. My objection is based on the following:

- * This is Crown Land and should be kept as such and protected as public land into the future. Crown Land such as this should remain as Crown Land and NEVER be sold or leased for commercial profit.
- * This land is completely surrounded by National Park....not only National Park but World Heritage-listed National Park no less!! How totally inappropriate that a commercial development such as that proposed should EVER be considered a possibility in such an area. Such a proposal shows no consideration or respect for the World Heritage listing of the surrounding national park and is very likely to actually threaten such a listing.
- * Commercial flights over the surrounding World Heritage-listed National Park would undoubtedly impact very negatively on bushwalking and other activities that are currently enjoyed by a great number of locals and tourists to the Blue Mountains.
- * I understand that there has been a long standing agreement between the Blue Mountains City Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown Lands that this parcel of land known as Katoomba Airfield should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park while still allowing, for practical purposes, continued use of the airstrip for emergency purposes ONLY. This long standing agreement should be honoured.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 13 June 2019 2:40 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Having a say your reference: 602686 Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield

In the matter of 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 wellbeing. I would urge the Department to support the development of sector by allowing the proposed lease to proceed.

I live in Melbourne and belong to a plane syndicate based around recreational flying. I would certainly be a user of the proposed upgraded facilities and can confirm that any trip I make to the Blue Mountains would include one or more 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.

In the past I have considered flying into the strip but the lack of facilities made it impractical. This development would make it possible for me to visit my step sister who is a local resident of Katoomba and make additional trips to local areas I have enjoyed in the past.

Warm Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 1:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Crown land lease Medlow Bath LX 602686

I object to the Crown land at Medlow Bath (LX 602686) being used for commercial and business purposes.

I am concerned about the environmental impact a commercially operated airfield will have on the adjacent and significant Blue Mountains National Park, that is part of a World Heritage Area.

This Crown land should be transferred to Blue Mountains National Park with a working airstrip retained for emergency use only.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 9:51 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Submission

The Department of Industry (Crown Lands)

PO BOX 2155

DANGAR

NSW 2309

SUBMISSION for Katoomba Airfield Ref No: 602686

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the proposal of granting a long-term lease for the use of crown land (the old airfield at Medlow Bath) for private profit. I am deeply concerned for the health and protection of the Blue Mountains and lack of respect for traditional custodians in the area.

These are some of many reasons why the long-term commercial lease should not go ahead:

1. **Noise impact on wildlife and environment.** 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)
2. **UNESCO Heritage Listing could be lost** meaning Australia would lose one of its iconic natural wonders and protection for environment and wildlife. Currently four of the UNESCO criteria are met by the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park.
3. **The park includes a range of Aboriginal sites and historic places** which are of high significance to the traditional custodians who should be consulted.
4. **Noise impact on people.** The residents of three townships, Katoomba, Medlow Bath and Blackheath are within 10kms of the airfield and would be affected. The Vipassana Centre, Dhamma Bhumi, in Blackheath supports and positively affects the mental health of 1000's of people per year seeking inner peace who sometimes travel from a great distance for this healing.

5. **This piece of Crown Land was removed from National Park in the 1960's** on the basis that it would be returned in 1988. However, this did not do this. The Department did not honour the commitment but instead proposed a commercial lease.

6. **No undertaking has been given for the frequency of flights or flight paths.** Aeroplane flights have become an increasing concern to environmentalists, including their impact on climate change and global warming a serious threat to all living creatures.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 6:59 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba airfield

To Whom it may Concern,

As a long time local resident [REDACTED] 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, 16 June 2019 7:12 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

To whom it may concern..I wish to inform you that I strongly object to the commercial use of a the katoomba airfield for a number of reasons.The people of the blue mountains did not ask any government or it's agencies for a commercial airport in this world heritage area to be built.We have no use for it and are happy for it to be used for emergencies and even some minor upgrading if necessary but for a private Enterprise to come and operate here and disturb the people of the mountains is absurd.You the government should heed the wishes of the people and take note we did not ask for this development and if it goes ahead it will have far reaching consequences for all of us.It is not necessary,has no benefit to the community here and will impact on the way tourists view the quiet undeveloped nature of the blue mountains heritage area.We ask you to reconsider any development proposal that may harm the way the millions of tourists who come here and wish to see the natural beauty and undisturbed nature of our unique blue mountains.Lets not turn this sleepy hollow area into another disasterous grand canyon farce with commercial flights whatever they may be catering for the few and upsetting the millions of tourists who will come here in the future.yours sincerely. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 14 June 2019 3:31 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Hi there my name is [REDACTED], I live in the blue mountains and I am very much in favour of the Katoomba airfield being used for commercial use. I do not agree with the movement to stop this as I believe commercial aviation would make a great asset to the Blue mountains.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:32 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield/Medlow Bath. Ref 602686

To whom it may concern.

Ref 602686.

I have lived in [REDACTED] since 1983 and came here for the peace and quiet the area offers. I have these points to make:

- * We have all manners of pollution these days including noise pollution. To save our sanity, and our earth it's now time for our government to encourage the minimisation of pollution. In this instance the stress of unnecessary aircraft noise.
- * Many people come to the mountains to re-connect with their deeper selves and to connect with nature. This is best done in relative stillness.
- * Many people living in the mountains have also come here for health reasons. Personally, I suffer from migraines and do not tolerate loud noises well.
- * The proposed lease seems aimed at the tourist dollar. And particularly tourists who are relatively wealthy and time poor. Why should this minority spoil it for others?
- * Not that much of the tourist dollar will stay in the mountains if they are being flown in and out of Sydney.
- * People who have chosen the mountains as their home already deal with the inconveniences of having so many tourists visit: lack of parking in the villages, long queues on the highways at the weekends and the large number of air b&b neighbours. The mighty tourist dollar needs to be weighed up against quality of living.
- * The world Heritage status may be impinged upon.
- * One no longer feels away from it all when on a bushwalk and there is aircraft flying above.
- * I personally don't see anybody but the applicants benefiting from the use of this public land.
- * As it is Crown Land and it is already surrounded by National Park it should in my opinion be included in the National Park.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2019 3:17 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 Airfield at Medlow Bath

I would like to object to the proposal to use the crown land at Medlow Bath for commercial purposes. The said land is surrounded by National Park and it should be added to it. An airfield is not a compatible use for the area. Helicopter noise is very disturbing. The Blue Mountains is a very beautiful, peaceful place to live. Already helicopters and small planes do disturb that quietness periodically. To imagine a commercial airport functioning is a nightmare. Tourists come to the Mountains to experience the beauty and serenity, noise will interfere with their enjoyment.

I am eighty years old and have devoted my life to conservation projects. I know how important it is to put aside natural areas for those who come after us. People of my generation have been lucky to have been able to experience wilderness. It is very important that our politicians and public servants look forward and reserve as much as we can for those not yet born.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 8:03 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: (LX 602686)

Hi

As a resident of [REDACTED], I recognise the huge responsibility we all have for protecting the magnificent Blue Mountains National Park. It is also important that we all (residents and visitors) can enjoy the tranquility of this area.

Therefore, I strongly believe that commercial flights should never be permitted from the Katoomba Airfield. This should be combined into the National Park and used for emergency flights only.

This is the only long-term, responsible and sustainable option.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 7:35 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to commercial use of Katoomba Airfield (LX 602686)

To Whom It May Concern

I live [REDACTED] Echo Point, Katoomba and am deeply concerned about the potential commercialisation of Katoomba Airfield. Helicopter flights in this area will create extensive noise pollution in my neighbourhood. They will also use large quantities of fuel for recreation at a time of climate crisis. They have been touted as increasing tourist activity in the mountains, but this makes no sense. Tourists coming in for joy flights are unlikely to spend more time or money in the area than they otherwise would. And these flights will surely reduce existing nature tourism with the noise pollution.

Crown Land is the people's land. The people overwhelmingly don't want this airfield used commercially. Please give this land to National Parks to preserve as part of the World Heritage Area - a status that will be endangered by helicopter activity. This airfield is vital in the fighting of bushfires, including the one that nearly took my house in 2011. It makes sense to be in the hands of National Parks to assist them and other services in their vital firefighting roles.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:07 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: katoombaairfieldcommunitygroup@gmail.com
Subject: (LX 602686)

From [REDACTED]

We object to this public land being used commercially. It should only ever be used for emergency reasons.

Its public land & should not be made available for business ventures especially ones that are disruptive & noisy. The area is known for its peace & tranquillity & wildlife. The only things flying around in our sky up here should be the birds.

This piece of land should be given over to the National park.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 2:09 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Commercial Lease at Katoomba Airfield - Reference No: LX602686

Subject: Reference LX 602686 - Katoomba Airfield Proposed Commercial Lease

I and my wife live at [REDACTED] Medlow Bath

I wish to record my objection, and say NO! to the proposed commercial lease of the site at Medlow Bath known as 'Katoomba Airfield'.

The proposal to fly helicopters at low level over the surrounding towns and bushland is unacceptable to both we residents and the millions of ground-based tourists who visit the Upper Mountain tourist area each year. A similar activity during the 1990's was strongly opposed and eventually stopped by Blue Mountains residents. We residents of Medlow Bath will be especially disadvantaged due to the passage of fuel tankers and other large support vehicles as well as Tourist Vehicles, on our local minor road system.

The suggestion that an operating airfield at Medlow Bath is necessary for the safety of over-flying aircraft is incorrect. The last crash of an aircraft over-flying the Mountains occurred in 1940. It was an RAAF aircraft on a training flight in misty weather. The last aircraft crash in the Mountains was in 2016 when an aircraft, which took off from this airfield, crashed in Medlow Bath.

The proposal by many persons that the existing airfield be incorporated into its surrounding National Park is a logical solution. Works required to maintain a basic standard of readiness for occasional emergency helicopter operation are minimal and would be professionally carried out by Parks Staff to their standard. Any increased level of helicopter operational facilities required during major bushfire fighting operations can easily be provided at the time, as has occurred often in the past.

I say No! to a commercial airfield in the Blue Mountains and a No! vote to a State Liberal Government which supports and allows it.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 25 July 2019 9:02 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Katoomba Airfield

I wish to submit my opposition to the proposed private lease for helicopter joy flights from the site at Medlow Bath for the following reasons This land should be incorporated into the surrounding National Park in a World Heritage area and kept as an emergency airfield only The sound of helicopters would destroy the attraction of peaceful recreation walking in wilderness areas Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 July 2019 9:22 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Reference 602686

Flag Status: Flagged

Hi

My name is [REDACTED]. My family and I live at [REDACTED] Katoomba. I am writing to advise that I object to the commercial lease of Katoomba airfield.

We moved a year ago to this area to escape noise and to live in a wonderful natural environment. The commercial lease and subsequent use of this airfield is a complete contrast to purpose of establishing the national park.

We have the occasional aircraft that goes overhead and we understand and appreciate that this is necessary for emergency services. It is not frequent and contributes an important service to the community. However when they do fly overhead they are incredibly noisy, even in the house. We experience shaking/rumbling within the structure of our house, in particular when helicopters are nearby. We have young children and they have been woken and upset by these consequences of the aircraft.

I am concerned that frequent and consistent flying from a commercial lease would be disruptive to my family and cause damage to my home

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 2 August 2019 11:41 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no. 602686

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.8.2019

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 all my live and cannot emphasise enough the importance to the environment and community of preserving the natural beauty of this World Heritage area.

The quiet, beauty and the serenity of this area has earnt it a World Heritage listing and for this to be compromised for the sake of commercial gain by joy flights is wrong.

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.

As a member of the RFS, the airstrip could then be kept in working order for emergency services in the event of bushfires.

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.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:21 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

Dear Madam/Sir

I write to express my strong objection to the privatisation of Katoomba Airfield. I have witnessed an increasing number of helicopters and light air craft over Blackheath in recent months, and find this a total assault on the peace and quiet of this beautiful area. I feel distressed when I hear helicopters flying overhead. This has become particularly noticeable, and with increasing frequency, in the recent weeks and months. The noise is disturbing, even when the aircraft isn't within eye sight. I can only imagine the sound of helicopters must be terrifying and deafening to the hundreds of thousands of native animals living in the mountains. This world heritage national park deserves better, deserves to be protected, and should be respected for its flora, fauna, natural beauty and tranquility.

The airfield is public land and should not be used for commercial gain. Those privileged enough to be able to pay to fly over the mountains are far out numbered by those who live in, or visit the mountains and enjoy the peace, serenity and beauty from the ground.

I urge the government to return the land to the national park so that it can be preserved in its pre-helicopter state of peace for future generations. In years to come, how wonderful if people could look back and see that a major assault on the Blue Mountains was avoided by stopping commercialisation of the airstrip.

The airstrip should be maintained by National Parks as a working strip for emergency use. Blue Mountains National Park is such a tremendous asset for tourism in the state. Providing the necessary finances for upkeep of the airstrip is part of the responsibility of protecting this beautiful natural resource.

It seems unlikely that the introduction of commercial flights will add to tourism, other than for the flight operator. I feel very concerned that the privileged few, who are able to pay for scenic flights, will be welcomed into the beautiful Blue Mountains National Park by an operator who is making profit at the expense of the thousands of residents and other visitors to the park.

I urge you to reconsider the commercialisation of the Katoomba Airstrip. There has never been a more pressing time to tread lightly on the Blue Mountains National Park, protect the environment and care for Mother Earth.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:54 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref 602686: Reject the airfield proposal

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Blackheath resident, keen bushwalker, and a [REDACTED], and I am writing to ask you to reject the proposed application to allow a recreational aviation enterprise to take over the lease of crown land at the Katoomba Airfield in Medlow Bath.

This development is absolutely the wrong idea at the wrong time in the wrong place.

The Blue Mountains World Heritage-listed wilderness is already under threat. UNESCO - the body that oversees World Heritage listings - has twice [<https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1670/>] in recent years [<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-09/warragamba-dam-proposal-un-concerns-world-heritage-site/11194166>] raised concerns about the health of this unique wilderness, which is facing attack from developments such as the Western Sydney airport project and the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall.

The proposed recreational aviation enterprise at the Katoomba airfield at Medlow Bath could be the last straw, that might see this incredible tourist destination listed as under threat, or even delisted, which would have catastrophic consequences not only for the integrity of this environment but also put at risk billions of tourist dollars.

This proposal would lead to a huge increase in noise pollution. We live less than five minutes walk from the National Park, and so we already experience helicopter noise associated with the NPWS track repair flights. It's incredibly loud, but we tolerate that relatively infrequent event (once every few months) because it is needed to maintain the walking tracks that enable us to enjoy this beautiful wilderness. We would absolutely not tolerate that level of noise - massively increased to up to 35 flights a day - if it were being inflicted on us for no reason other than profit.

The state government should carefully consider the health effects of this noise pollution on residents of this area, and the tourists visiting. The Federal Government's own department of health has put out a report highlighting the increasing concerns about the negative effects of noise pollution on human health and the environment ([https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/\\$File/health-effects-Environmental-Noise-2018.pdf](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/$File/health-effects-Environmental-Noise-2018.pdf)). It also recommends that environmental noise from developments be minimised, yet this airfield proposal would do the absolute opposite. Noise pollution impacts children's development, it is associated with increased stress, which in turn has a huge range of health consequences including cardiovascular disease and mental health issues.

And even more important, this development would add to Australia's already large and increasing greenhouse gas emissions, at a time when other countries are doing everything in their power to strive towards the negative emissions scenario that is now recognised as essential to avoid catastrophic global heating. Australia needs to be drastically reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, not encouraging developments that will do the opposite. Helicopter joy rides are the worst possible reason for consuming fossil fuels: they contribute nothing to the environment and the local community, the profits will not benefit the environment or the local community, and these flights will only appeal to a few rich enough to afford them.

This wilderness is the traditional lands of the Darug and Gundungarra people, whose sacred sites are already being threatened by the proposed raising of the Warragamba Dam. Have they been consulted about the impact this will have on the land and wilderness that they have been custodians of for tens of thousands of years?

This proposal embodies all the misguided, ignorant, profit-driven thinking that has brought this globally unique and precious wilderness to its knees. Take a stand against it.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address block]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:37 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: electorateoffice.bluemountains@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Submission re proposed lease of Katoomba airfield

Dear Sirs,

I wish to express my deep concern & objection to the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes. The airfield land is surround by National Park within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and should be incorporated into the national park as publicly owned land administered by a public institution, namely NPWS. and should be used for emergency use only. If the current annual licence fee of \$486 is anything to go by then a financial return to Crown Lands of a commercial lease over the site would probably be insignificant. But whatever the return may be it pails into insignificance compared to the impact on the local economy & the environment let alone the millions of dollars the Government has recently committed to support ground-based tourism in the Blue Mountains. It is a contradiction.

The process so far seems at odds with normal commercial process and is not at all transparent. Surely an EIS and Community Consultation should have occurred before an EOI and the issuing of a licence. The original notification of the successful licence holder was Blackbird Aviation, a business name held by Derek Larsen. The actual licence has been issued to Mr & Mrs Larsen not as originally notified to Mr Larsen. The lease applicant is Flyblue Management Pty Ltd. The reason stated on the Departments web site for the change in applicants is that "Unlike a licence, leases are not granted to individuals, and a leaseholder must be legally registered." This is contradicted by the lease application form on your website which provides for individuals, partnerships, companies, trusts amongst others. I cannot think of a more legally registered entity than an actual person.

I note that Flyblue Management Pty Ltd does not have an ABN nor is registered for GST. An ABN search for Flyblue Management discloses Flyblue Management Trust described as a Discretionary Trading Trust registered for GST & with an ABN on 6 December 2018. The shares in Flyblue Management Pty Ltd are held by another company that from an ASIC search is not the beneficially owner of the shares, so those shares are held in trust. Who the actual beneficial owners of the lease application are is anybody's guess, it is hardly transparent. When this was put to the Department at one of the community consultation sessions the response was that they had not looked at the application. When it was pointed out that the underlying ownership in this arrangement could change without a change to Flyblue Management Pty Ltd i.e. a change to trust beneficiaries further down the chain from the actual leasee, the response was "we don't know what we don't know".

The applicants & the Department appear to be convinced that if the lease were to proceed then there would be adequate control over flight paths, number of flights, enforcement of a fly neighbourly policy, tree planting, walking tracks etc. Over the life of a potential 50-year lease this is highly unlikely. Obviously, as Mr & Mrs Larsen would be over 110 & 100 years old respectively by the end of the lease. It must be their intention to sell the proposed lease contrary to what they say and although a new lessee would be subject to the same lease conditions who of us here now would be around to remember & who would possibly want to walk around walking tracks on an airfield with aircraft emissions overhead when there are well over 300kms of walking tracks in the National Park.

The economy of Blue Mountains is dependent on the over 5 million annual ground- based tourists including 1.25 million bushwalkers and our advantage over most other tourist destinations is the natural peace & tranquillity of escaping to the bush. The noise of helicopters flying through the mountains, echoing off canyon walls & reverberating through valleys would destroy the serenity as evidenced in the Grand Canyon in USA & Twelve Apostles in Victoria and destroy the experience of the ground- based tourists & ultimately the myriad of small business who depend on them. This need for peace and tranquillity has been recognised by those who care for at

least the past 80-90 years & I quote from Myles Dunphy's article 85 years ago – it has as much relevance today if not more so than it did then -

Myles Dunphy - 24 August, 1934 "The Katoomba Daily"

"Equilibrated minds and wilderness.

It is paradoxical that wilderness or primitive bushland should be one of the really indispensable necessities of modern existence in its soundest sense. This is the new and modern view. So far, civilisation has destroyed the greater part of what once was primeval wilderness. But now, when mankind begins to envisage complete urbanisation and subjection of the remaining wild parts of the country, the prospect is a wearisome and worrying one; for where else can man go to escape his civilisation? The thought that the country can never go wild again is positively appalling. It has resulted in this action: that all over the world forested and scenic areas have been set apart for the recreation purposes of mankind, where he can rid himself of the shackles of ordered existence. Hence the great national parks. But more significant than this is the demand for really 'primitive areas' – great portions of huge national parks wherein no roads may be constructed, no buildings erected, and no fences or other 'improvements' are allowed. To lose themselves for a while in such roadless, primitive-areas, to 'go bush' in the mountains, is the great endeavour of countless thousands of human beings – from the cultured academician and the businessman, with their multifarious interests, to the countryman, tradesman and labourer, with their simpler modes of living. More and more people want back again the forested and mountainous wilderness which has been lost. The movement is not merely a passing phase. The more complicated existence becomes the more necessary it is to have this wonderful palliative handy to preserve the natural balance of minds, strengthen ordinary, comradely human nature, and perfect healthy physique; also to reserve for the human race that connection with things natural and wholesome which now is more than ever necessary, because of our remarkably artificial city and town environments."

There is also the health & wellbeing of Blue Mountains residents & visitors to consider. To most residents the sound of helicopters only means bushfire or emergency, someone lost or trapped and it is a very disconcerting & distressing. For those residents & visitors directly affected by bushfire or military service suffering PTSD and for visitors and refugees from war torn countries, the effect of helicopter noise can be devastating and traumatic.

The toxic emissions of aircraft flying over the delicately balanced eco system of the Blue Mountains, not to mention the water supply for the mountains & the water catchment area for the Sydney basin, would be totally inappropriate. It is bad enough already and with increased flight from Badgery's Creek yet to come it is unimaginable that thought could be given to increase it further in a much more concentrated way. There is definitely no place for helicopter joy flights, high end heli-tours, scenic heli-charters, call them what you like over the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Thank you for considering my concerns. Please publish this letter, but please do not include my name & address.

Yours faithfully,

██████████

██

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:01 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield (Medlow Bath) Lease (Ref No 60268) Submission from Claire Bettington

Thank you for the chance to make a submission on the proposed **lease of Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath, Blue Mountains, Ref No 60268.**

I OBJECT to Katoomba Airfield being leased to any commercial operators.

Katoomba Airfield is public land, and should not therefore be leased to a private for-profit company. Public land is meant to be used by the PUBLIC.

Why was there no public consultation around this proposed lease?

Residents have shown that they are deeply opposed to the proposed lease of the Airfield, by a huge petition and a lot of active interest.

The Public have a right to know when such things are being proposed or considered.

My opinion is that Katoomba Airfield should be added to the Blue Mountains National Park, which it is surrounded by.

This makes perfect sense. It can then be kept ready for Emergency Use at any time.

I feel strongly that the World Heritage values of the Blue Mountains will be compromised if planes or helicopters are allowed to fly tourists at any hour of the day, any day, all year.

The noise pollution this will create will ruin the peace and quiet that many tourists seek when they visit the Blue Mountains.

It is in the greater public interest to prevent any such commercial for-profit disruption of the tranquillity of the Blue Mountains, since all residents and visitors will be affected by the noise of such an operation.

Please, consider the greater good, and the World Heritage values when thinking about this proposal, and drop it.

Thank you very much

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 11:28 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crownland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

To Whom It May Concern,

I live in Katoomba, and I love the peace and nature that we have up here. I strongly disagree with allowing more aviation tourism in this area and utilizing the crown land airfield at Medlow Bath for anything other than emergency purposes. This place is way too special to ruin with noise pollution like that. It will severely disrupt this peace for everyone, and for the benefit of so few.

I would also like to see the crown land with the airfield transferred permanently to the national park where it belongs.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 9:36 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: REF: 602686 Katoomba Airfield

To whom it may concern,

RE: Katoomba Airfield lease proposal, Medlow Bath

I am writing to express my **OPPOSITION** to a 50 year lease being granted by The Department of Industry (Crown Lands) to Derek and Floyd Larsen of FlyBlue.

I am currently [REDACTED] and have lived in Megalong Valley for over 26 years. I enjoy its rural lifestyle with the peace and quiet it brings and consider myself very lucky to live in this amazing environment.

According to FlyBlue's websites proposed flight paths, Megalong Valley residents look to be some of the most affected from the noise pollution – One of the most peaceful and still rural areas within the Blue Mountains for both tourists and locals. Aside from the obvious issue of increased noise pollution for Megalong Valley residents, I am also concerned for the tourism of ALL of the Blue Mountains, and what negative impact the increased air traffic and noise pollution may bring. The website mentioned FlyBlue are sensitive to Echo Point, the Three Sisters, the Grose Valley or up the Grand Canyon, but what about the remainder of the incredible Blue Mountains attractions and locations?

While tourism of the Blue Mountains and Megalong Valley is the most important income driver in these areas, how tourists visit is very important. Currently the Blue Mountains National Park has the highest visitation of any National Park in Australia with more than 4 million visitors per annum (bmee.org.au). Currently arriving by train, car and bus these visitors generally spend a long period of time, due to the journey they have made to arrive in this paradise. As far as I am aware there are plans for the roads and trains to be further improved, making travel for tourists to the BM much easier, more comfortable and faster. My opinion is that people who choose to fly to the Blue Mountains will want to come and go quickly doing a 'fly in – fly out' trip, bringing minimal benefit to the BM's tourism economy as a whole. Currently there are tourists who fly in to the Blue Mountains on day trips, in fact on the 1st August there were 3 large privately chartered helicopters that came for a day trip to Megalong Valley (only visiting one venue).

The Blue Mountains is currently differentiated by its relative lack of heli-tourism facilities & activities, reinforcing peoples' view of the mountains as a peaceful, silent getaway from the city life and in to nature. As traveller.com.au says: "With lush rainforests, stunning lookouts and surging waterfalls traversed by endless trails, the Blue Mountains is a bushwalkers' paradise." Not only a bushwalkers paradise, but also for those wanting to climb, canyon, kayak, swim etc. Having multiple helicopters flying over head of our tourists and locals exploring the bush would completely ruin the serenity of the experience and destination.

From my perspective, with the continued growth of Sydney directly, and the global tourism industry more broadly, tourism in the Blue Mountains will continue to grow without this commercial heli-tourism venture. I have seen projections that Sydney will grow to 6.5-7+ million over the next 15 years. I suggest that if anything we must pay particular attention to preserving what makes the Blue Mountains special and different from the environment of its neighbouring big city - its peace and quiet. Helicopter use for tourism has been increasing across the world, some to the detriment of many beautiful places in the world. I refer to various Trip Advisor reviews below:

1. 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
2. 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 2017
3. 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
4. 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
5. Grand Canyon, USA: "Really wish the helicopter tours don't exist. The frequent helicopter noise really ruined the atmosphere." December 2012.
6. Gold Coast, Queensland: "Lovely shops. Great ice cream shop, as well as nice cafes and fashion but the helicopter noise is incessant and can spoil a lovely lunch in the wonderful restaurants overlooking the great view." December 2018
7. Seattle, Washington USA: "Really my only complaint is the nearly constant helicopter traffic flying over. Average is about one every 5 mins but frequently you hear the next one before the previous one is out of hearing range." June 2017
8. Cape Town Central, South Africa: "Helicopter blades are nowadays the noise that thunders above Vic Falls" August 2018
9. 12 Apostles, VIC: "Absolutely ruined by constant helicopter noise... As we climbed down the steps to the beach, we became immediately aware of the helicopters grinding and thundering noisily directly overhead every few minutes. The noise was thoroughly obnoxious and out of place in an otherwise beautiful natural location, and it detracted significantly from our enjoyment of the area"

Another large concern for me, and neighbouring Megalong Valley residents is our privacy being jeopardised. I am a drone pilot, and understand how important it is not to fly over others private properties and residences. A drone is able to fly to 120m (400ft) above ground level, and I am aware CASA allows helicopters to come down to as low as 500 feet over any other non-built up area. The potential (or guarantee) that those on board will have cameras means our privacy is completely violated.

I also [REDACTED], that last year brought the Megalong community 300 visitors for the day, and over \$3000 in profit to the association. If helicopters were to fly low overhead during this event it would pose a serious safety risk as on average there are 50 mounted riders and horses competing – Every horse reacting differently to unfamiliar sounds and surprises. I feel if the air traffic was regular and low, the event would not be able to go ahead.

I feel the land should be owned and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as once proposed. I understand 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. Removing the need for FlyBlue to manage & maintain it for emergency purposes.

In summary I:

- 1. OBJECT to any COMMERCIAL lease for this PUBLIC land**
- 2. Believe this land should be INCLUDED INTO THE NATIONAL PARK**
- 3. The airfield should be kept for EMERGENCY USE ONLY**

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 14 July 2019 1:17 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Objection to the Katoomba Airfield Lease

Dear Sir / Madam,

Our family has enjoyed the beautiful and tranquil environment of the Blue Mountains National Park and the towns situated along the Great Western highway for the past 60 years. Initially in the village of Blaxland and more recently in Blackheath were our daughter and family now resides. We visit her regularly and enjoy extensive walks in the Blackheath area with her, her husband and our grandson. We also bring along other members of our family as well as international friends. We are totally opposed to the granting of a lease to use the Katoomba airfield as a helicopter port. If granted, this would impact very negatively on the local population and the thousand of visitors each year that are NOT interested in Helicopter flights and the noise associated with such flights over the tranquil and peaceful mountains and valleys between them. Such a lease would, in our opinion, be very detrimental to the local, national and international image of peace and tranquility, and the beauty of the natural environment that the Blue Mountains have enjoyed over time. Stop Noise Pollution !!!

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]
Tel [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 16 June 2019 7:37 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Airfield

Seriously! I once felt like I could really give a 'derriere dropping' to the scenic flight stuff that was happening in the Blue Mountains

But now that I'm a ...how they say...Cashed Up Bogan! (how heartless are the tall poppy Australians of my parents era!).

So now I would like to have the opportunity to participate in mindless entertainment, akin, to the distraction of the Roman people at the fall of their Empire. "DUMBUS MEA DWNUS,BABY!"

I would vote for all helicopter pilot to only have one kidney ...in honour of our past ruler...Single Digit Tax-Payer KERRY! ...ZZEIG! ZEIG nZEIG!!!! ...may his leeeetle boy be proud....

But on a serious note the Jerrycoptors (ref,Skippy)would cool the planet, right?

OH...YOU ARE SO PETITE BOURGEOIS!...but I like you.....Stepford Wives anyone?

At ther end of the day I couldnt give a you win Poindexter.all those school days of being bullied have now paid divvies...You're now a SOMEBODY! Your kids are gunna go leaps and bounds above you in streetcred!!!!

How cool have you NOW become...Phark, who needs religion or spirituality or morals or ethics.....just jump over the person in front and get a bigger piece of the PIE!..Thats what Socrates said, wasn;t it?

As Johnny Rotten cun Lydon-cum-Rotten-cum-Lydon said " AH HAHA EVER GET THE FEELING YOU'VE BEEN CHEATED!"

How good were your parents, chine?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 10:52 AM
To: Dept of industry (Crown Lands)
Subject: Ref: No. 602686 - Support for the use of Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism including helicopter use

Hello

With regards to the use of Katoomba Airfield for aviation tourism including helicopter use. I FULLY support the granting of a long term lease for aviation tourism. This is an important development for The Blue Mountains tourism, and it will ensure that The Blue Mountains is shared more fully to the rest of the Australia and the World.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 4 August 2019 8:24 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686

Ref No 602686

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you concerning the proposed lease of Crown Land at Medlow Bath, occupied by Katoomba Airfield, and hope that my thoughts will be considered during preparation of your report into feedback received.

I do not believe that the proposed lease of the airfield for commercial purposes is in the best interests of our community. Such development of the land would be inappropriate and threaten what is now recognised as World Heritage values. It should not be allowed.

The proposed development of the area would inevitably cause degradation of the surrounding pristine environment through soil erosion and air and noise pollution, with the storage of fuel and other hazardous materials contributing to the risk of fire and chemical leak.

The intrusions of regular low flying aircraft for the pleasure of the few would be disproportionate to the detriment caused to the many who would be affected - millions of visitors to the Blue Mountains as well as neighbouring inhabitants.

The land, lying as it does within a World Heritage listed National Park, would be better incorporated into our Blue Mountains National Park where it could be better managed and protected for the wider good and the gratitude of future generations rather than the long-term damage for the short-term benefit of a few individuals.

Of course the airfield should continue to be used by emergency services such as the RFS

Yours Faithfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 19 July 2019 2:51 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 - Support by local resident for airfield

Dear Sir or Madam

As a long standing resident of more than 40 years in the Blue Mountains, I wish to express my strong support for the proposed plans to restore and enhance the Katoomba Airfield.

Having experienced first hand the disastrous bushfire events of October 2013 where 196 homes were destroyed (and other major bushfire events since 1975), I believe it critically imperative the airfield be fully restored and maintained - for the safety of our Blue Mountains community.

Furthermore, as tourism is the top economic driver for the Blue Mountains, I believe the proposal to lease the airfield to an operator (such as Skyblue, for example) will grow the visitor economy in a sustainable way and very positive way.

A fully functioning airfield will also benefit the mountains with increased employment and provide "value-add" to local businesses, particularly in the very important overnight accommodation and luxury hotel sector.

I believe the proposal is a win-win for the Blue Mountains and should be strongly encouraged.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Ph: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 July 2019 9:23 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref no 602686

To whom it may concern.

Re the katoomba airfield

If there is any applications to use this airport for commercial use i would fully support this.

As a resident and business owner in katoomba i sometime use light aircraft to travel for work. It would be great if this air strip was available for light commercial flights

I fully support keeping this airport open for commercial use.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 9:40 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686 Submission opposing the lease of Katoomb Airfield

22 July 2019

Dept. of industry and Crown Lands

LX 602686 Submission opposing the proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield, Medlow Bath, NSW

This follows an earlier submission sent prior to the current exhibition period. The intervening time has only elevated my concerns about this proposal, for reasons that follow.

I absolutely oppose the granting of a lease to facilitate the development of this small, little used airstrip into a very busy and noisy commercial tourist aviation hub. The Crown Land in question is situated in the middle of the most visited section of the Blue Mountains World Heritage listed National Park. The Airfields proximity to the Grose Valley Escarpment, The Grand Canyon walking track, indeed, the entire walking track network of the Grose Valley and cliff tops would have a devastating impact if the lease were to be granted.

For the most part, the millions of tourist's that visit the Blue Mountains do so to enjoy the peace and quiet of the BNP, it's numerous walking tracks and the sublime views from the many lookout's. These are the people that constitute opportunities for the many small businesses that depend on tourism, people that come to escape the chaos and noise of the city, to spend time in a beautiful, accessible and quiet place.

Should the proposed airfield lease proceed, this will no longer be a quiet place. The noise generated by, even a single helicopter is highly intrusive and disturbs the peace for a considerable distance, especially if flying over the cliff lined valleys of the BNP. Proposed flight paths released by the lease applicant, Flyblue Management, traverse much of the Grose Valley and many iconic and easily accessible neighbouring bushwalking destinations. Frankly, it is virtually impossible to operate a commercial aviation business from this site without having a serious noise impact on, either residential areas or the World Heritage listed NP.

The Lease application should be rejected in any shape or form. The site is grossly unsuitable and the only beneficiaries would Flyblue Management and possibly owners of the larger hotels in the area, the main one of which is currently under investigation for exploitation of migrant workers on temporary employment visas. So much for local employment.

The Airfield site should be added to the Blue Mountains National Park, as has been promised on numerous occasions over many years. If it's required as an Emergency Services facility, for fire fighting or search and rescue operations it only requires a small portion of the site to be maintained to a minimal standard. The cost of that would be insignificant.

The community consultation process

This entire process has been a disgrace. Surely, community consultation should have been initiated prior to any decision being made regarding the future use of the site. Instead, a company called Blackbird

Aviation was granted a licence allowing them to use the airfield on a, supposedly, temporary basis while they prepared a business plan, prior to requesting a long term lease.

Nobody was aware of this until the licence holders, under a new identity, Flyblue Management, started spruiking their very slick PR campaign, by which time they clearly regarded the granting of a long term lease as nothing more than a formality.

It appears that the DOI have been doing everything possible to minimize community opposition to this proposal. In some instances, early and confidential communications between concerned organizations and individuals and then project manager, Mark Mulloney had replies cc'd to Derek Larsen, one of the licence holders. In general, replies to queries were so favourable to the intentions of Flyblue, they may as well have been written by their PR company and when the licence holders arranged a meeting to lobby Blue Mountains City Councillors, they were accompanied by the DOI project manager.

The supposed community information sessions, held in Katoomba, were located in a seriously inadequate venue, incapable of accommodating the number of people in attendance. The DOI staff attempted to address queries in private on a one to one basis, thus preventing debate and minimizing any difficult questions. Fortunately the attendees managed to force a town hall style debate at three of the four sessions. Conditions were far less than optimal, given the constraints of the space and the absence of audio equipment, in spite of the fact that it was obviously needed after the first session. Additionally, the DOI staff present really didn't have any information that wasn't already widely available, mainly PR spin on the Flyblue website.

It is well known that Derek Larsen worked for the DOI at the time the lease proposal was under discussion and also, according to a letter in the Blue Mountains Gazette, the deputy chairman of the board of directors for a government dept., Destination NSW was his boss during a five year term of employment at the Sydney Airport Corporation. Of course, this doesn't suggest any wrong doing but in view of the opacity and mismanagement of the entire process it raises concerns that otherwise wouldn't exist.

Flyblue seem very confident of success, even to the point of placing full page advertisements in Blue Mountains tourist publications – it appears, as far as they're concerned, it's a done deal.

Noise pollution

Clearly, noise is one of the greatest concerns. There's simply no way of ameliorating this, either residential areas cop it or the BNP does, most likely both. Flyblue argue that there are already numerous companies, mostly from Sydney, operating flights over the Blue Mountains. This is true, we hear them and they are very intrusive and annoying. However, they are relatively infrequent and generally they appear to adhere to the Fly Neighbourly Policy, which, although grossly inadequate does mean that they aren't flying at very low altitudes.

Flyblue say they will strictly adhere to the FNP, but obviously, all of their activity is concentrated around the Katoomba Airfield. Every aircraft, either fixed wing or helicopter will descend or take off from this site, surrounded by the World Heritage listed BNP and very close to the towns of Blackheath, Medlow Bath and Katoomba. They can only minimize disturbance in residential areas by maximizing flights over the NP and given the proposed flight paths, as mentioned above, this will utterly destroy the quiet and solitude of the Grose Valley along with other areas they intend to fly. Flyblue seem to think this is of no importance, the selfish pleasure of a few rich tourists that prefer to view landscapes from the air, outweighs the passive experience of the millions of visitors that come here every year to experience the landscape up close and in a manner that employs all senses, sight, natural sounds and the smell of the bush.

Whilst the FNP may be of some use in minimizing noise from current scenic flights originating from elsewhere, it's likely to be irrelevant for aircraft using Katoomba Airfield, as, according to CASA, it doesn't apply to aircraft within the flight circuit of an airfield, meaning aircraft within 3nm's [5.5 kms] of the airfield can fly at any altitude and in any direction they choose and they will.

Although Flyblue and the DOI have been very careful not to reveal the extent of their intentions it's quite clear that they propose to invest a considerable amount of money in this venture. Consequently, it will only be financially viable if they are able to maximize usage of the site. We know they intend to have tourists fly in and out from the East Coast and locations to the West of the Blue mountains and that the Airfield will be open to any aircraft that choose to use it. They have also stated that they intend to operate from dawn to dusk seven days per week. As the Blue Mountains is one of the most heavily visited tourist locations in Australia and with many overseas tourists visiting on day trips from Sydney, the potential for almost non stop flight activity is utterly alarming. This has the potential to destroy the integrity of the Blue Mountains forever.

Environmental impacts on wildlife

There are numerous international studies on the impacts of aircraft noise on wildlife and as far as I'm aware they are all highly critical. It's very likely that frequent aircraft noise in locations that, until now have been free from such intrusions will cause serious behavioural changes.

Birdlife International listed GBMWA as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area in 2017. Every Autumn there is a huge migration of Yellow Faced Honey Eaters that ascend the Blue Mountains Plateau from the valleys to the South and spread across the Blue Mountains, some migrating across the Grose Valley to destinations further North. These huge flocks of birds, numbering tens of thousands have been observed to be alarmed by aircraft noise during annual counts of the flocks. The airfield itself and adjacent NP is a haven for bird species.

The GBMWA should be a sanctuary from high impact human disturbance. If not, where is?

I believe the NSW and federal governments have a duty to protect the GBMWA from activities that will clearly have negative impacts for both human visitation and more importantly, the wild life that inhabits the area.

Site rehabilitation

Flyblue have made a big issue of their plans to rehabilitate degraded areas of the site, with a particular emphasis on their plans to have a tree planted for every flight. Planting trees elsewhere does nothing to ameliorate the impact of their intended operations at Medlow Bath and ironically, they propose to clear significant areas of semi mature forest regrowth to make way for their buildings. I was present at an Airfield site inspection earlier in the year and it was apparent that the licence holders have no understanding of bush regeneration principles whatsoever. Unless they were obliged to employ a professional bush regeneration company approved by either BMCC or National Parks their rehabilitation efforts would almost certainly result in further site degradation, most likely, from the importation of weed infested materials.

Conclusion

The DOI has been extremely negligent in the handling of this process, it's failure to consider the wider implications of the lease proposal on the residents of the Blue Mountains, the visitors and the GBMWA is beyond belief.

The only beneficiaries in this proposal are the lease applicants and possibly some of their business partners. There is nothing positive in this for the residents of the Blue Mountains, local businesses, the

many visitors and of course the wonderful flora and fauna that have made this place home for thousands of years.

The Katoomba Airfield should be added to the Blue Mountains NP ASAP.

Please publish my submission but withhold my name and address

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 10:06 AM
To: airfield.submissions@crowmland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Ref No 602686 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear sir

- The old airfield at Medlow Bath which is completely surrounded by the **WORLD HERITAGE-LISTED NATIONAL PARK**
- I object to this public land being used for commercial purposes and we the residents of the blue mountains will be impacted by such use
- This Crown Land should be transferred to the National Park, and protected fore ever.
- Advise keeping a working dirt strip at the airfield for emergency use only
- Sadly there a many people and departments who will just **IGNORE** the fact this land is within **WORLD HERITAGE-LISTED NATIONAL PARK** with no regard for flora and forna
- will disregard of any and all impacts on **ALL WHO LIVE WITHIN** this park
- **NOISE DISTURBANCE POLLUTION** by sound and jettisoning aviation fuel will drive the birds away
- This determination will be reflected within the international community
- So lets all chop down and pollute the last water stream

very sad to see [REDACTED]

- :-(



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 17 June 2019 10:13 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To whom it may concern,

I have been informed of the application to open Katoomba airstrip for commercial use. If you are any of your team had personally experienced the value that the Vipassana centre, which can only be done through being a participant, then you would understand the importance of that facility.

I appreciate this may sound verging on melodramatic, but my experience there last year literally saved my life.

The importance of the environment in which they teach, is as important of what they teach and what you practice whilst there. The experience of a 10 day vipassana course, to me, was like being reborn, something which nobody can relate to unless they have experienced the 10 day course for themselves.

We sadly live in a country where all too often our governments sell out to make way for profits - PLEASE do not be one of those people. Australia has been doing it for years and to what avail? The culture of Sydney has become so overly diluted that it no longer represents the Australian spirit, which we all so love.

Please consider my words carefully, the importance of this facility is priceless. A core part of the practice relies on absolute tranquility and escapism from the 'real' world.

Please do not sell out. The work the centre does is incredible and they do it to help people - it is a selfless act and they change lives in doing so.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 1 July 2019 8:23 PM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield Objection

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this email as a strong objection to the proposed revitalisation of Katoomba Airfield.

The Katoomba area is a tranquil, peaceful and serene environment where many people visit to escape the noise of the city. To see it intruded with aircraft would be an awful shame, especially for the reasons a private firm pursuing financial gains.

On a personal note, I visit Katoomba each year to participate in silent meditation retreats at Blackheath. The stillness of the environment connects myself to nature and essentially myself. To those reading this objection, if you haven't shared in the experiences of this beautiful meditation site, I urge you to take a visit. It is a purpose built site that caters to thousands of people from around the world and from all walks of life each year. I'm sure those who regularly volunteer there would be more than happy to show you the importance of stillness at the site.

Reserving stillness and peace in a world renowned environment in a growing city is vital for the collective wellbeing of us people who rely on it.

Again, please do consider this objection.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 2:06 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Katoomba Airfield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly oppose the application to use **Katoomba Airfield** for the operation of commercial helicopter scenic charter flights.

Such flights will benefit a small number of tourists, but will be highly detrimental for local residents, and also for the residents and visitors who visit the world heritage listed Blue Mountains National Park for its beauty, and to participate in peaceful recreation.

I understand that the applicants for a 50-year lease have pledged to use a scheme which will reduce helicopter noise impacts on populated and sensitive areas. I am highly dubious how effective a 'noise-reduction' strategy could be. Helicopters are inherently noisy and their noise is highly pervasive. I often experience helicopters flying overhead at home from time to time (generally involved in rescue operations or essential park maintenance) and they can be heard even when they are a long distance away. These helicopters are infrequent and essential, while the proposal for Katoomba Airfield would considerably increase the frequency of helicopters being airborne in the Upper Mountains area.

As well as being a local resident, I also use the National Park several times a week to enjoy the tranquility of the bush. I know from experience that a helicopter flying nearby when I am walking in the bush destroys this tranquility.

The number of people who use the 'unpopulated areas' for the peace of experiencing nature, as I do, vastly outnumbers the number who will access scenic helicopter charters, but all those on the ground will be affected by the intrusive nature of helicopters operating nearby.

In summary, if permission is granted for helicopters to use Katoomba Airfield as a base for scenic charter flights, the local residential community and visitors to the Blue Mountains Heritage Area alike will be unreasonably disadvantaged and I urge you not to approve this application.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 June 2019 11:05 AM
To: Airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: katoomba airfield

I live about [REDACTED] from the airfield - 'as the crow flies.'

I have no problem at all with the operation of this airfield subject to some commonsense caveats. The number of flights each day, the hours of operation, the height at which the helicopters would fly, the noise they'd make.

If these issues are sensibly addressed I can't see a real issue. It would be a service which I'd like to use. Google Earth is useful but really doesn't give the view of this area that I've wanted to see for decades.

regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.

<https://www.avg.com>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 2:32 PM
To: airfield.submissions@crowland.nsw.gov.au
Subject: LX 602686

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Katoomba Airfield proposal, LX 602686

The Blue Mountains is one of Australia's leading nature tourism sites. The National Park is one of the most visited in Australia. For many overseas visitors, it is the first or only experience they have of the Australian bush.

It would be madness to degrade this leading wilderness experience for the majority by allowing noisy helicopters to assault the senses of bushwalkers and sightseers who overwhelmingly come for a refreshing immersion in nature.

Likewise, many thousands of Blue Mountains residents appreciate the tranquillity of living in a relatively peaceful and unspoilt natural environment. What right has this joyflight business to destroy the peace of so many?

I fully support the sensible, practical and much-vaunted proposal to incorporate the airfield into the National Park, and to retain the airfield for emergency flight use. This would save the Park from the noisy pollution of joyflights and also secure the airfield site from future exploitation should other damaging and incompatible commercial interests rear their heads.

Why should one selfish operator be allowed to ruin and degrade everyone else's experience of visiting this spectacular and wonderful National Park?

Buzzing loudly overhead is a selfish and superficial way to appreciate the Blue Mountains. The National Park would be better off as a place to get away from such disturbances, not suffer them.

The noise, pollution and overall disturbance of continual helicopter flights is utterly incompatible with our tranquil valleys and escarpments. It flies in the face of what the Blue Mountains most has to offer visitors and residents alike – the peace and natural beauty of a glorious panorama of bush, a haven for native species and also for people seeking respite, however brief, from city life.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]