

Ref no. 602686

22/7/19

Department of Industry, Crown Lands
P.O. Box 2153,
Dangar
NSW 2309.



Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to you about the proposed lease of the Katoomba airfield.

As this site is public land it should not be used for commercial purposes.

Surrounded by national park land which has world heritage significance this recognition should protect this site from environmental issues associated with an airfield. (The airfield was created long before the UNESCO world heritage classification

was awarded. A commercial lease contradicts the government's own strategic plan for this heritage area:

"Potential threats to the appreciation of the aesthetic values ... are overflights by helicopters ... and other aircraft."

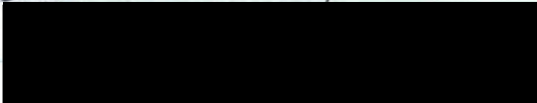
Also, the Blue Mountains City Council has historically opposed the continuation of a private lease requesting that the land be incorporated into the national park in 1999, 2000 and 2008. In 2000 the Department of Land and Water Conservation itself proposed to add the area to the national park when the current lease expired.

Noise is a major issue for residents in the Blue Mountains. Noise travels great distances in this landscape of valleys and sandstone. Visitors value the peace and quiet here.

For wildlife there are many impacts. Noise covers up natural sounds which effect the

survival of some species through communication problems of detecting predators, mating patterns, etc. The annual migration of 200,000 Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and other species is likely to be impacted as they pass through this area.

In my area I am aware that there has been many pockets of crown land handed over to local government to manage recently. Similarly this small site should be transferred to the National park and the airfield only used for emergency purposes.

Yours sincerely


RECEIVED

02 AUG 1979

DPI - Lands
Finance-Administration

[REDACTED]

28th July 19

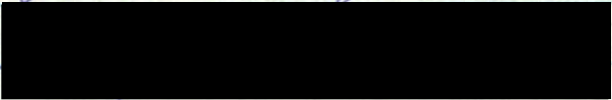
Dear Sir

I wish to add my view
to the opposition case re
long lease possibility
for Katoomba Airfield.

Our family has
just returned from
Cairns where the
helicopters down the
airways with what
seems like fifteen
minutely sightseeing
pens - very unpleasant
and dominating.

I have noticed
often these issues,
being favourably
sanctioned as the

this edge of the
wedge. We have
a wonderful
pricious resource
here but not a
resource to be milked
for tourist dollars
Please keep and
protect our national
parks - transfer this
Crown land.

Sincerely


Leura.



Ref. 602686
Crown land, Medlow Bath.

Dear Sirs,

We live on the built ridge line of the Blue Mountains and regularly hear the helicopter — this extreme noise when over the wilderness area will resound and be totally invasive. To proceed with the proposed commercial flights would be a disgrace given both the current World Heritage Listing and the way it would disadvantage the many park users who come for the peace and profound silence of the protected land. This is a much needed "safety valve" from the incessant noise of city and suburban living.

The crown land in question could be added to the park simply retaining an emergency strip for fire and safety use.

A wonderful precedent was the Crown Land reserved for coal and subsequently becoming Bouddi National Park.

Yours sincerely

Department of Industry, Crownlands.
Notes of Katoomba Airfield.



30th July 2019

The future use of the Crown Land (old airfield at Meadow Bath). It should be kept as a working strip strip for emergency purposes, in particular for fire detection, monitoring & fighting & water bombing as it has been used in the past.

I oppose its use for commercial purposes especially as it is surrounded by World Heritage listed National Park.

I don't think it necessarily should be transferred to National Park.

Yours faithfully,

P.S. Aviation tourism would be inimical to the purposes of National Parks.

Dept of IND, CROWN LANDS
P.O. Box 2155

DANGAR. NSW 2309

REFERENCE No. 602686

Dear Department of CROWN LANDS,



2778.

28/7/2019.

This should be a separate department from INDUSTRY as these conflict with each other. Do you not THINK. CROWN land should be transferred to NATIONAL PARK.

I am aghast at the proposal of yet more aircraft coming over my ridge in Woodford & rattling my windows. The incessant noise & pollution of current aircraft is intolerable. It disturbs my home and my life & the life of my family. The reason we live here is for the peace of living within a World Heritage-listed NATIONAL PARK.

We object to public land being used for commercial purposes. CROWN land needs to be protected forever. A working strip (DIRT) at the airfield used ONLY for emergencies. Sincerely

24/7/19

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,




I WISH TO EXPRESS MY
OBJECTION TO KATOomba AIRFIELD
BEING USED FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.
IT IS PUBLIC LAND AND SHOULD
NOT BE USED FOR AVIATION TOURISM,
INCLUDING HELICOPTER USE.

THIS CROWN LAND SHOULD
BE PROTECTED - NOT EXPLOITED - AND
TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL PARK, AND
INCORPORATED INTO IT.

THE NOISE FROM A
COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE WOULD BE
UNACCEPTABLE FOR SUCH A QUIET,
PRECIOUS AREA, DISTURBING RESIDENTS
AND WILD LIFE OVER A LARGE AREA.

I HAVE NO OBJECTION
TO KEEPING A WORKING DIRT STRIP
AT THE AIRFIELD FOR EMERGENCY USE
ONLY.



16.7.19.

Dept. of Industry
Crown Lands
P.O. Box 2155
DANGAR NSW 2039



Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to express my concerns about the possible granting of a long-term lease at Katoomba Airfield which would allow the land to be used for aviation tourism.

My main concern is noise. People go into business to make a profit. They outlay money on infrastructure and want to see a return on their investment. Should joy flights, for example, be allowed, then the operators may start with one an hour between the hours of 9-5, which may seem reasonable, but would then want to increase the number of flights and hours of operation. People like their business to grow when and if their products or services are popular. I fear that should this happen, then even small planes carrying tourists in and out may happen. Helicopters and planes are very noisy.

My other concerns are as follows. Firstly, there is the safety issue. The more aircraft in the air, the more chance of a crash - with damage to property and lives. Secondly, all the noise and the need to clear land for people traffic will upset the wildlife.

P.T.O.

Thirdly, I don't like the idea of Crown land, in the middle of a national park, being used for business purposes. It doesn't seem right. The only people who would benefit would be the lessees and the tourists, who don't have to live here. Sure, a few extra tourist dollars may come in but the whole project isn't worth it because of the way it's upsetting the locals. People move up here for the quiet and to be closer to nature.

I would prefer to see the airfield at Katoomba used for emergencies only and be kept as a dirt strip. It should be transferred to the National Park and protected forever. I would like no lease to be granted in any way, shape or form so that the people who had intended to operate joyflights don't waste their money. Local people and wildlife will be much happier. I do not want this airport to 'get off the ground'.

I am almost 60 years of age and have never written a submission or done anything politically active in my life. Thank you for letting me have the opportunity to do so and for the information evenings at the Hotel Blue which you held recently.

Yours faithfully



28th July 2019.

To the General Manager
Department of Industry,
Crown Lands.

Regarding Ref No 602686

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am very concerned about the application to turn Kotoomba Airfield into a fully functioning commercial airport. This is Public land in the World Heritage listed National Park. It would pose a great threat to the National Park from fire and pollution, not to mention the constant noise and lack of privacy to the people.

My main concerns are:-

Bushfire Danger - this is a large fire hazard to the area, with the increased aircraft use it would need to store a large amount of aviation fuel which is highly toxic and inflammable. With the increasing high temperatures and very strong winds (96 kts 2 weeks ago), the term CATASTROPHIC would ^{have} a new meaning to the area. At the same time the airfield would not be available or accessible for emergency use to fight such fires.

Toxic Chemicals:- The use of certain toxic chemicals as fire retardants at airfields around Australia is currently being investigated for causing huge problems for people, animals, land and water degradation and poisoning the environment. They would affect the water catchment area and mean endless litigation for the government.

Air Pollution:- Aviation fuel causes very high levels of Carbon Emissions and is classed as one of the worst pollutants. Why put this in the middle of a National Park when an airport is being built at the base of the mountains!

Environment:- Small planes and helicopters are more liable to have "incidents" and need to dump fuel before landing and some times crash in the bushland, the "never happens to me" is dangerous.

So you wish to be the person at department responsible for destroying the Wallum Pine, a tree that has survived for thousands of years and the only one of its kind in the world. It is already under stress from increasing high temperatures and drought.

Raise - the mountain population do not need at wish to be harassed by helicopters destroying the peace and quiet of the natural bush, also the

lack of privacy. animals and Birds also suffer from increased noise. Recently Kookaburras have been seen in trees on the edge of the airfield during nesting season for the first time in many years. At a time when their habitat is being lost in the Sydney Basin this is to be encouraged not destroyed!

Security - Country airports have been put on notice from the Home Affairs Dept. about the lack of security at domestic airports. This would mean a more intrusive presence in a quiet area than previously expected. We have already had one "nutcase" recently arrested and charged for stockpiling weapons and wanting to start a terrorist training camp in the Blue Mountains.

I did find it interesting to discover that one of the directors of the company applying for the lease was previously employed by the Local Lands section of the Dept. of Industry.

I think it is sad and disappointing that people not of the area to be degraded and wrestled have the final say in how it is to be treated. This is a World Heritage Area it is arrogant and disdainful for 1 or 2 people to destroy it for personal commercial gain. I look forward to hearing that our voices have been heard.

Thanking you,

RECEIVED

01 AUG 2019

DPI - Lands
Finance-Administration

30/6/2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I AM WRITING TODAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE
KATOOMBA AIRFIELD.

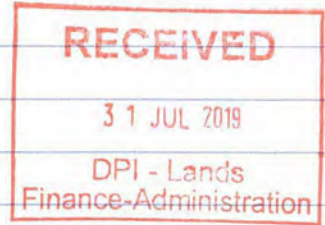
I AM A SINGLE WOMAN, NO CHILDREN, SO WHAT
HAPPENS TO THE BLUE MOUNTAINS WILL HAVE NO
CONSEQUENCE TO ME WHATSOEVER.

HOWEVER, I DO BELONG TO THE HUMAN
RACE AND WOULD LOVE TO THINK THAT THEIR
ANCESTORS TOOK CARE OF THE LAND AND SO
SHOULD WE.

THE AREA IS PREHISTORIC AS EVIDENCED
BY THE WOLLUMI PINE. LETS MAKE THE
CHILDRENS CHILDREN ~~BE~~ BE PROUD OF US
INSTEAD OF THINKING WE WENT FOR THE
MONEY GRAB, VERY SHORT TERM THINKING

YOURS FAITHFULLY

26 July 2017



Dept of Industry Crown Lands
P.O. Box 2155
Dongar NSW. 2309.

Ref. No. 602686.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write in objection to the future use of Crown Land which is the old airfield at Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains being used for aviation tourism including helicopter use.

The area is within a "World Heritage Area". It is unique to Australia. The noise of constant helicopters & such should definitely not happen.

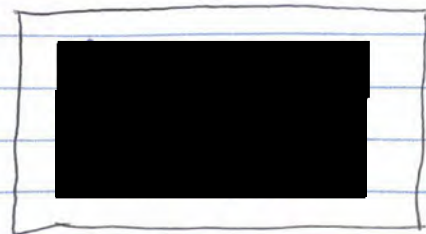
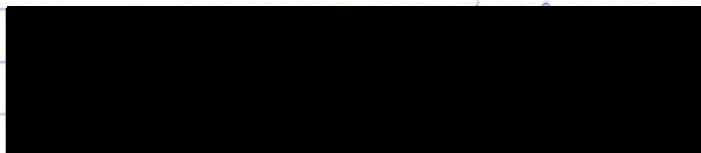
Visitors & local people should have the right to a quiet bush walk & picnic. Most visitors come to the mountains for this experience. It is the "Blue Mountains National Park" not "Lura Park"!

To disturb this area with aviation noise is to cause environmental disaster of which will not be tolerated.

It is sensible only that an area for emergency use be retained.

I await your reply.

Yours faithfully



[REDACTED]
28th July 2019.

Mr. Mark Maloney,
Crown Property Services,
NSW Dept. of Industry, Crown Lands
and Water,
G.P.O. Box 5477,
SYDNEY, NSW 2001.

Dear Sir,
Re: Proposed lease of Katoomba Airfield.

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to the Minister for Water, Property & Housing regarding my opposition to the private leasing of Katoomba airfield to a commercial operator for tourist flights.

I object to any plan to lease Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes and ask that the process to issue a lease be stopped.

I also ask that the airfield be incorporated into the surrounding Blue Mountains National Park, and used only for firefighting air movements and emergencies.

I ask my details not be published on the internet.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
28th July 2019.

The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP,
Minister for Water, Property & Housing,
G.P.O. Box 5341,
Sydney NSW. 2001.

Dear Ms. Pavey,

RE: Proposed lease at Katoomba Airfield.

I am very distressed to hear of this current proposal to lease Katoomba airfield at Meadow Bath for commercial helicopter operation, including the use of the airfield for tourist helicopter flights.

This old airfield is located in Meadow Bath, surrounded by National Parks, and has historically been used for emergency services.

I am particularly alarmed that this old airfield will be used for tourist helicopter flights, the frequency and number of aircraft involved being unknown. However, the sound of just one helicopter occasionally in the valleys of the Blue Mountains area is enough to create enough noise and disturbance of the peace and quiet for which we come to a National Park, & is enough to cause alarm.

We have just returned from a camping trip on the mid-north coast in a National Park. It seems that there is a tourist helicopter business there too, because each day at two particular times, a helicopter ~~flown~~ flew low and loudly over our camping site, disturbing the quiet nature of the area. It was an intrusion that we found annoying and disturbing.

Last year, we had the opportunity to visit Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, and were dismayed at the sound of helicopters taking off regularly, taking wealthy tourists from overseas on "joy flights" over this iconic wilderness - a ~~no~~ wilderness no longer. The noise was quite loud, as the helicopters landed and took off next to the car park. In my mind the experience had deteriorated into a theme park-like atmosphere, and was nothing like the real wilderness I had revisited not too many years ago. Is this what we want for our beautiful Blue Mountains? No!

My daughter has just moved to Meadow Bath, not too far from the airfield. The atmosphere of this small Mountains village is quiet, with the feeling of stepping back in time and far away from the rat race of Sydney and cares of the modern world. I am concerned that if this commercial lease is granted, it will no longer have that charm, and character. Moreover, it is the National Park in which I walk that will suffer with more noise pollution.

This is not an essential service. Tourists are perfectly able to appreciate the beauty & majesty of the landscape from the many lookouts and walks that exist in the National Parks already. People need to experience this quiet enjoyment of nature in our wilderness so close to Sydney in order to recuperate from the stresses of everyday life.

If this helicopter base is granted, the flights will be used by the wealthy few, who are willing to be selfish enough to make their noisy flights, and destroy the experience for those many walking the tracks on the ground.

For the people of the Blue Mountains, helicopters have a very special meaning and place. We experience helicopters in times of emergency - whether a rescue operation for someone in the bushland, or, for us personally, as a means of essential support in bushfires. For those of us in the Mountains who have suffered first hand the trauma of bushfires, the sound of a helicopter causes stress and anxiety, and for those suffering PTSD, can be especially threatening.

It is already enough for people of the Mountains to hear helicopters working in the Valleys on bush track repairs, or in emergencies, without the possibility of helicopters flying regularly to take tourists around.

As yet, there are no details as to where these flights will be, and how often.

Then there is the impact on wildlife. The Blue Mountains is the habitat for numerous birds. For example, here there is an annual migration of over 200,000 Yellow-faced Honeyeaters and other species. This honeyeater migration is a world-recognised phenomenon of great significance. The United States National Park Service says, "Wildlife rely on natural sounds for survival. When noise covers up natural sounds, the entire natural area shows the effects. Animals use their hearing to detect predators and prey as well as to find mates." In 2018, during the use of helicopters at the Mt. Solitary hazard reduction burn, there was a negative impact on migrating birds. "Birds 'disappeared from the sky' and numbers counted dropped" (Blue Mts. Conservation Society.) The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area has been declared an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by BirdLife International in 2017.

I strongly support the inclusion of Katoomba airfield in the Blue Mountains National Park. I strongly support the recommendations of the Blue Mountains City Council, and the relevant state government agencies in 1999, 2000, and 2008, and that the land not be privately leased. The airfield needs to be incorporated in the Blue Mountains National Park and used for bushfire air operations and emergencies only.

It is very upsetting to know that there has been no Environmental Impact Statement done and that community consultation was rather sparse and not well organized. This is one development that certainly needs an EIS, as it is totally surrounded by National Parks, within a World Heritage Area. Not only will the flying of helicopters to and from the site change the ambience of the National Park, there will also be the change in traffic and frequency in the small village of Medlow Bath. Again, if I use the example of hugely increased tourist numbers in Tasmania, the acres of car parks that are needed to cater for tourists will have a dramatic impact on a small community and place like Medlow Bath. Whilst this may not happen initially, the potential is there. The impact of the noise of helicopters on the surrounding residents also needs to be taken into account.

The potential impact on the environment of a commercially operating airport are too numerous to mention in a letter such as this. I strongly support the submission made by the Blue Mountain Conservation Society.

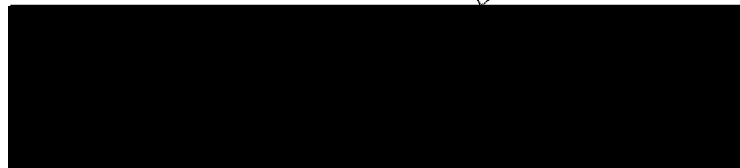
In conclusion I strongly object to the plan to lease Katoomba airfield for commercial purposes.

I am asking that the process of issuing a lease be stopped immediately.

I am asking that the option of incorporating the airfield into the surrounding national parks be done.

I do not give my permission for my name and details to be added to the website.

Yours faithfully,



Copies of letter sent to: The Hon Matt Kean MP.
Minister for Energy and
Environment.

Ms. Irish Doyle MP.
Mr. Mark Maloney,
Department of Industry.

I ask that the local community, including potentially impacted residents, are properly consulted on any new lease. I also ask that I be included in any upcoming community consultations in terms of any new lease (hopefully not) over the Katoomba airfield.

[REDACTED]

July 30th 2019

Mr. Mark Maloney
Crown Property Services
NSW Dept of Industry, Crown Lands
and Water
G.P.O. Box 5477,
Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposal to Lease Katoomba Airfield.

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to the Minister for Water, Property and Housing, regarding my opposition to the private leasing of Katoomba Airfield to a commercial operator for aircraft rights. I object to any plan to lease Katoomba Airfield for commercial purposes, and request that it be used only for firefighting air movements and emergencies.

Thank you so much for your advocacy on our behalf.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

30-7-19.

The Hon. Melissa Povey M.P.
Minister for Water, Property and Housing
G.P.O. Box 53411
Sydney, NSW, 2001.

Dear Ms. Povey,

Re: Proposal for New lease for Katoomba
Airfield.

I understand that the Department of Industry
(Crackland and Water) is currently considering
issuing a new long term lease over Katoomba
Airfield at Medlow Bath, to a private commercial
operator, for tourist helicopter flights.

The Value of Katoomba Airfield for emergency
uses is not to be questioned. However I
oppose any private lease proposals on the grounds
that the Airfield is completely surrounded by the
Blue Mountains National Park, and thus there
could be unproven ecological impacts, eg
on birds and animal populations, weed problem
ground water contamination soil erosion, and
and of primary concern is the inevitable
noise pollution - resulting in loss of merit
of this area for local residents and visitors
to the National Park.

I am in favour of the proposal to include
the site in the Blue Mountains National Park,
and only used in times of emergency.
On a recent Holiday to a National Park

on the North Coast of NSW, and on a trip to Tasmania last year, helicopter tourism caused us, and other visitors, a great degree of angst. It is grossly unfair that a few wealthy individuals taking low level helicopter flights can greatly disturb the tranquil National Park experience of those of us up the Park belts. Please do not allow this to happen in the Blue Mountains National Park.

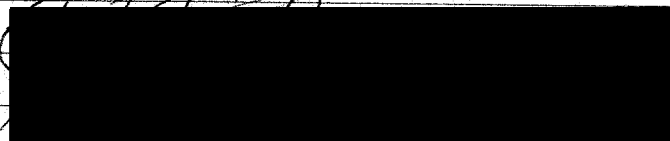
Personally, as a Vietnam Veteran, and as someone who has experienced the trauma related to bushfires in the Blue Mountains, the sound of helicopters in flight is very disturbing. My wife and I chose to live in the Blue Mountains for the natural tranquility.

To summarise -

In my opinion the Katoomba Airport site should not be leased and that the site should be incorporated into the Blue Mountains National Park. The site to be used only for emergency and bushfire air operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully



Copies of this letter sent to: Trish Doyle M.P.
The Hon. Matt Kean M.P.