

## Proposed leasing of Crown land at Medlow Bath occupied by Katoomba Airfield

*The NSW Department of Industry is proposing to lease Crown land at Medlow Bath because an existing lease has come to an end. The department manages Crown land, with over 50,000 leases and licences that allow Crown land across the state to be used for a range of commercial, agricultural, industrial, community, residential and private purposes.*

### About Katoomba Airfield

Katoomba Airfield is located on Crown land at Medlow Bath, around 10 km from the township of Katoomba. The airfield was opened in 1965 and was established as a facility for recreational flying, tourism and emergency services operations.

The existing runways, which are currently unsealed, limit the use of the airfield by fixed wing aircraft. Helicopter operations into and out of the airfield are permitted, provided the Aerodrome Operator is notified in advance.

A lease of the site started in 1968 and ended in 2008. The last holder of the lease occupied the land from month-to-month until October 2017.

In 2017 the NSW Department of Industry held an expression of interest process to establish public interest in managing and / or developing the site. The department identified a suitable tenant and granted a licence.

In January 2019, the tenant's company submitted a lease application and business case to the department.

### The leasing of Katoomba Airfield

The department invited expressions of interest (EOI) in the site to identify a new tenant, to whom the department could entrust ongoing management of the land.

As a result of the EOI, the department granted a licence for the purposes of Aerodrome and Land Management in February 2018. The Call for Expressions of Interest document stated that a licence would allow the preferred tenant to occupy and clean up the site, as well as prepare a business case and application for a subsequent lease.

Although lease negotiations have not commenced, the department will not permit short-cycle / short-duration joy flights into or out of Katoomba airfield or circuit training, and any tenant will need to follow and apply strict environmental controls to prevent excessive noise and other environmental impacts created by the airfield's operation.

### The leasing of Crown land

Crown land may be leased for a wide variety of purposes. A lease provides a tenant with the security needed to raise finance for improvement of the land concerned. The rent that the tenant pays gives the NSW Government income, while businesses conducted on Crown land create employment opportunities and other benefits for local areas.

Most importantly, a lease sets out the tenant's obligations to sustainably manage the land concerned.

For information about the leasing and licencing of Crown land, visit [industry.nsw.gov.au/lands](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/lands)

## Community engagement and consultation

A public submission process will be open for 56 days. The public can make submissions online, via the post or to a specified email. We will publish details of the time frames and process on the department's website.

We will hold local public drop-in information sessions, and advertise these on the department's website and in the local newspaper.

The department will then prepare a report that identifies issues raised in feedback and submissions. We will consider each issue in depth, focusing on whether we can deal with any concerns in the proposed lease. We will also consult further with other government agencies as required.

To find out how to make a submission, visit [industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/on-exhibition](http://industry.nsw.gov.au/lands/public/on-exhibition)