

Submission on Proposed Timaru District Plan - He Po. He Ao. Ka Awatea.

Form 5 Submission on publically notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation

Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Timaru District Council - Planning Unit

Date received: 15/12/2022

Submission Reference Number #:61

This is a submission on the following proposed plan (the **proposal**): Proposed Timaru District Plan - He Po. He Ao. Ka Awatea.

Submitter:

Station Air Ltd - Malcolm and Sue Prouting

Address for service:

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I wish to be heard: Yes

I am willing to present a joint case: Yes

Could you gain an advantage in trade competition in making this submission?

- **No**

Are you directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that

(a) adversely affects the environment; and

(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition

- **No**

Submission points

Point 61.1

Section: GRUZ – General Rural Zone

Sub-section: Rules

Provision:

GRUZ-R14 Use of airstrips and helicopter landing sites

General Rural Activity status: Permitted Zone

Activity status where compliance not achieved: Discretionary

Where:

PER-1

The flights are for emergency purposes such as medical evacuations, search and rescue, firefighting or civil defence; or

PER-2

The use is for primary production including spraying, stock management, fertiliser application or frost protection for:

1. a maximum of seven days within any three month period where the airstrip or helicopter landing site is setback between 500m-1,000m from:
 - a. any Residential zone; and
 - b. the notional boundary of a building containing a noise sensitive activity, not located on the site of the airstrip or helicopter land site; or
2. the airstrip or helicopter landing site is setback greater than 1,000m from:
 - a. any Residential zone; and
 - b. the notional boundary of a building containing a noise sensitive activity, not located on the site of the airstrip or helicopter land site; or

PER-3

Take offs or landings must not exceed 10 per month; and the airstrip or landing site is setback a minimum of 500m from:

1. any Residential zone; and
2. the notional boundary of a building containing a noise sensitive activity not located on the site of the airstrip or helicopter land site.

Sentiment: Amend

Submission:

CONCERNING PER-3

The proposed limit of only 10 take-offs per month is overly restrictive and heavily hinders the abilities of aviators, aviation clubs and business owners to continue their activities.

As an aviation business that, during its busy season can take off up to ten times in a single day, the use of the private rural airstrip is essential to our livelihood as well as to the many others that fly with us for their work such as Department of Conservation workers accessing work sites, Landcare services carrying out weed and pest control, as well as many others flying with us for personal reasons. The limit of 10 take-offs in a month for a private airstrip/site in a general rural zone would cripple our business and many others like it. The consent that would be required is simply ridiculous.

Furthermore, this proposed rule serves no obvious purpose as the majority of small and private rural strips lie over 1,000 metres from designated residential zones or buildings containing a noise sensitive activity and generate little to no complaints from neighbouring landowners as many utilise the services of the strip.

Additionally, rural airstrips are often used for training purposes as there is less air traffic to contend with and essential mountain and weather training. The limit of only 10 take-offs per month will severely limit the ability of educators to use these, therefore leaving student pilots undertrained and a possible danger in the Timaru District airspace due to the proposed plan.

Relief sought

Amend PER-3

The best course of action would be the complete removal of the limitations of take-offs under PER-3. Aviators and private landowners should retain their existing rights and freedoms to use their airstrips without a frequency limit.