

KEMPSEY FLYING CLUB LTD



President: Barrie Bishton 02 6562 4502

Secretary: Paul Stubbs 02 6562 1234

ABN: 65 000 377 042

30 January 2015

The General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council
P O Box 3078
WEST KEMPSEY NSW 2440

Dear Sir

RE: KEMPSEY AIRPORT UPGRADE – SWIPECARD FUEL FACILITY

We refer to the submission by Council for funds to upgrade the existing fuel facility at Kempsey Airport.

The Kempsey Flying Club is in full support of Council's application and we submit the following information to compliment the application for funding.

Kempsey Airport was established in 1935 as an all over grass landing area. In 1956 the heavy duty main runway was constructed and in the 1960s a regular public transport service operated from the airport. To support that service a fuel installation was constructed at the airport and it comprised two underground steel tanks, a single fuel bowser and necessary infrastructure. The facility has remained in use since its installation but because of age and the ravages of time it is nearing its use by date with increased maintenance costs and difficulty in obtaining replacement components when failures are experienced. The facility has no provision for swipe card operation or any form of automation.

A new fuel facility at Kempsey Airport will not only facilitate a service to general aviation, but it will also avoid the constant breakdowns and labour intensive operation of the existing facility. For example, when fuel is currently required, either a member of the Flying Club has to travel from their home to the airport to fuel an aircraft or somebody already at the airport, sufficiently qualified to dispense fuel, has to be imposed upon.

If aviation based business is to be attracted to Kempsey Airport it is essential to provide the facilities that aviation based businesses demand. At the top of the priority list is a modern functional fuel dispensing facility. Any aviation business requires ready access to aviation fuel for both piston and jet engines and for such access to be available 24 hours per day.

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In addition, a new swipe card fuel installation is likely to benefit Kempsey Airport financially for the following reasons:

- a) It will attract usage by large corporate entities such as Air Ambulance, Police Service, Fire Service, State Emergency Services, etc particularly in times of emergency. During recent firefighting aircraft deployments at the airport fuel had to be trucked in to support the service temporarily based at our airport. Aircraft from the above services could be confident in the full time availability of fuel supplies at Kempsey and this may enable them to preference fuelling here rather than at congested facilities at larger airports or from mobile facilities hauled over long distances.
- b) General and recreational aircraft operators have a preference for purchasing fuel away from airports carrying high volume commercial traffic. Kempsey Airport ideally situated halfway between Sydney and Brisbane is an ideal stopping point for light aircraft flying between those capital cities. Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie airports with their high volume of commercial traffic discourage general and recreation users. Once it became common knowledge at airports to the south and north of Kempsey that aviation fuel is available 24 hours a day there is little doubt air traffic through Kempsey would significantly increase.
- c) Organisations involved with the maintenance of aircraft, manufacture or servicing of aircraft components require constant access to aviation fuel as do their customers. It is probable aviation based organizations would be attracted to Kempsey Airport principally because of the availability of fuel 24 hours a day.
- d) The unique tourism attractions of the Macleay Valley could be advertised throughout the aviation industry with an assurance of 24 hour fuel availability. Prudent pilots like to refuel their aircraft on arrival at a location and are frustrated if they have to wait for a fuel facility operator to arrive sometimes more than one hour after arriving. A swipe card fuel facility avoids delay and gives pilots the satisfaction of knowing they can refuel their aircraft immediately they land. Kempsey needs such a facility.
- e) A sum of approximately \$2.5million dollars has been expended to upgrade Kempsey Airport. This expenditure is unlikely to realise its full potential without the installation of a modern fuel facility. Commercial growth in particular would be severely compromised if servicing or manufacturing businesses at the airport had to travel to Port Macquarie or some other location to obtain aviation fuel. Storage and use of aviation fuel from drums is not an acceptable way of maintaining a fuel supply at an airport. Any failure of the existing facility is likely to be terminal and result in no fuel being available for users.

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Current fuel usage at Kempsey is approximately 40,000 litres per annum but a new facility able to service both general aviation and commercial operators by providing jet fuel in addition to piston engine fuel would see a vast increase in usage as commercial users would account for far more throughput than is used in general aviation.

In the strongest terms Kempsey Flying Club requests Council to apply its full resources to obtaining sufficient funds from any available source to upgrade the existing fuel installation with a modern fuel facility to ensure Kempsey is placed in a position to attract tourism and industry to the Macleay Valley.

Yours faithfully

KEMPSEY FLYING CLUB LTD

per:





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Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

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Email: jump@coffsskydivers.com.au
www: www.coffsskydivers.com.au

Susannah Smith
Tourism & Town Planning Department
Kempsey Council

re: Letter of Support re fuel upgrade funding application

30th January 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

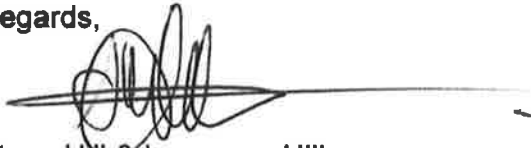
Coffs City Skydivers introduced skydiving operations at Kempsey airport with the help and assistance of the Kempsey Shire Council. We have been operating at Kempsey airport for approximately 2 years and are currently operating there 1 day per fortnight. This aerodrome is an ideal location for a skydiving training school. We have had many discussions with Kempsey council which resulted in us providing a business plan for the next 5 years which indicates we would like to ultimately have a full time training facility which equates to operating 3 – 5 days per week within 5 years. The facility would also provide the ability to run National & International skydiving events thus attracting attention from the skydiving community. These people will require accommodation, transport, food and maybe even somewhere to celebrate. This will create work for existing businesses and the possibility of some casual staff being needed to assist when larger groups are using the facility.

To add to this, our plan is to entice locals in the Kempsey area to participate in one of our skydive courses, which may lead to a career in skydiving, as it has for many of us. This combination will create sustainable economic development by offering employment and by relocation of professionals into the community on a semi-permanent basis.

In the last 3 years our staff has grown from 6 to 12 which is partly due to our expansion in Kempsey and having instructors available so that both skydiving operations (our tandem and student operations) can run simultaneously. We predict our staff will increase by another 3 within a year. Within 5 years, for our full time skydive school to become a reality, we predict there will be a need for 10 – 12 people based in the Kempsey area to run the school. There would also be the need for 5 – 10 casual staff when we run competitions and large skydiving events (approximately 100 competitors). Another benefit for the community will be in the purchasing of infrastructure throughout the 3 stage development of the Skydive School / University, through construction, materials and fit out.

Our current skydiving operation is made possible by the provision of on-site fuel supplied by the Kempsey aeroclub. As we progress with our 5 year plan mentioned above, we will require greater access to fuel than is possible from the current facilities. The security of this fuel supply, as in being available when we need it, will be essential to the growth of our skydiving centre. And even more so when we are running training camps and competitions.

Regards,



Steve Hill & Lawrence Hill



All communications to be addressed to:

NSW Rural Fire Service
Lower North Coast Zone
PO Box 3292
WEST KEMPSEY NSW 2440

NSW Rural Fire Service
Lower North Coast Zone
Kelly Close
MACKSVILLE NSW 2447

Telephone: (02) 65 62 1964
e-mail: wayne.leader@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Facsimile: (02) 6582 2566



Your Ref: LNCZ/TRG/032

Our Ref:

29/01/2015

In support of Kempsey Council's application for funding to upgrade refuelling capabilities at Kempsey Airport.

Due to its location, Kempsey Airport has recently been identified by the NSW Rural Fire Service as a strategic regional operational airport for fire fighting activities within the Mid North Coast.

During the last two fire sessions, the NSW Rural Fire Service have located and operated several firefighting aircraft (fixed wing and rotary) from the Kempsey Airport. These aircraft were deployed from Kempsey to combat wildfires within the Mid North Coast.

The Kempsey Airport has also been utilised by the RFS for deploying aircraft for reconnaissance missions around the state as well as transporting large number of firefighters to combat wild fires around Australia.

Unfortunately, due to the poor refuelling system at Kempsey Airport, aircraft have had to be diverted to Port Macquarie or Coffs Harbour Airports to refuel or on many occasions aircraft have had to supply their own refuelling tanker.

The benefit to the RFS of an upgrade of fuel facilities at Kempsey Airport would greatly assist with the containment of wildfires and would assist with the protection of live and property within the Mid North Coast.

Regards

Wayne Leader
Inspector
Membership Services Coordinator
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Lower North Coast Zone

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**NSW Ambulance****NSW AIR AMBULANCE**
AEROMEDICAL & RETRIEVAL SERVICES

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29 January 2015

Mr David Rawlings
General Manager
Kempsey Shire Council
PO Box 3078
Kempsey NSW 2440

Dear Mr Rawlings

RE: Kempsey Airport - Fuel Storage & Dispensing System

I am writing to support Kempsey Shire Council's funding application to NSW Trade & Investment to assist with the installation of an automated fuel storage and dispensing system for Kempsey Airport.

I understand the current fuel system is a single product (Avgas) which is manually operated and requires a member of the aero club to be called to the airport to dispense fuel. Obviously at times this can cause delays.

The proposed installation would provide full automation (self-service - card controlled) for both Avgas and Avtur Jet A-1, and will be available 24/7 to all airport users. Kempsey airport is frequently used by NSW Air Ambulance and this installation would help improve our service delivery.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Field'.

GRAEME FIELDManager
Aeromedical and Medical Retrieval Services.



Health
Mid North Coast
Local Health District
Kempsey District Hospital

1 May 2015

Kempsey Shire Council
P O BOX 3078
West Kempsey NSW 2440

Attention: Mayor Liz Campbell

Dear Madam

During the redevelopment to Kempsey District Hospital, the Kempsey Airport has been a vital link for Medical and Neonatal Emergency Transport (NET's) retrievals 24/7.

The current helipad at Kempsey District Hospital now has reduced access and is in need of restoration. It is also undesirable to have refuelling on site at the hospital due to potential incidents that could be disastrous for the Hospital.

Hospital Management is seeking agreement from Council to maintain the current arrangement of 24 hour access to the Kempsey Airport for Medical retrievals and Neonatal Emergency Transport indefinitely.

The Ambulance service has recently purchased larger helicopters. The use of the airport would involve fixed wing aircraft and helicopter transfers. Over the past 2 years there have been 23 Air Ambulance retrievals and 17 NET's retrievals. An annual average of 28 movements or an average of 2.33 movement per month.

Could you please advise if the current arrangement with 24 hour, 7 day a week access will be maintained indefinitely? Also is it possible for refuelling to take place at the Kempsey Airport?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. O'Shea', written in a cursive style.

Terry O'Shea

Executive Manager
Kempsey District Hospital

cc: Mr Andy Beverley - Ambulance Services

Executive Manager
Kempsey District Hospital
Locked Bag 1, Kempsey NSW 2440
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