

LMF19/20

Ms Madi Maclean
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
PO Box 29
WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782

Dear Ms Maclean

Thank you for your letter of 31 December 2018 to the Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Lands and Forestry and Minister for Racing, concerning the leasing of Katoomba Airfield. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) was conducted in 2017 to procure a new tenure holder for Katoomba Airfield, consistent with prevailing legislation. The EOI conformed to NSW Government procurement policy and procedures regarding public notification and the means for selection of a preferred proponent with whom to enter into new tenure arrangements.

Consultation with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Blue Mountains City Council and emergency services agencies elicited support for retention of an aircraft landing area on the site. Council subsequently supported an EOI submitted by the Blue Mountains Aviators' Club.

The Licence granted by the Department of Industry (DoI) - Crown Lands to Derek and Floyd Larsen is for Aerodrome and Land Management purposes. The Larsen's have removed extensive rubbish, obsolete materials and degraded structures from the site, and have commenced an orderly program of environmental rehabilitation. Their plan for the site includes expanding opportunities for community access to, and use of, the site.

Under the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*, an approved Community Engagement Strategy must be implemented prior to the grant of any lease of Crown land. Community consultation will be undertaken if and when a formal lease application has been received.

Due to the runway surface, Katoomba Airfield is generally "closed" to fixed-wing aircraft flown by anyone other than experienced, suitably endorsed pilots. However, despite this status, there is no legal restriction on the use of the Airfield by fixed-wing or any other aircraft.

Access restrictions to and from the site are such that all take-offs and landings by anyone other than emergency services must be notified and agreed upon in advance with the licensee, whose details appear in the Enroute Supplement Australia, which is published quarterly.

I have asked that Scott Mullen, Senior Project Manager, Commercial Services be available to discuss these matters further with you. Mr Mullen may be contacted on (02) 9842 8345.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'GB' followed by a stylized flourish.

GLENN BUNNY
GROUP DIRECTOR ESTATE MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY – CROWN LANDS

8/02/2019