



Point Lonsdale Civic Association Inc.

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Representing Point Lonsdale Residents since 1910

29/6/2022

To. BoQ Mayor – Cr. Ross Ebbels;
CC. BoQ Councillors - Cr. Michael Grout, Cr. Isabelle Tolhurst, Cr. Fleur Hewitt, Cr. Donnie Grigau.
CC. CEO BoQ - Mr. Martin Gill;

PLANNING OBJECTION 2022/044 6 MCDONALD ROAD QUEENSCLIFF

The Association objects to the application above as it appears not to comply with planning requirements in some areas and we have concerns about environmental issues in respect of the internationally important SWAN BAY RAMSAR area.

Precedent/Amenity.

The application sets an unwanted and unwelcome precedent for 3225. A designated helipad already exists in the Borough – for emergency use and specific private use, and we question why a private helicopter operation cannot utilise existing infrastructure at Barwon Heads Airport which has all the necessary planning approvals, including any emergency protocols that may be required.

If this proposal is approved it opens the door to other helipads in and around Swan Bay/3225, which will severely impact the area's amenity, character and ambience, which is why many choose to reside in the Borough.

Furthermore, tourists who visit our wonderful part of the Bellarine, would not expect the noise and disruption of helicopter activities.

We also note that Burnt Point is a semi-rural area, that is very quiet in its existing character.

Environment.

This application has the potential to create significant impacts on our local environment including:

- The risk of fuel spills into Swan Bay/Lakers Cutting, and Burnt Point;
- Impact from noise on Swan Bay – a RAMSAR listed site;
- Impact on sensitive shorebird feeding and roosting areas from disturbance – endangered orange bellied parrots frequent the area.
- Impact on colonies of other wildlife in and around Swan Bay.
- Impact of breeding activities of Swan Bay Birdlife.
- Noise impact scaring birds/marine life away – especially black swans and royal spoonbills;
- Swan Bay is an important fish nursery area which should not be disturbed or polluted;
- Flyover may disturb nesting birds;

Existing Defence Arrangements/Potential Accidents.

Existing Swan Island defence activities may be impacted by this proposal and need to be investigated thoroughly.

Additionally, we draw the Council's attention to the recent near miss at Jack Rabbit Winery, where a helicopter clipped nearby trees near the restaurant. If this application were approved it could result in an accident in and around neighbouring Burnt Point properties.

Planning Scheme.

The applicant's supporting documents we believe, do not address relevant sections of the Queenscliffe Planning Scheme.

In Summary:

The proposal adds nothing in terms of benefit to the immediate area or the Borough as a whole, and in fact detracts from the general amenity. We believe it has the potential to harm the sensitive wetland environment, cause nuisance to the general area and is not in keeping with the Borough's planning provisions.

We believe private helicopters should utilise existing infrastructure – including specialised landing and take off facilities, refuelling equipment, including and spillage mitigation, and necessary emergency equipment, at Barwon Heads Airport.

Yours sincerely

David Kenwood – on behalf of Committee & members

President PLCA

Ref: 290622BOQ23HELIPAD
