

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARINGS PANEL APPOINTED BY THE  
TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**UNDER** the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)  
**IN THE MATTER** of the hearing of submissions on the Proposed Timaru  
District Plan  
**SUBMITTER** Ian Sinclair

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**IAN SINCLAIR IN SUPPORT OF SUBMISSION OF THE AIRCRAFT OWNERS  
AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND**

**Usage of fixed-wing aircraft and airstrips  
5 July 2024**

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**WYNN WILLIAMS**

## INTRODUCTION

- 1 My full name is Ian Sinclair. I am a farmer and I reside in the Geraldine area.
- 2 I have prepared this brief of evidence to support the submissions made by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (**AOPA**) and others regarding the Timaru District Council Proposed District Plan (**PDP**). I also have made a submission personally and my evidence is consistent with my personal submission. My submission relates in particular to rule GRUZ-R14 and the associated recommendations in the section 42A report. My evidence sets out how I use small-fixed wing aircraft to provide context for how the activity currently operates in the Timaru District.

## USAGE OF AIRCRAFT AND AIRSTRIPS

- 3 I have been living at my current address since October 1990 and I have owned and operated an aircraft that entire time.
- 4 I selected this property because of the quality of the potential airstrip, which I then developed by re-fencing and preparing the surface. The zoning of my property is R1 under the Operative District Plan. I built a hanger on the property which has a building permit. The Timaru District Council (**Council**) corresponded with me at the time, and I indicated that my airstrip was for private use and that I would not be conducting any commercial operations from it.
- 5 My airstrip serves my private needs, is used for flight training to allow pilots to experience landing in a non-airfield environment, as a weather or unplanned precautionary safety alternative stop for others to use, so my pilot friends can visit, and for social gatherings.
- 6 My airstrip is occasionally used by aircraft doing agricultural work. I have also used my aircraft for gifted flights to support local fundraising efforts for the community.
- 7 In the nearly 34 years I have operated my airstrip I have not had a single complaint from any neighbour or member of the public. The Council has never visited my airstrip. My neighbours are genuinely interested in my flying activity, and I have taken most of them for a flight.

- 8 My airstrip is located 200m from a neighbouring household. Despite this, no complaint has ever been received. The restrictions within GRUZ-R14 of the PDP will mean that continuation of my flying activities will require an Existing Use Certificate, at significant cost to me, financially and in time.
- 9 My flying activity creates a noise profile that is significantly less than many of the day to day farming operations that are properly and rightfully allowed to be conducted on any day of the week, with those farming operations often occurring at times of the day that may be considered to be unsociable and affect amenity.
- 10 There is no basis for GRUZ-R14 as proposed to be included within the PDP as there is no evidence of a problem that needs solving with respect to the use of land for small fixed wing aircraft and airstrips.
- 11 I am opposed to GRUZ-R14 as proposed in the PDP and request it is deleted or modified to allow recreational and private plane use to be unlimited.

## CONCLUSION

- 12 I am not aware of there having ever been an issue within the Timaru District regarding how small, fixed wing aircraft or permanent airstrips are used. I personally have never received a noise complaint or any complaints about flying my aircraft or using the airstrip.
- 13 GRUZ-R14 will impose unnecessary regulation on the activities of small, fixed wing aircraft and associated activities, despite no evidence of them having caused noise or amenity issues within the Timaru District.
- 14 I seek for the flying of small-fixed wing aircraft on permanent or non-permanent airstrips to be a permitted activity, without restrictions as to the frequency of take-offs or landings or setbacks, and for small fixed-wing aircraft to be excluded from the provisions of GRUZ-R14.



Ian Sinclair

5 July 2024