

**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 Sid McAuley, Company Director and Recreational Aviator

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF SID MCAULEY IN SUPPORT OF
SUBMISSION OF THE AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW ZEALAND**

Usage of fixed-wing aircraft and airstrips

5 July 2024

PO Box 4341 CHRISTCHURCH 8140
DX WX11179
Tel +64 3 379 7622
Fax +64 3 379 2467

Solicitor: P Maw
(Philip.Maw@wynnwilliams.co.nz)

WYNN WILLIAMS

INTRODUCTION

- 1 My full name is Sidney George McAuley. I am a Company Director and I reside on a 270 acre farm in the Timaru District.
- 2 I have prepared this brief of evidence to support the submissions I made regarding the Proposed Timaru District Council (**Council**) Plan (**PDP**). This evidence also supports the submissions made by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (**AOPA**).
- 3 My submission relates in particular to rule GRUZ-R14 and, following the recommendations of the s 42A report, GRUZ-R14A. 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

- 4 I have held my Private Pilot's Licence for approximately 17 years, and I am rated to fly Cessna 172s and Cessna 182s. I currently own and fly a Cessna 182.
- 5 I keep my Cessna 182 in a hangar at the Timaru Airport and therefore I often take off and land at the airport. However, I sometimes land in the paddocks on my property and I frequently land on the paddocks or airstrips of my friend's properties within the Timaru District.

My property

- 6 Although I occasionally land my private recreational fixed-wing plane on my property, the farm itself has fixed wing aircraft and helicopters flying over it for agricultural spraying. Despite this, I have never had a complaint from my neighbours or anyone about the aviation activity on my property.
- 7 My recreational flying would hardly contribute to any noise produced from aviation activity.
- 8 The paddock I normally take off from, or land in, on my property is immediately adjacent to my neighbour's property, although it is approximately 500 metres from their house. Again, I have never had any complaints about my aviation activity and I do not believe any complaint has been made to the Council.

Landing and taking off at other properties

- 9 The majority of my aviation movements would occur at friend's properties around the Timaru District. There are two purposes for these movements.
- 10 The first is social recreation where I will be visiting my friends who are also aviators. The second is practice and safety.
- 11 It is critical that all pilots are practiced in their ability to safely take off and land at rural airstrips and in paddocks. If we face any issue while airborne, we most likely will have to make an emergency landing at a rural airstrip or paddock. To ensure we do this safely we must undertake frequent practice.
- 12 In my 17 years of flying, I have observed how much the locals enjoy watching the small fixed-wing planes take off and land. When I visit friend's properties, there are often neighbours or locals watching the take-off and landings from the fence line waving at us as pilots. People seem fascinated by watching these recreational aircrafts.

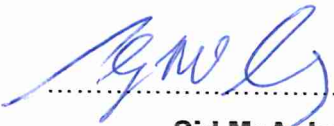
Lack of Issue

- 13 As stated above, I have never received a complaint about my aviation activity or flying either at my property or as a result of visiting other properties. Further, I am not aware of any of my friends who also fly recreationally having ever received a complaint about their flying.
- 14 I consider including recreational fixed-wing aircraft movements in GRUZ-R14 is imposing unnecessary regulation despite no evidence of them having caused noise or amenity issues within the Timaru District. Simply, it is trying to solve a problem that does not exist.

CONCLUSION

- 15 I seek for the recreational flying of small fixed-wing aircraft on permanent or non-permanent airstrips to be a permitted activity and for small fixed-wing aircraft to be excluded from the provisions of GRUZ-R14 and GRUZ-R14A

151



Sid McAuley

5 July 2024