

# Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

**Northern NSW** Newcastle PO Box 230, New Lambton NSW 2305

Tamworth PO Box 6187, Westdale NSW 2340 | Lismore PO Box 3080, Lismore Delivery Centre NSW 2480

ABN 40 002 862 026 | CFN 11992 | Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service is operated by Northern NSW Helicopter Rescue Service Ltd



11 November 2024

Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Submitted online

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Northern NSW Helicopter Rescue Service Limited trading as Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (the Service) - Submission on the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre Public Exhibition**

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October 2024 advising the Service of the public exhibition of the Hunter Indoor Sports Centre.

### **About the Service**

The Service is a registered charity that provides helicopter emergency medical services throughout Northern NSW for the Ambulance Service of New South Wales under a long-term contract with the NSW government through the Health Administration Corporation.

Most services are provided to the Newcastle, Central Coast and Hunter Valley regions, Tamworth and New England areas, Lismore through Tenterfield and west and to the Queensland border. Services are also provided offshore as required. From time to time, the Service provides services further south into Sydney and north into southern Queensland.

The Service operates 24 hours per day, every day of the year from three NSW forward operating bases located within Belmont Airport, Tamworth Airport and Lismore Airport.

Our Rescue Helicopter Crews fly three types of missions using Agusta Westland AW139 helicopters:

- **Pre-hospital missions** – response to Triple 0 emergency calls to assist people injured in locations such as roads, farms, workplaces, the ocean, on sporting fields or in the bush.
- **Inter Hospital Transfers (IHT)** – transfer the state's most critical patients to the appropriate standard of specialist hospital care required.
- **Search and Rescue Missions** – Search to locate missing people and return them to safety.

In addition to the line bases mentioned above, the Service also has a fourth base located at 10 Bavin Road, Broadmeadow (**the Broadmeadow Base**).

The Broadmeadow Base serves as the Service's headquarters and engineering/deep level maintenance facility. The Broadmeadow Base has been in situ and utilised by the Service for more than 30 years.

The following flight related functions, which are critical to the provision of the broader services provided by the Service are carried out at the Broadmeadow Base:

- **Flight Operations**

The Service utilises Broadmeadow for helicopter landings including for operations, refuelling, instrument approach and engineering related purposes. Flights into and out of Broadmeadow can occur 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The Service has three helicopter landing sites (HLS) at Broadmeadow, shown in the following image:

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- **Deep Level Maintenance (DLM)**

DLM is performed on the Service's fleet of AW139 aircraft at Broadmeadow. DLM is in depth maintenance that is beyond the capability or approvals of localised maintenance facilities at the forward operating bases. This includes disassembly, inspection, repair, re-assembly, repainting and component maintenance. Maintenance requires flight testing, including 80-foot hover checks and rotor track and balance flights. Helicopters land and take off from Broadmeadow when they are arriving for or being released from, maintenance events.

Due to the inspection and maintenance requirements of the complex AW 139 aircraft, maintenance is conducted at Broadmeadow for most of the year. When not undergoing maintenance, a back-up aircraft can be based at Broadmeadow as a redundancy for line bases or for training.

- **Refuelling**

The Broadmeadow Base is available and is utilised 24-hours a day for refuelling of operational aircraft from our other bases and other emergency services aircraft such as NSW Police aircraft.

- **Training**

Block Medical Crew training can be conducted from the Broadmeadow Base over a 4-week period every February and August. This training involves a 2-week period of Ab initio (from the beginning) doctor training, one (1) week of Hi-Line/water winch training, and another week for re-current doctor training. This training is conducted on one of Service's aircraft during these periods involving aircraft movements into and out of the base.

Additionally, throughout the year the Broadmeadow base is used for various ad hoc flight crew training missions.

- **Instrument Approach**

The Broadmeadow Base has an approved RNP APCH (Global Navigation Satellite System Approach). This enables a safe instrument approach in inclement weather as an alternate landing site to the Belmont operational base or John Hunter Hospital.

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## Aviation Considerations

The ability to conduct safe helicopter flights into and out of the Broadmeadow Base 24 hours day, 7 days a week is critical for the provision of helicopter emergency medical services in Northern NSW by the Service.

The Service notes the Aviation Impact Assessment which has been prepared by AviPro in relation to the proposed development and supports appropriate lighting of both the development and any cranes to minimise any impacts to flight operations into and out of the Broadmeadow Base.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Please do not hesitate to contact us on 02 49 52 0000 or at [angela.razborsek@rescuehelicopter.com.au](mailto:angela.razborsek@rescuehelicopter.com.au) should you require any further information or if you would like to discuss.

Yours Sincerely,

**Angela Razborsek**

General Counsel and Company Secretary

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