

2190993:LGS
Economic development and Environment



17 October 2023

Joanna Bakopanos
Department of Planning and Environment

joanna.bakopanos@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Joanna,

Emirates One & Only Resort, Wolgan Valley - Temporary increase in helicopter trips (MP06_0310-Mod-3)

Reference is made to the abovementioned project and your request for comment for the proposed modification (Mod 3) to temporarily increase the number of permitted helicopter trips for guest access to and from the resort. The helicopter trips will be in conjunction with the recent opening of the limited and restricted four wheel drive temporary access that was formulated after the closure of Wolgan Road from a landslide in 2022.

It is noted that the temporary increase in helicopter trips is proposed to operate until Council reopens Wolgan Road. The number of helicopter trips will then revert to the current approval.

Modification 2 was approved in 2018 to allow for the relocation of the helicopter pad and an increase of helicopter trips to 14 trips per week and 20 trips per week during peak holiday and tourism periods. The approval further allowed 5 helicopter trips in any given day except public holidays.

The location of the new helipad allowed a new flight path that would decrease the potential noise impacts, with the closest receiver (resident) to be located over 3km from the helipad.

The current modification proposes to increase the limits of trips to 15 per days and up to 105 helicopter trips per week.

Since the Resort became operational in 2006, Council has only received 1 helicopter complaint in 2010 relating to the number of trips per day.

Given that the helipad has since been amended to be further away from residential receivers, noise is predicted to have decreased.

Due to the location of the new helipad and the urgency of the application to help to improve the Emirates Resort while the Wolgan Road is closed, Council considers the Environmental Assessment to adequately highlight the relevant issues, and has no objection to the project subject to Council's original and amended conditions as per Mod 2, remain on the consent.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned Monday to Friday on (02) 63549999, in Council's Economic Development and Environment should you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Lauren Stevens

DEVELOPMENT PLANNER