



**Friday 10th May 2024**

**To Whom it may Concern**

**Re. Haast Airfield Rezoning Submission**

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association NZ's (AOPANZ) mission is to advocate on behalf of members to keep the cost of private and recreational flying affordable and accessible to as many people as possible. And, to encourage the social aspect of flying with like-minded people who share a passion for aviation.

I am an Executive Member of AOPANZ and also lead the Safety Group. I am a private aircraft owner who uses Haast regularly for personal transportation and recreation. I am part of the group who organise annual AOPANZ fly ins to Haast .

I, on behalf of AOPA NZ, support the Submission to include Haast Airfield within the Special Purpose AIRPZ.

AOPA NZ would like to highlight and support some key points included within the Submission;

- Haast airfield is used extensively by private (recreational aviation). Haast is a fantastic venue for our social occasions, with nearby accommodation, fuel facilities and an airstrip suitable for all abilities. Our data indicates the contribution to the local economy from our fly-ins is on average \$500/aircraft, which includes hospitality, tourism and accommodation.
- Haast airfield is a critical safety asset for many reasons. It is positioned such that aviators can land if the Haast Pass is not safe to traverse. Heading south, down the West Coast, there is no airfield with fuel facilities for 400 km (Haast to TeAnau). This is the furthest distance between fuel facilities one can travel in New Zealand. Haast Airfield is a lifeline for the South Westland community in the case of a natural disaster, specifically considering the vulnerability of the Haast Pass.
- Investment in equipment to enable Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) approaches will greatly enhance safety. This investment requires certainty, through the airfield's designation as an AIRPZ.
- Designating Haast as an AIRPZ is consistent with the Te Tai o Poutini Plan (TTPP) applying that designation to Hokitika and Westport Airports, Greymouth and Karamea Aerodromes and Franz Josef Heliport. AOPA NZ supports the Submission's assessed consistency with policy direction including the RPS and the District Plan

AOPA NZ is prepared to speak to a hearing if required.

Regards

John Evans

For AOPANZ