



**Item No:** 1.5  
**Title:** Mayoral Minute - Investigation into Central Coast Airport  
**Department:** Councillor

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26 November 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting

Trim Reference: F2018/00020-05 - D13397270

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**Background:**

At the 27 November 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting the following resolution was passed:

- 1 That Council fully support the Warnervale Airport Restrictions Act (WAR Act) (1996).**
- 2 That Council not approve any development at the Warnervale Airport which is not consistent with the WAR Act (1996).**
- 3 That Council not immediately extend or remove the current 1196 metre runway.**
- 4 That Council not alter the position, length, width, thickness or strength of the current runway.**
- 5 That Council immediately suspend all works, land acquisitions and expenditure on the Central Coast Airport, except where those works are required by law or the suspension of those works would put Council in breach of existing contractual obligations and/or expose Council to claims for damages or variation under any such contract.**
- 6 That Council reallocate the Budget for the Airport of \$6 million to employment generating projects across the former Wyong Shire with staff to prepare a strategy and report to council by the 12th February meeting for approval of the strategy.**
- 7 That Council maintain the current site zoning, unaltered and not approve rezoning to SP2.**
- 8 That Council permanently protect all of the Porters Creek wetland owned by Council and south of the current runway, from development for biodiversity, emergency drinking water supply and protection of the water quality into the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary.**
- 9 That Council staff prepare a report to protect the Porters Creek Wetland, as per item 8, and the report be brought back to council for approval on the 26th February meeting.**

This resolution has been the subject of numerous rescission motions causing concern in the community around Council decision-making and delaying the ability of Council to prepare a much needed strategy for employment generation in the north of the Central Coast.

While some information relating to the development of the airport into a Regional Airport, Aviation Hub, works and agreements with third parties has been made public through reports and Council's Proactive Release Program, many questions remained unanswered.

This Council is committed to moving forward on this issue and to making decisions in the best interests of our community. In order to do that successfully legacy issues relating to the Airport must be resolved. There needs to be a full and independent inquiry into previous decisions, works undertaken, proposals developed and agreements signed to progress a Regional Airport, the subsequent Aviation Hub and the Wyong Economic Zone. We need to understand and acknowledge this history in order to move forward as a Council and a region.

***I formally move:***

1. Council request the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to request the NSW Auditor General conduct an independent financial audit and performance review into all matters relating to Central Coast Airport including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) Review of all documentation including any proposals and approvals for the development of a Regional Airport at Kiar Ridge
  - b) Invite and consider public submissions (including the ability for confidential submissions if necessary)
  - c) Review of all documentation including any proposals and approvals for the development of an Aviation Hub at Central Coast Airport
  - d) A report of all financial records, including, but not limited to, expenditure and assets acquired or disposed of in relation to the Airport site
  - e) Review of any activities, including works and development applications lodged, by the current Council or former Wyong Shire Council relating to works at the Airport site
  - f) Review of any potential conflicts of interest in relevant matters including the development of plans or agreements signed in relation to the Airport.
  - g) Adherence to legislation and Council policies in relation to activities at the Airport
2. CEO to report on a quarterly basis to Council on progress of the investigation.
3. The Auditor-General be requested to provide specific advice regarding the following matters, with an interim report by the end of June 2019 if possible, including:

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- a) A review of processes and decision-making relating to the Airport and Wyong Employment Zone including:
  - i. Any anomalies in the process or proposals
  - ii. Any areas of concern that may not meet community expectations in terms of due process
- b) Any improvements needed in Council processes
- c) Any conflicts of interests both declared and undeclared

Any matters requiring referral to external agencies for further investigations

### **Attachments**

*Nil.*