Evidence M

PPC026 Westpark - Verbal submission Submitter # 85/Canterbury Aero Club – Represented by Stuart Larson

This submission opposes the Westpark development and echos the submissions of others with respect to noise and risk associated with developments in close proximity to an existing airfield.

Following the closure of Wigram airfield and Christchurch International Airports stated desire to remove General Aviation from their airport, Rangiora is the only remaining General Aviation airport near Christchurch. It has therefore flourished via the significant investments by many owners, pilots and support businesses. The Canterbury Aero Club, now in its 87th year, is one of those businesses. We have maintained a base at Rangiora for many years for both pilot training and also for private hire by our Club members.

The Clubs professional pilot training division, the International Aviation Academy of New Zealand provides professional flight training to both Domestic and International students and adds millions of dollars annually to the local communities, including the Waimakariri District. 50% of the Academy's trainee pilots (our student body averages 80-100) originates from overseas, where forecast pilot demand is over 250,000 in the next 15 years.

Canterbury's excellent training environment including variety of terrain and open airspaces are a key attraction to foreign students and a very large export earner for New Zealand. It would be most unwise to place limits on that training capability.

Short term

It is critical that there be no limits placed on the existing uses at Rangiora airfield.

Allowing new housing developments including Westpark to be situated so close to the field can only result in new noise complaints and increased risk to any development including residents who are allowed to live beneath long established flight paths.

Long term

Long Term protection of the airfield requires the following actions:

- Formal certification of Rangiora as an airfield.
- LIMS be required to include agreement by owners residing in new developments near to the airfield to not complain about nose; as is currently required at the Clearwater Resort.

I acknowledge that both long term items fall outside the scope of this hearings jurisdiction however I urge the commissioner to include in your report the need for new hearings to address both items.