

AVIATION STATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM

New South Wales

Submission date: 11/08/2020

TITLE	Air Traffic Tower Services at Williamtown Airport
SUBMITTED BY	Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR): OAR@CASA.gov.au
CONSULTATION SUMMARY	The Defence Williamtown (Defence) are considering their options to provide ATC on <u>weekdays only until 2200</u> once the COVID-19 Restrictions are lifted and movements return to more typical pre-COVID levels.
KEY ISSUES	<p>In 2008, WLM ATC went from providing ATC services from 0600 - 2200 5 days a week to 0600-2200 7 days a week. The reason for this change was not based on traffic levels but has remained in place until recently. Since COVID19 travel restrictions, Defence have ceased providing an ATC tower service on weekends. Defence have enquired whether a weekend ATC service is warranted once COVID Restrictions are lifted and flights return to the pre-COVID levels. The OAR is investigating the risk of that proposal should an ATC service no longer be provided on weekends. Defence are also proposing to cease all tower services during the annual year end period of operational stand down (14 Dec 2020 until 10th Jan 2021).</p> <p>As part of an airspace risk assessment, the OAR is interested in feedback from local operators, airlines and aviation stakeholders along the following lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risk to aviation (particularly RPT) should a decision be taken not to reinstate the provision of services on weekends; and • the risk to aviation (particularly RPT) should a decision be taken not to reinstate the provision of services during the period of operational stand-down (14 Dec 2020 until 10th Jan 2021). <p>In both cases the OAR is seeking to assess whether the residual risk is acceptable, and any risk assessments conducted by respondents to support their comments are most welcome.</p>
FEEDBACK TO	All responses can be forwarded to the CASA OAR oar@casa.gov.au attention Anthony Lawler.
CLOSE DATE	10 September 2020.
ATTACHMENTS	Newcastle VTC 21 May 2020.

Excerpt Newcastle VTC 21 May 2020.

