

AVIATION STATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM	
New South Wales and Southeast Queensland	Submission date: 22/10/2021
TITLE	Discrete Frequency for Ballina. New frequency for Lismore, Casino and Evans Head
SUBMITTED BY	Office of Airspace Regulation: oar@casa.gov.au : on behalf of Ballina and Lismore stakeholders.
CONSULTATION SUMMARY	To seek industry feedback on the proposal to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to allocate Lismore and Casino a different CTAF to Ballina. 2. allocate Evans Head aerodrome the Multicom CTAF of 126.7.
KEY ISSUES	Frequency congestion and over transmission of radio broadcasts
FEEDBACK TO	Comments and responses can be provided to the OAR at the following email address: oar@casa.gov.au :
CLOSE DATE	Thursday 19 November 2021
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

Overview

The Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) has identified that frequency congestion around Ballina, Lismore, Casino and Evans Head aerodromes could be reduced through the allocation of a separate Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (CTAF) for Lismore and Casino.

Background

Ballina aerodrome shares its radio frequency of 124.2 MHz with Lismore, Casino and Evans Head aerodromes. These aerodromes have a large mix of traffic and over the last decade have become busier. Changes have been made in the Ballina area to create a broadcast area to ensure radio calls are being made to help other flights with traffic awareness.

The OAR has visited the Ballina area on numerous occasions and conducted extensive consultation with stakeholders, which have consistently raised concerns regarding frequency congestion in the area as a result of the shared radio frequency.

Survey

From 9 June 2021 to 11 July 2021, the OAR conducted a survey on frequency congestion in the vicinity of Ballina and a proposal to allocate a different CTAF for Lismore, Casino and Evans Head aerodromes.

The survey received 84 responses from industry.

Most respondents (70) supported the proposal to allocate Lismore and Casino a different CTAF to Ballina. Most respondents (54) supported the proposal to have the Evans Head CTAF changed to 126.7 - the same as Swan Bay airfield which is close by.

The majority of respondents (54) supported the proposal to reduce the size of the Ballina Broadcast Area from 15 nautical Miles (nm) to 10 nm.

Proposal

The OAR is proposing to:

1. to allocate Lismore and Casino a different CTAF to Ballina.
2. allocate Evans Head aerodrome the Multicom CTAF of 126.7.

It is noted that changes may be required to the Ballina Broadcast Area as part of the changes to the Lismore and Casino CTAFs.

CASA is providing an opportunity for AVSEF members to provide feedback on the above proposals.

CASA seeks to ensure the proposals generated from the Ballina frequency congestion survey and from other consultation activity meet CASA obligations under the Airspace Regulations (2007) to ensure the airspace is safe for all users.