

AVIATION STATE ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Victoria

Submission date: 16/11/2021

TITLE	Proposed change to CTAF- Echuca (YECH)
SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Kneebone – Echuca Aerodrome Manager: b.kneebone@campaspe.vic.gov.au
CONSULTATION SUMMARY	To seek feedback on the proposal to seek a discrete CTAF due to frequency congestion on 119.1
KEY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple aerodromes are using 119.1 as their CTAF causing congestion affecting the ability to transmit at YECH• There has been an increase in Melbourne based flying schools operating at YECH and the general area• There is a pressing need for a discrete frequency at YECH
FEEDBACK TO	Brendan Kneebone – Aerodrome Manager – Campaspe Shire Council b.kneebone@campaspe.vic.gov.au
CLOSE DATE	16/12/2021
ATTACHMENTS	Nil

OVERVIEW

Echuca (YECH) shares its radio frequency of 119.1 with Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Maryborough, Lilydale and St Arnaud among others. These aerodromes have a large mix of traffic and air movements have increased over the last five years and the ability to broadcast on CTAF 119.1 has become increasingly difficult.

In addition to normal airspace movements at YECH including arrivals/departures other traffic includes

- Royal Flying Doctor (RFDS) patient transfers
- Air Ambulance Victoria patient transfers
- Ag Operation's for the local framing sector
- VIC POL
- Melbourne based flying schools
- Local owner / operators

Additional challenges include a varied manner in which some pilots broadcast which includes the number of broadcasts given that are not alignment with those transmissions recommended in CAPP 166.

This is creating an unacceptable safety risk that needs to be mitigated and the earliest opportunity.

PROPOSAL

To seek support for applying to CASA and Air services for a discrete CTAF for YECH.