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Subject: PROPOSED TELSTRA TOWER AND THE OAKS AIRPORT
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SOUTHERN CROSS GLIDING CLUB

To whom this may concern

The Oaks Airfield is very unique to gliding training, being within a safe range of our home field, the runways running 90 deg to our main runways, have so many advantages for exposing pilots to managing safe landings at a different place, the different altitude & terrain also attribute to advanced training.

Gliders often do real & training out landings at The Oaks airfield, often without being able to do the complete area check & are trained to continually watch for traffic & the angle to the airfield so as to perform the one & only chance of a landing safely in 1 go.

In a glider we do not have the luxury of time & the option to go around like power planes. We at SCGC actually do regular out landing practice at The Oaks as there is no where else safely to learn this very important part of our training. With this proposed tower it is obvious to see the very real risk that could effect an already stressed glider pilot, hopefully avoiding such.

Along with general training the RAAF Cadets, early pilots wishing to become commercial pilots pursuing careers in Qantas & the Air force, find that gliding is the best pre-training they can find & consequently both the Air force & Qantas recruiting staff prefer pilots first trained to fly gliders. By installing a dangerous tower next to an airfield that we use, may void us using such an airfield, with no other airfield close-by may actually cause this training to stop, Since world war 2 Camden has been active in the training of pilots for military & commercial flight, SCGC too has been training pilots from this same era. The Oaks being within our Danger area (meaning training area for planes) is vital for Sydney's very real shortage of training Airfields. I personally am shocked that such a tower could be even considered so close to an existing long time established Airfield.

With the closing down of Schofields & Hoxton Park airports the Sydney basin is now already short of airfields, if any tower is constructed close to The Oaks CASA may have to render The Oaks to be unsafe thus us loosing another airfield, causing Sydney's training to become even more restrictive & bottle necked.

I personally can't see why a tower would be built within a valley, would it not make better sense to have a tower on top of a local hill to give it maximum coverage & possibly reducing it's height of the structure making this a win win situation for all concerned. I would be asking why this site was even thought of over obviously much better positions that would benefit much more people.

The real thought of this project reaching the media could make all concerned look very silly, please have some thoughts to the impact this could actually cause.

The win win situation I previously spoke about could easily become a lose lose for all.

Don Palmer

President

Southern Cross Gliding Club

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