

Page 1: Submission form

Q1

Your contact details (optional)

Name

Ed Harrison

Q2

Yes

Do you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing? The hearing will be held in the Council Chamber on 14 September 2022. Please note that hearings are publicly live-streamed.

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Q3

In person

How you would like to present your submission at the hearing?

Q4

Do you support the goals in the Ashburton Airport Development Plan (as follows)?* Ashburton airport is enabled to become more financially independent* More people are attracted to Ashburton Airport for activities that support the vibrancy and viability of the facility* Ashburton Airport is sustainably managed to support increased use of the facility over the next 30 years* Ashburton Airport remains an appealing, thriving hub for the local community and visiting aviation enthusiasts for the next thirty years

Yes,

Comments:

My concern with council first comment for Ashburton Airport to become financially independent, comes from figures provided by council. One could argue that the airport is already financially independent but costs that council attribute to the airport may not be independently verified and could be swayed to bolster the position? Budgets, lets show actuals. All other points I agree with entirely.

Q5

In 2021/22, the total budget for Ashburton Airport was \$152,023, of which 60.9% (\$92,558) was funded from rates. Which level of rates funding would you support us working towards?

I support a moderate level of rates funding (30%-50%),

Other (please specify):

The airport provides many free events for Ashburton public to come and view, e.g Akrofest, National Flying Champs, Warbirds, Museum and the MCAC. There should be some rates attributed for this.

Q6

Referring to the map below, please select which of the following you agree with:(you can click on the image to make it bigger)

Providing more space for recreational hangars,

The location proposed for the new recreational hangars precinct

,

Providing a dedicated commercial hangar precinct,

The location proposed for the commercial hangar precinct

,

Providing a hangar homes precinct,

The location of the hangar homes precinct

Q7

Referring to the hangar homes proposal on page 8 of the consultation document (click here to view), what is your preferred density of hangar homes?

Up to 14 hangar homes (medium density),

Other (please specify):

Establish with the opportunity for growth to 20 if needed

Q8

Do you have any other comments or feedback about this draft plan?

I have a issue about the proposed commercial flying school wishing to come to Ashburton. This needs to be consulted on a lot more with the current airport uses and public than at the back of your document, it has a greater impact than all the other proposals together.

A flying school proposed, with up to 100 English as a second language students at a time, coming into Ashburton particularly with a sky diving ops about to start, is not in the best interests of Ashburton people or the current airport users.

Ashburton Airport is an "uncontrolled" airspace, meaning all aircraft in the area must create their own separation from other aircraft, assimilate into the circuit pattern correctly and also notify other aircraft on the radio where exactly they are. This all currently happens at Ashburton with few issues, until the flight school students from Oamaru turn up, no one clearly understands what they are saying on radio, where they actually are and what they are doing. (I have experience of this) And this is only with one aircraft of theirs trying to join, imagine 12 of them out there. You all complain about tourists on the road, now you want to put them up in the air with current users?

No other airport in the world that I know of has a sky diving operation and a commercial flight school of these numbers mixed together. Add to this we also have other flight schools (CAC, SCAC for example) already using Ashburton Airport as a transition for cross country training. With Ashburton's local flying community, our airspace will be extremely busy. I am lead to believe CAC forbid their students from flying into Oamaru airport due to operational safety concerns with the flight school there.

Ashburton Airport has a dedicated aerobatic "box" above the airport for aerobatic practice and competition. Aircraft come from all over NZ to Akrofest and also train in our area. I am concerned that with the numbers of flight school aircraft proposed these aerobatic tournaments may go somewhere else.

Warbirds land and refuel at Ashburton on their way to Wanaka, people get to freely observe these historic craft coming to our field. These pilots land here because the ease to get in, our runways are in excellent condition and the "general aviation community" feel about the airport - museum etc. What would be the townsfolk feeling if these pilots decided Ashburton too hard to deal with and their aircraft bypassed us and went to Rangiora or Timaru? I think that if the proposed commercial flying school came the community will end up seeing lots of small training aircraft and very little other, such as Warbirds or aerobatic aircraft. I know what I would prefer to watch.

Ashburton has only grass runways, of which only 1 is lit for night time flying - for both directions. With this current proposal of a commercial flying school our runways will deteriorate causing a lot more maintenance and this will also impact what historic and other aircraft come to town.

I also have concerns around night time usage, this flying school will fly maximum hours possible with little thought of the impact to townsfolk. Runway 34, 06 and 29 circuits impact part of the town and I would be concerned that extra noise complaints will affect current users negatively.

Mid Canterbury Aero Club has a training arm to it, MCAC limits night flying to winter months so it can operate earlier and be finished sooner to not impact the community. A flight school will operate at much longer hours and my biggest concern is the future ramifications of this to current airport users.

For clarity I am fully behind a development of the Ashburton Airport, but I have serious concerns about adding a commercial flight school with a sky dive operation and the current users. It will be a safety concern, possibly within the town boundary.