



Office of the Mayor

Lotteries Facilities Fund

12 June 2025

To Who It May Concern

Letter in Support for The Feilding Aerodrome Inc

As Mayor of the Manawatu District and on behalf of our community, I am pleased to support this application seeking funding to upgrade their runway which needs resealing.

The Feilding Aerodrome Inc has over 80 members who are responsible for the maintenance, coordination and running of the airfield. They are an incorporated society with tax exemption status, and have recently applied to Charities Commission to be registered as a NZ charity.

In 2024 15,000 landings took place on the airfield.

Resealing of the runway will enable Feilding Aerodrome to continue to host the five flight training organisations (listed below), who play a crucial role in developing pilots for various aviation careers. These groups have over 400 members in total.

- **Flight Training Manawātū** – Training pilots to a commercial standard for employment in airlines, agricultural aviation, and instruction.
- **Feilding Flying Club** – Operating four aircraft and providing CAA-approved microlight pilot training, with many graduates advancing to general and professional aviation.
- **Feilding Gliding Club** – Dedicated to training individuals in glider piloting.
- **Blue Skies Aviation** – Offering both helicopter and fixed-wing pilot training.
- **Manawātū Aviation Club** – Focused on developing microlight piloting skills.

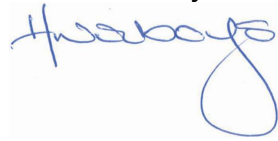
As well as training, the airfield functions as a critical emergency base, used by the Rescue Helicopter and in times of emergencies. It has automatic lighting for night operations, serving as an alternative airfield for Palmerston North, and supporting flood and river management flights through Horizons Regional Council.

Feilding Aerodrome serves as a base for several other community activities, such as the ATC Cadets (with over 60 members) and Boy Scouts who conduct regular aviation training and meetings at the airfield. They also host Aviation Open Days which attract

thousands of visitors, fostering interest in aviation through interactive displays, flights, and demonstrations.

I fully support this project and encourage you to look favourably on their application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Worboys', with a large loop at the end.

Helen Worboys
Mayor, JP