

Request for Council Contribution to Feilding Aerodrome Runway Resealing

21 October 2025

His Worship the Mayor Michael Ford
Manawatu District
Feilding 4702

Dear Mayor Ford,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Feilding Aerodrome Incorporated as its President, to seek the Council's support in contributing towards the resealing of the Feilding Aerodrome runway. The aerodrome, as you are aware, is not just an airfield, but a vital community asset that underpins an array of activities and supports many groups within the Manawatu region.

Feilding Aerodrome is home to community organisations such as the Air Training Corps (ATC) and the Army Cadets, providing a safe and accessible venue for their training and development. It serves as a hub for general aviation, microlight and gliding fraternities, fostering a passion for flight among youth and adults alike. Feilding Aerodrome is a focal point for aviation-related events that bring our community together.

Beyond its community role, the aerodrome supports several commercial entities that hire local labour and, collectively, provides livelihoods for up to 25 families in the region. These businesses depend on the ongoing viability and safety of the aerodrome to operate, making the airfield an important economic contributor to Feilding and the wider Manawatu.

The aerodrome also plays a crucial part in supporting essential services, notably providing facilities for search and rescue helicopter training, including winch and roping operations. This capability is vital for regional emergency preparedness and has direct benefits for the safety and wellbeing of our residents.

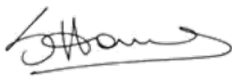
We are currently facing the significant cost of resealing the runway, estimated at \$345,000. This is a necessary investment to ensure the aerodrome remains safe, operational, and fit for purpose in the years ahead. While we are committed to meeting this necessary runway maintenance, we have identified \$160,000 of aerodrome funds from hangar rentals, landing fees and Open Day attendances to contribute to the project. We still have a significant deficit in funding. We have applied to a number of

charities for partial funding with the support of Her Worship, Helen Worboys and the Manawatu District Council, but unfortunately all these approaches have not been successful. With cap in hand, we would welcome any contribution from the Council to greatly reduce the financial strain on our resources, allowing us to continue providing these vital services and opportunities to the community.

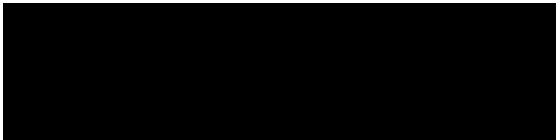
The Feilding Aerodrome is truly a regional asset, and its preservation and enhancement should be a major priority as we look to the future. We respectfully ask that the Council consider a financial contribution towards the runway resealing project, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to supporting local infrastructure that benefits so many in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter further and to continue working together for the benefit of Feilding and the Manawatu region.

Yours sincerely,



Gavin Howse
President
Feilding Aerodrome



Attachment: Letter of Support from Mayor Worboys and the Manawatu District Council