



Presentation by Northland Rescue Helicopter Ltd

23 October 2024

- Purpose of today's appearance:
 - Support the recommendations proposed in the section 42A Report by the Council's planner, including:

[160] Northern Rescue Helicopter Limited requests inserting a rule to allow emergency rescue helicopters to be unconstrained and exempt from any noise rules. I agree with the reasoning and recommendations provided by Mr Ibbotson (refer to S281.001 Appendix 3). In my opinion this type of activity should be excluded from the Noise provisions and included as an exemption in the Notes section at the start of the chapter. This matter has been addressed in more detail in Key Issue 12 along with a recommended exemption.

[257] Having regard to the evidence provided by Mr Ibbotson, in my opinion it is not necessary that emergency and rescue helicopter movements when operating away from an established base should have their own permitted activity rule. Clarifying it is an exemption to the rules in the notes section at the beginning of the chapter is a more appropriate way to ensure this activity is not unintentionally captured. This type of noise is considered appropriate because of the obvious benefits associated with emergency and rescue helicopter movements. These are instrumental in many situations including medical emergencies, disaster response, firefighting, law enforcement and search and rescue. It is essential this activity is not hindered by consent requirements. There are a number of exclusions outlined in the notes section at the beginning of the noise provisions that are exempt. This includes note 10 which is as follows: "helicopters used for an emergency and as an air ambulance;"

[258] For clarity, it would be more appropriate to remove other references to this exclusion in the rules and standards to avoid confusion. In my opinion, it is appropriate to add specific references to the particular hospitals in the district. Furthermore, the wording ensures the exemption cannot be applied to new rescue or emergency bases, which would be required to comply with the relevant noise provisions.

- Suggest some minor refinements to the definition of "emergency helicopter" operation, based on our operational requirements and experience elsewhere. Our proposed definition, which is based on that suggested by Marshall Day, Appendix A or Appendix 3 (p94) is below:

EMERGENCY HELICOPTER OPERATION includes:

- helicopters that are in operation for emergency purposes such as medical emergencies, search and rescue, firefighting;
- other helicopter operations such as landings, departures, hover, overflights, taxiing, lifting, ground operations, training, or relocations; and
- any other activity necessary for emergency purposes and training for emergency purpose