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Page: 1

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By: Jamie Brown Jwniebrown Anorthernsta-comau

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Race pilot backs Evans air park

YOU'LL usually see him weaving between obstacles at incredible speeds, but Red Bull air race ace Matt Hall has joined a growing push to turn Evans Head's historic aerodrome into an air park, which combines residential living and aviation. — REPORT P13



Red Bull ace joins race

Evans Head air park plan gets another high-profile supporter

By **JAMIE BROWN**

jamie.brown@northernstar.com.au

RED Bull air race pilot Matt Hall has been named as the latest high profile aviator to express interest in an air park at Evans Head.

Mr Hall is currently in Ontario, Canada, competing in the latest leg of the world-renowned aerobatic air race.

But his publicist confirmed the highly regarded pilot had thrown his support behind the local air park plan.

He may even consider moving his operations base from Newcastle to Evans Head, but 'that is all in the future', said David Lyall, of Grand Slam International Sports Management and Marketing.

Three companies have responded to calls by Richmond Valley Council to develop part of the heritage-listed aerodrome into a residential air park and aviation hub.

Evans Head Airpark Pty Ltd is led by mining magnate Peter Lynch, with Queensland aviator Grant Kenny pledging to establish a business on the site.

Brisbane developer Bill Finlen submitted a separate proposal to build an air park on land identified by the council, but has declared the site too small to become a 'real air park'.

The land identified by the council as suitable, he says, would house

half-a-dozen residential homes with no related aviation industry.

"The existing site won't pay for maintenance of the aerodrome or provide employment," he said. "It will be a little hobby place, not an air park."

The third proponent is Sydney-based Vetica Property Ltd.

Councillors met this week to recommend that all three proponents present their plans to the council before a decision is made on who gets a chance to submit a development application.

That recommendation will go before the council meeting next Tuesday.



GUN BACKER: Red Bull air race pilot Matt Hall has thrown his support behind a proposal to build an air park at the Evans Head aerodrome.