



# Airpark set for take-off

Developers reaffirm commitment to ambitious Evans aerodrome project

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PLANS for a residential/commercial airpark at the Evans Head aerodrome are progressing, despite speculation the company involved has lost interest.

Last week, Richmond Valley Council gave Evans Head Airpark Pty Ltd an extension of time to prepare a detailed report on the project.

This delay led to concerns the company was preparing to scrap the development.

However, Richmond Valley mayor Col Sullivan yesterday confirmed the developers were committed to the airpark.

"We were a bit worried about that as well," he said.

"But after talking to them, we were happy to give them the extra time they need.

"We're pleased they still want to go ahead with it. It's an exciting development.

"We're expecting detailed plans to be tabled at the February council meeting."

Cr Sullivan said that Evans Head Airpark Pty Ltd asked for the extra time because it was taking 'longer than expected' to prepare the reports.

"We want them to get it right. This is a big project," he said.

"If an extra month or so is all it takes for a project that's going to be there for a lifetime, then we are happy to

allow that. This will guarantee the use of the Evans Head aerodrome for a long time. That's what we want."

Evans Head Airpark Pty Ltd is headed up by a team of high-profile people.

They include Peter Lynch, president and chief executive of Waratah Coal, whose company is involved with the Galilee Basin mining project. If approved, it would be one of Australia's biggest mining projects, worth \$7.5 billion.

Former Olympian and champion ironman Grant Kenny is also part of the consortium. He is the owner of the nation's largest private aviation operator, the Curry-

Kenny Aviation Company.

Other team members include Red Bull air race pilot Matt Hall, accountant Duncan Cornish, environmental professional Mark Imber, communications firm director Andrew Crook and aircraft maintenance engineer Mark Radford.

Their proposal incorporates at least 60 exclusive homes with direct access to flying facilities and an industrial complex for aviation-linked businesses.

It would also have a museum, private hangar space, a motel, convention centre and camping facilities.



**STILL ON TRACK:** Evans Head Airpark Pty Ltd, the high-powered consortium behind the proposed airpark at Evans Head aerodrome, has been granted an extension of time by Richmond Valley Council to prepare a detailed report on the project. Picture: SKYCAM



**GRANT KENNY**



**PETER LYNCH**