

**MEDIA RELEASE****June 10, 2009****AEROBATICS CHAMPION JOINS EVANS HEAD AIRPARK BID**

Red Bull Air Race pilot and aerobatic champion Matt Hall has joined a consortium proposing to purchase and redevelop Evans Head Aerodrome on the far north coast of New South Wales to create an industrial aviation hub, a residential component and a museum at the heritage-listed site.

The Evans Head Airpark proposal includes developing at least 60 exclusive homes with direct access to flying facilities as well as an industrial complex attracting aviation-linked businesses to the area.

Former Olympian Grant Kenny, who co-owns the Curry-Kenny Aviation Group – Australia's largest privately owned aviation fleet with more than 110 aircraft – has pledged to establish a business on site, providing a crucial drawcard for other associated services.

Mr Hall, a display pilot and director of Inverted Downunder, said he was excited by the prospect of establishing an operational base for the company at Evans Head.

"The development of a thriving aviation hub at the historic Evans Head Aerodrome would complement our future business and lifestyle well," said Mr Hall, whose company aims to bring world class aerobatic display flying to Australia.

Mr Hall is a third generation pilot and recently retired RAAF Fighter Combat (Top Gun) Instructor.

The international unlimited aerobatic competitor was the first Australian to be selected to contest the Red Bull Air Race World Championship.

The Evans Head Airpark proposal acknowledges the significant role the aerodrome played in the training of pilots during World War II, the group is proposing to construct a museum on site, with the initial focus being the sole remaining Bellman Hangar which would be restored as part of the plan. An RAAF F-111 fighter bomber is also proposed to be displayed on site, once the aircraft are decommissioned in 2010.

"With my previous service in the RAAF, the opportunity to help develop a museum with a focus on the RAAF in such a great location is very exciting," Mr Hall said.

The Evans Head Airpark consortium is led by respected businessman and passionate aviator Peter Lynch, who currently heads mining exploration company Waratah Coal and brings more than 20 years of top-level industry experience to the table.

“Our vision is to create a thriving aviation community by providing commercial and residential opportunities in the one spot – and all just 400m from some of the best beaches on the east coast,” he said.

Mr Lynch said Mr Hall’s involvement was a welcome addition to the previously announced backing from Mr Kenny and Mark Radford’s aviation services company Aircraft Maintenance Specialist (AMS).

“We are continuing to broaden our consortium and this will strengthen the development with a diversity of aviation businesses,” Mr Lynch said.

A boutique motel and convention centre as well as camping facilities will also be established to provide further options to pilots and aviators, while still servicing the mainstream tourism custom.

The airpark would continue to offer vital community services to the residents of Evans Head, including maintaining existing air ambulance and fire fighting facilities as well as charter and general aviation related businesses. Regular public transport services are also planned to be established at the airstrip.

The group has submitted their proposal to the Richmond Valley Council in response to its recent advertisement seeking expressions of interest in the site. “

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