



MEDIA RELEASE

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AIRPARK SEEKS CARIBOU FOR AVIATION HERITAGE CENTRE

The high profile consortium behind the development of an airpark at the Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome is tendering for a decommissioned RAAF DH-4 Caribou to display at the centre.

Evans Head Airpark Consortium head Peter Lynch said the group is seeking a Caribou and wants to maintain it in flying condition as part of the Aviation Heritage Centre, which is an integral part of the development.

The Department of Defence has issued a Request for Tender for the sale of Caribou aircraft with certain lots prioritised for “tenders that will preserve the military heritage of the Caribou aircraft for the benefit of the Australian Public”.

“The inclusion of a flying RAAF DHC- 4 Caribou in the Aviation Heritage Centre would complement the expanding range of exhibits planned for the important community and tourist facility,” Mr Lynch said.

“We are still working our way through the process of obtaining an F-111 as the centre piece on static display.”

Politicians from Federal, State and Local government today came to Evans Head to show their support for the establishment of the airpark and the efforts to obtain a flying DHC-4 Caribou for inclusion in the development’s Aviation Heritage Centre.

Federal Member for Page, Janelle Saffin, said two of the aircraft will be reserved for sale to historical organisations that will preserve the aircraft as flying examples of Australia’s military heritage.

“The Caribou has a special place in the hearts of local residents,” Ms Saffin said.

“It played a major role in the relief efforts during the 1967 floods in Grafton and the 1974 floods in Casino.

“The aircraft was famous for its ability to take off and land on short and unprepared runways.”

A local flying group, the Evans Head Heritage Aviation Group, has been formed to bring together like minded aviation people to support the growing collection. This group includes pilots and specialists skills which will be required to keep aircraft like the Caribou in flying condition.

The Evans Head Airpark development is a multi-faceted project which has received strong support from the Heritage Council of NSW and the Richmond Valley Council.



The Heritage council considers the aviation use of the aerodrome to be most important in terms of heritage values.

The development incorporates a 70 lot residential airpar, 14 commercial hangars and light industrial lots for aviation related businesses.

“The airpark will not only provide a residential community committed to the ongoing preservation of the historic airfield as a working aerodrome, but attract associated aviation related industry,” Mr Lynch said.

“We have received expressions of interest from many groups wanting to establish their business at the re-developed aerodrome.”

State Member for Clarence, Steve Cansdell, said local, regional and national businesses were looking at providing in excess of 50 jobs, many of which are highly technical in nature providing significant training and employment opportunities to the area.

“There is a great opportunity to interface the local educational facilities with the new employment by offering specialised curriculum available within the NSW Department of Education,” he said.

The airpark development incorporates a boutique hotel / convention centre as well as camping facilities for the mainstream tourism custom. The aerodrome will 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.

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