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Stuart Hobleby CEO

Cunderdin Shire

Your Ref: 38606

Thursday, 6 April 2023

Hi Stuart,

Thank you for the email.

I must say I am rather surprised at the action the council has taken and the presentation to me of an invoice for Aircraft Parking. I am not sure if you are aware of the events that led to the repositioning of my aircraft, a Lockheed P2v-7, to the local airport at Cunderdin so I will try and summarise for you as briefly as possible. Back in 2003 I was approached by Rod Carter through an old friend of mine who was a member of the Cunderdin gliding club. The basic gist of the conversation revolved around the development of Cunderdin as an aviation centre and, considering my company at that time was looking for a suitable location to establish a heavy air-tanker base, I was naturally interested. Long story short I was convinced to bring the aircraft to Cunderdin on the arrangement of a low monthly parking fee of \$100/Month for a trial period. I personally flew the aircraft to Cunderdin aerodrome sometime in 2003, the exact date escapes me as I don't have my logbook handy. In any event I started to set up operations however, after some time it became apparent that the location of Cunderdin and its facilities were inadequate for the ongoing development of my company and the short term outlook for the development of the airfield was not encouraging so I started to make plans to leave. It was at that time Rod requested that I keep the aircraft at Cunderdin as there were plans in motion for another airshow and he believed the aircraft would make an impressive attraction that would greatly improve attendance, he also informed me that negotiations were underway with Federal government regarding grants for the upgrade of the airfield and its facilities and that the potential existed for good commercial aviation development of the site. As we shared the same vision for Cunderdin's aviation future we struck an agreement that I would remain and, in return, would be granted free parking in perpetuity and that the aircraft would be available to the council free of charge, excluding fuel costs, for any aviation based promotions such as airshows and other events. You will see from your records that the council stopped invoicing me around then. This arrangement has been going now for 20 years or more and I'm not sure why the council has decided to move the goal posts? Since Rods sad untimely departure the aviation aspirations of Cunderdin seem to have waned somewhat however, that doesn't change the nature of the agreement that he, as a representative of the council, and I made. I neither agree with nor recognise the charges that you have levied against me for use of the airfield as it is outside the terms of our agreement. I do not wish to be a thorn in the side of council and if you wish me to leave then I will however, I moved the aircraft to Cunderdin at great cost, for both the potential benefit of the shire as well as myself, a cost which pales into insignificance when compared to \$100/month for 20 years so I will be seeking some sort of compensation before I go. To put this in perspective, around that time the last display that I did with the aircraft was around \$107,000.

I am currently in South America on business and scheduled to return to Australia in June so if you have time perhaps we can get together for a meeting and cordially resolve this matter.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Yours Sincerely,



Theo Valerio