

# Review of: "Airbase Compatibility with Spatial Planning: A Case Study of Airbase Waterkloof (South Africa)"

Johan Maritz<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

It is clear that the Airforce responsible for airbases operates separately from local authorities such as Tshwane in the case of the Waterkloof Airforce base. Although both have mechanisms in place to address surrounding spatial and development issues, there remains a distinct divide between these entities which makes compliance and achieving the desired outcomes more difficult. In general the spatial sprawl of development surrounding the Airforce base is the responsibilities of the local authority. Local authorities have in my view played down the safety and noise issues related to military bases including Airforce bases. This is due to the pressure on the local authority to accommodate growth, especially on their available land. Some of these issues are now almost 'after the fact' seeing that some other Airforce bases in South Africa are now completely part of the developed urban landscape. The mechanisms in place both at the Local Authority level as well as within the Air Force does attempt to address the noise and safety concerns but without more accommodating policies these parties will have limited success to adequately manage the land use surrounding the basis. Adjustment to national planning regulation as well as military planning should be the desired outcome if proper integrated planning is to be achieved. This case serves as a lesson to what happens when clear and precise measures are not in place early on before such issues become a problem.

Technical comments on the paper:

The portrayal of technical elements of safety and noise zones is very technical which might not be of interest to those not undertaking airbase planning. Some of the diagrams are unclear. Perhaps this can be simplified.

It is not necessary to refer to Britain as 'Imperial Government' as people are aware of its colonial history - it does not contribute to the paper.