



Airport Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday 7 February 2024

CONFIRMED



Our Vision

Where environment, lifestyle and opportunity meet

Community Aspirations



KEY THEME 1

Environment

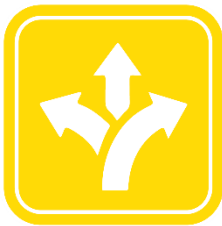
An environment that is valued, conserved and enjoyed by current and future generations.



KEY THEME 2

Lifestyle

A place that is relaxed, safe and friendly, with services and facilities that support positive lifestyles and wellbeing.



KEY THEME 3

Opportunity

A vibrant City with diverse opportunities and a prosperous economy.



KEY THEME 4

Leadership

A Council that connects with the community and is accountable in its decision making.

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee held in the Council Chambers,
Administration Building, Southern Drive, Busselton, on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 11:30am.

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING

The meeting opened at 11:34am.

The Presiding Member welcomed Councillors, staff, guests and members of the public to the Airport Advisory Committee meeting of 7 February 2024.

The Presiding Member acknowledged the Wadandi and Bibbulmun people as the traditional custodians of this region and paid respects to Elders past and present.

This meeting was audio recorded for minute taking purposes.

2 ATTENDANCE

PRESIDING MEMBER	MEMBERS
Cr Jodie Richards	Mayor Phill Cronin
	Cr Mikayla Love
	Cr Jarrod Kennedy

OFFICERS	
Ms Maxine Palmer	Director Economic and Business Development
Ms Jennifer May	Manager Airport
Mr Rob Saunders	Airport Compliance Officer
Ms Tegan Robertson	Governance and Risk Coordinator

OTHER	
Mr Matt Norton	South West Aviation Services

3 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

DISCLOSURES OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Nil

DISCLOSURES OF IMPARTIALITY INTEREST

Nil

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4.2 QUESTION TIME FOR PUBLIC

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

5.1 Airport Advisory Committee 13 December 2023

COMMITTEE DECISION

AIR2402/1 Moved Mayor Phill Cronin, seconded Cr Mikayla Love

That the Minutes of the Airport Advisory Committee 13 December 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED 4 / 0

FOR: Mayor Phill Cronin, Cr Jarrod Kennedy, Cr Jodie Richards, and Cr Mikayla Love

AGAINST: Nil

6 REPORTS

6.1 Busselton Margaret River Airport Update

Strategic Theme:	Key Theme 3: Opportunity 3.4 Develop aviation opportunities at the Busselton Margaret River Airport.
Directorate:	Economic and Business Development
Reporting Officer:	Manager Airport - Jennifer May
Authorised By:	Director of Economic and Business Development - Maxine Palmer
Nature of Decision:	Noting: The item is simply for information purposes and noting.
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority
Disclosures of Interest:	No officers preparing this item have an interest to declare.
Attachments:	Nil

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

AIR2402/2 Moved Cr Mikayla Love, seconded Cr Jarrod Kennedy

That the Committee receives and notes the Busselton Margaret River Airport Update Report.

CARRIED 4 / 0

FOR: Mayor Phill Cronin, Cr Jarrod Kennedy, Cr Jodie Richards, and Cr Mikayla Love

AGAINST: Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receives and notes the Busselton Margaret River Airport Update Report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the operations and activities of the Busselton Margaret River Airport (BMRA) for the reporting period 1 July 2023 through 31 January 2024. This includes an update on passenger numbers, regular public transport services (RPT), closed charter and general airport operations.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

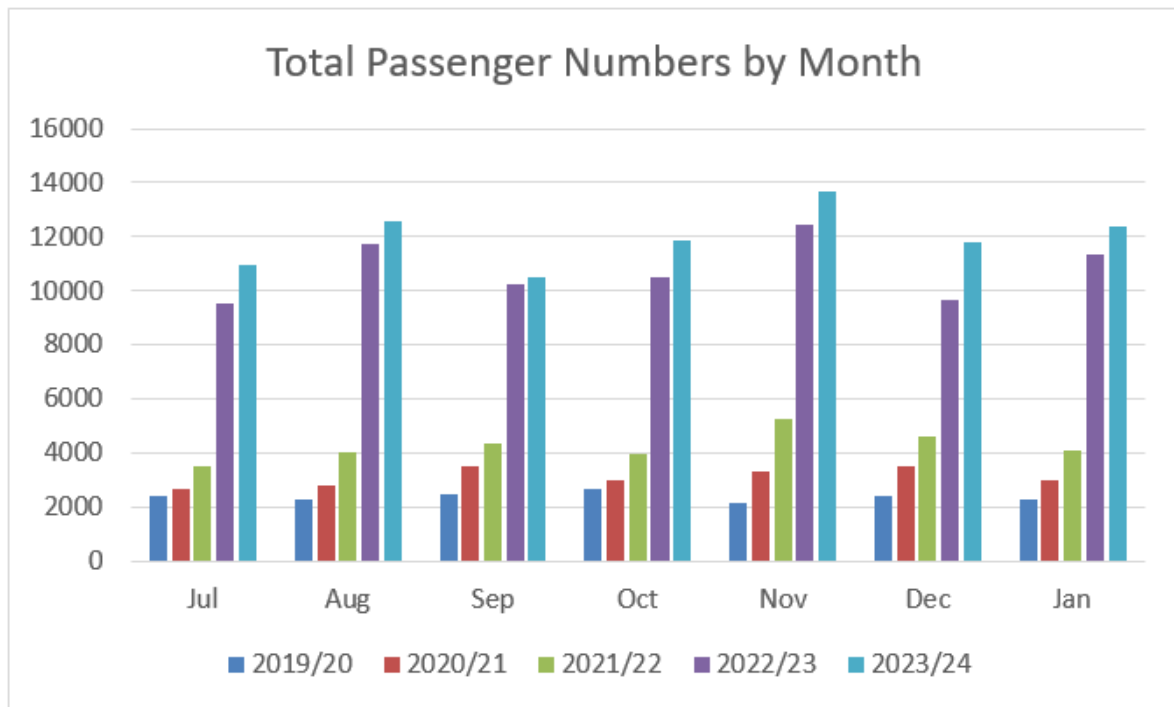
Regular updates on Busselton Margaret River Airport aids in the development of opportunities at the Busselton Margaret River Airport and aligns with Strategic Theme 3.4.

BACKGROUND

BMRA has been operating consistently since the last report in November 2023. Passenger and aircraft movement numbers have increased over the reporting period compared to the same period in the last financial year.

Passenger Numbers

The total passenger numbers for the reporting period (1 July 2023 – 31 January 2024) were 83,766 compared to 75,469 for the same period in 2022/23, representing an increase of 11%. The continued increase in passenger numbers can be attributed to the growth in Jetstar passengers with the commencement of the fourth Jetstar service and FIFO passenger numbers across closed charter airlines.



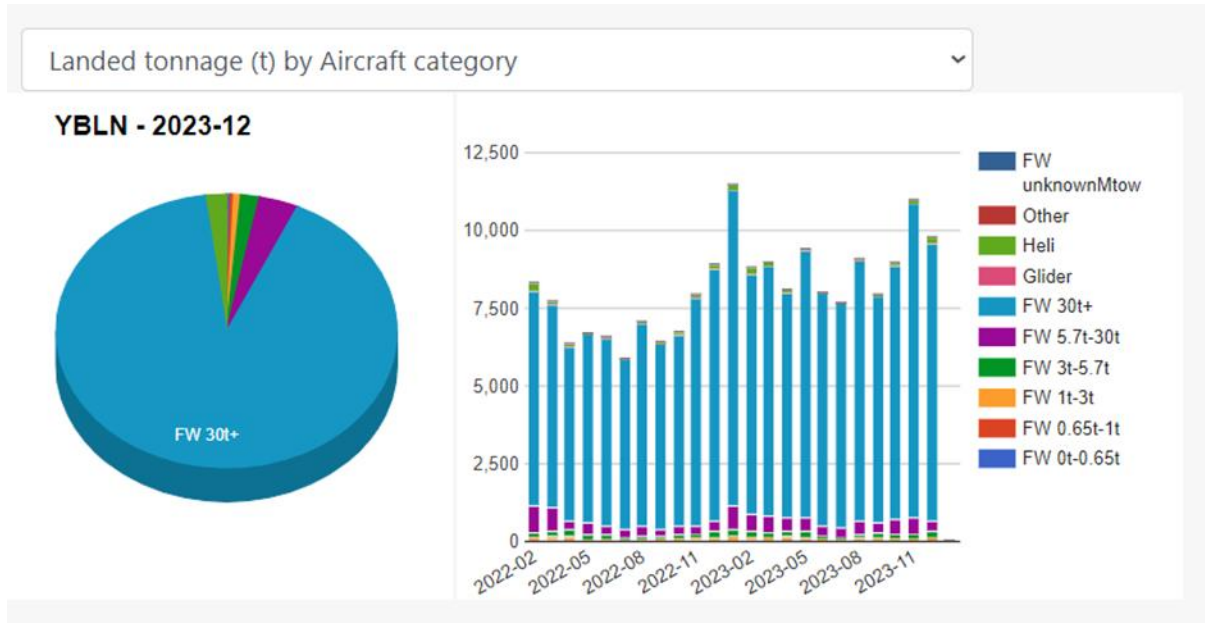
Aircraft Movements

The total number of scheduled services operating from BMRA as of the end of the reporting period is 35 movements per week, with 31 Fly in Fly out (FIFO) closed charter and 4 RPT services, with a fourth Jetstar service starting on 4 November.

Five airlines are operating from BMRA with RPT and closed charter services utilising aircraft types from Dash 8/300 to A320 and B737/700 aircraft servicing destinations such as Melbourne and multiple mining operations across Western Australia. There has also been an increase in the number of A320/B737 aircraft operating compared to Fokker100/Dash 8 aircraft with a split of 60:40 respectively for the reporting period compared to 40:60 respectively for the same period in 2022.

There have been 15 formal landing approvals granted for private jet/charter operations for the reporting period.

There has been 2851 landings from 1 July through to 31 December compared to 2252 landings for the same period in 22/23 FY. The following graph represent the breakdown of landings by Maximum Take Off Weight (MTOW) at BMRA by year.



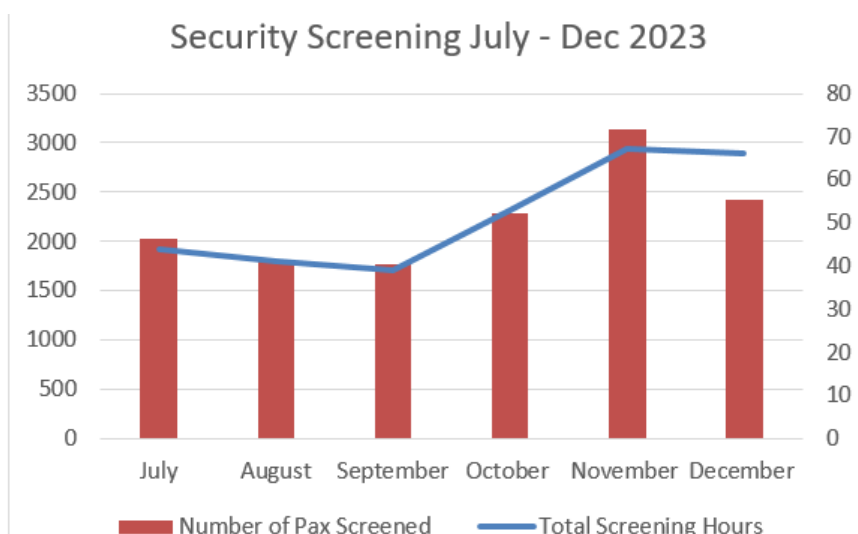
Operations Update

Since the beginning of this financial year the Airport team have completed the following projects;

- Runway line marking and central apron equipment clearance markings;
- Back of house asphalt expansion area;
- RFDS apron completed and building works commenced;
- Apron and terminal CCTV installation commenced;
- Asphalt Taxi rank constructed in front of the Arrivals Hall;
- General aviation hangar leases negotiated;
- Runway strip compliance works quoted;
- Short-term parking plan completed, due to be in place by the end of February.

Security Screening Activities

The graph below shows the number of people screened and screening point hours per month for the 23/24 FY.



Officers have been liaising with the suppliers of the security screening equipment on the City's current screening equipment and Federal Government future requirements. A review of the existing equipment has identified the need to purchase new Explosive Trace Detection and checked baggage screening X-Ray equipment in the coming 12 - 18 months. Officers will include allocations for the purchase of this equipment in the 2024/25 budget.

OFFICER COMMENT

The 2023/24 FY is proving to be a very busy year with Officers receiving enquiries regarding new closed charter services and announcement of Jetstar to commence a direct Sydney – Busselton service three times a week from 25 March 2024. The Melbourne - Busselton services will operate three times a week resulting in Jetstar services operating Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

DFES mobilised their Large Air Tanker (LAT) and helitac operations to BMRA in November 2023. The LATS, including the WA State and National LAT have attended 19 incidents totalling 68.53 hours, resulting in 62 drops with over 783,000 litres of retardant delivered to the fireground. The helitacs have attended 16 incidents totalling 135 hours, resulting in 549 drops with over 1.154m litres of water.

Passenger numbers and aircraft movements are increasing compared to the same reporting period last financial year and Officers are exploring ways to improve processes, including infrastructure improvements at the Airport to ensure that operations are managed safely and compliantly as well as providing a good passenger experience.

Increased visitation to the airport has resulted in additional car parking usage and Officers are monitoring the available car parking spaces on a weekly basis. The average number of free parking spaces each month since the beginning of November is 54. With the commencement of Jetstar Sydney services in March 2024 and the increasing trend in FIFO passengers, it is likely that an additional public car park will need to be constructed in late 2024.

The existing terminal building septic systems requires upgrading. An application was submitted to the Department of Health to construct / install a system for the treatment of sewage at the Airport and subsequently approved in February 2023. The application is valid for a two-year period and Officers are working with a contractor to prepare a design and costs for installation of an upgraded system. Officers may be requesting a budget amendment in early 2024 depending on timeframes for installation so that the current Department of Health approval does not lapse.

The BMRA Master Plan (2024) has been endorsed by the Council as a guide for future planning and development of the airport with a planning horizon of twenty years out to 2043. Some of the facilities and activities identified in the BMRA Master Plan will be developed in the near term, whereas some will take several years to justify and might be expected to be implemented in 10 to 15 years from now. The Master Plan identifies areas of the airport site that are reserved to enable the City to react to opportunities that might develop but are not presently apparent thus giving the City flexibility to react to a changing landscape and business practices.

Consultants, KPMG have been engaged to prepare a business case for the construction of a new terminal building and associated landside and airfield infrastructure at BMRA. The City is working closely with the South West Development Commission in the preparation of the business case that will present the benefits and costs to the City of Busselton and the economic and social benefits to

the wider South West region for the infrastructure investment options to facilitate future commercial aviation at BMRA. The business case will form the basis of funding applications for both State and Federal Government.

The Airport team have been liaising with Officers from RAAF Pearce with regards to a training deployment planned from 19 February for two weeks. The deployment will involve PC21 training aircraft and supporting crew deployed to Busselton and will also provide the opportunity for community engagement with schools and other educational institutions and the Airport Team will liaise with the RAAF on community consultation prior to the deployment.

Statutory Environment

The BMRA operates in accordance with the following:

- *Aviation Transport Security Act 2004*
- *Aviation Transport Security Regulations 2005*
- CASA part 139 Manual of Standards (Aerodromes)
- City of Busselton Transport Security Plan
- Ministerial Statement 1088.

Relevant Plans and Policies

The officer recommendation aligns to the following adopted plan or policy:

Plan:

Final Master Plan Busselton Margaret river Airport (2024)

Policy:

Not Applicable

Financial Implications

The net operating result (exclusive of depreciation and the Airline Attraction allocations) for the reporting period is a surplus of \$1,942,435 compared to a YTD budget surplus of \$1,652,231. There are a few factors contributing to this result:

YTD actual revenue of \$2,782,289 compared to YTD budgeted revenue of \$2,655,091 with the following allocations exceeding projections;

- Airport Landing & Take-off revenue - \$1,084,495 actual compared to \$758,333 budgeted;
- Car Parking revenue - \$802,688 actual compared to \$616,000 budgeted.

YTD actual expenditure of \$839,854 is less than the YTD budgeted expenditure of \$1,002,860 due to the following;

- Decreased salaries and allowances due to vacant positions;
- Contractor and airport maintenance allocations being lower than expected with reduced operational maintenance performed during the winter months.

External Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation has been occurring on a regular basis with Department of Transport, South West Development Commission, Tourism WA, Australia Southwest, airport stakeholders, Department of Home Affairs - Aviation Marine Security (AMS), Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), Air Services Australia, Virgin Australia Regional Airline, Qantas Group, Southwest Aviation Services, the Busselton Aero Club, Albany, Esperance, Geraldton Airports and Australian Airports Association, concerning many topics and issues relating to the Airport.

Risk Assessment

An assessment of the potential implications of implementing the officer recommendation has been undertaken using the City's risk management framework, with risks assessed taking into account any controls already in place. No risks of a medium or greater level have been identified.

Options

As an alternative to the proposed recommendation the Council could choose not to receive and note the Busselton Margaret River Airport Update Report.

CONCLUSION

The first half the 2023/24 financial year has proved to be a busy year with increased passenger numbers and aircraft movements. The announcement of Jetstar direct Sydney – Busselton flights to commence on 25 March 2024 is a great result for BMRA, tourism and local businesses throughout the South West region. The start of the Sydney flights and continuation of the Melbourne flights will mean that there are direct flights six days a week from the East Coast, not only for domestic visitors but also enabling international travellers to access the South West region direct from Sydney and Melbourne.

Focus continues to be on business development with leases for the general aviation precinct, working with key stakeholders on intrastate and new FIFO services and attracting aviation businesses.

Recruitment for the new Airport team structure is now complete which will enable the team to progress maintenance and capital works projects. Officers will continue to strive to provide high levels of customer service at the BMRA, while ensuring the airport is compliant, safe and security is maintained throughout.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

7 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING DATE

To be confirmed.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 12:06pm.

The minutes of the Airport Advisory Committee meeting held 7 February 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record on

Date: 08.04.2024

Presiding Member:

Jodie Richards
