



Airport Advisory Committee

Minutes

Wednesday 5 June 2024



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 5 June 2024 at 9:00 am.

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1 OFFICIAL OPENING

The meeting opened at 9:01am.

The Presiding Member welcomed Councillors, staff, guests and members of the public to the Airport Advisory Committee meeting of 5 June 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 Jarrod Kennedy

OFFICERS	
Ms Maxine Palmer	Director Economic and Business Development
Ms Jennifer May	Manager Airport
Mr Rob Saunders	Airport Compliance Officer
Ms Jo Barrett-Lennard	Governance Officer

APOLOGIES
Cr Mikayla Love

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 3 April 2024

COMMITTEE DECISION

AIR2406/5 Moved Mayor Phill Cronin, seconded Cr Jarrod Kennedy

That the minutes of the Airport Advisory Committee meeting held 3 April 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record (as published at 30 May 2024 on the [City of Busselton's website](#), inclusive of any confidential material published on the restricted internal Docs on Tap application).

CARRIED 3 / 0

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

AGAINST: Nil

6 REPORTS

6.1 Busselton Margaret River Airport Update - June 2024

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 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 DECISION

AIR2406/6 Moved Cr Jarrod Kennedy, seconded Mayor Phill Cronin

That the Committee receives and notes the Busselton Margaret River Airport update.

CARRIED 3 / 0

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

AGAINST: Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receives and notes the Busselton Margaret River Airport update.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

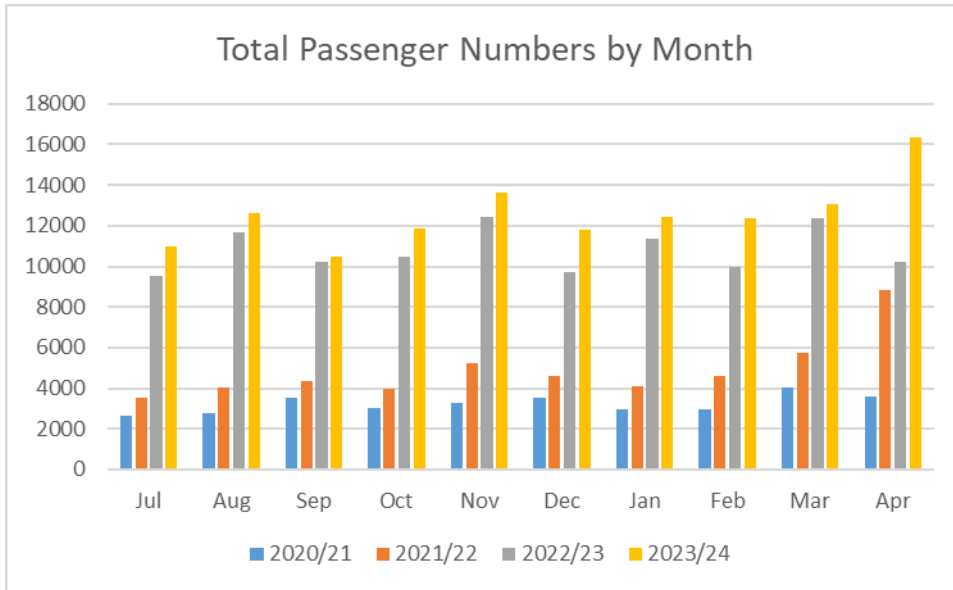
This report provides an overview of the operations and activities of the Busselton Margaret River Airport (BMRA) for the reporting period 1 July 2023 through 30 April 2024. This includes an update on passenger numbers, regular public transport services (RPT), closed charter and general airport operations.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

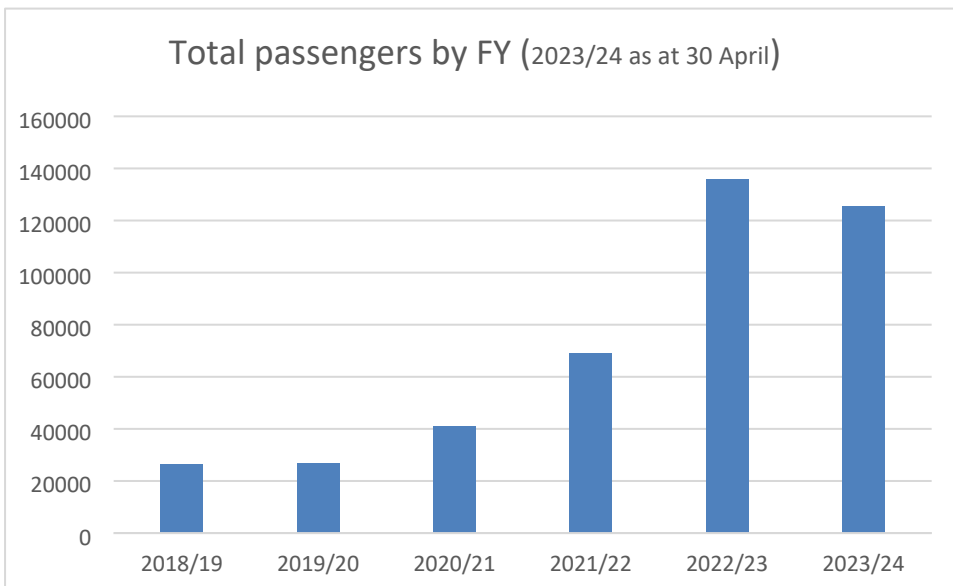
Regular updates on Busselton Margaret River Airport aids in the development of opportunities at the Busselton Margaret River Airport and aligns with Strategic Theme 3.4.

BACKGROUND

The BMRA continues to experience growth in passenger and aircraft movement numbers as the Airport business unit progresses business development opportunities and focuses on operational improvement projects.



The total passenger numbers by financial year can be viewed below.



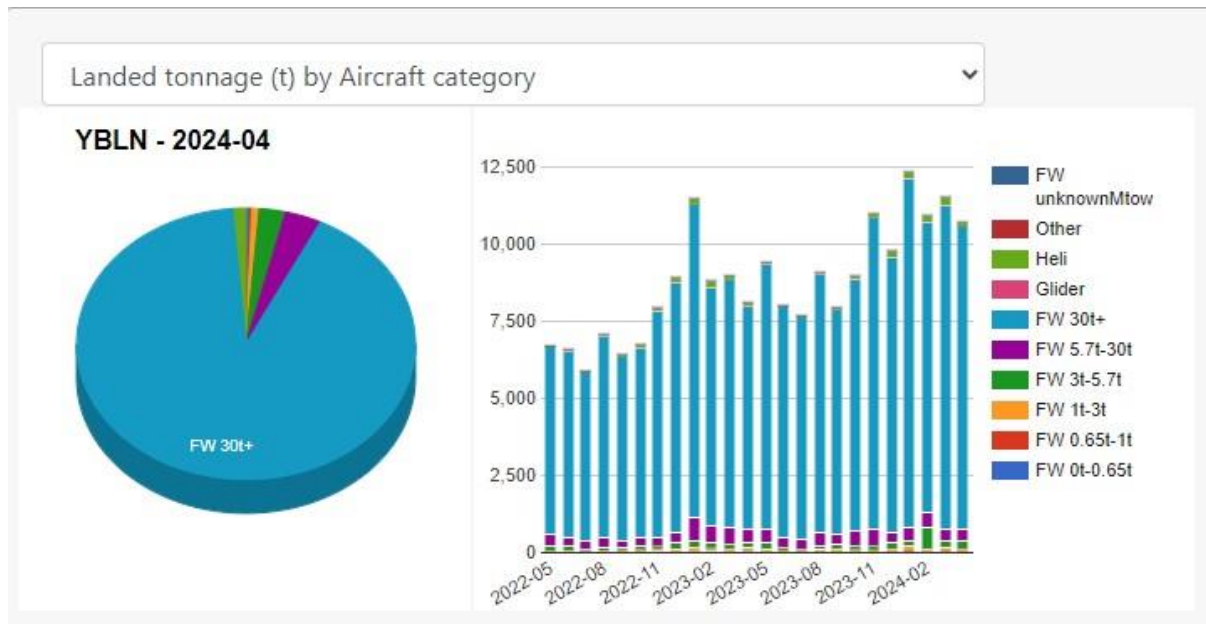
Aircraft Movements

The total number of scheduled services operating from the BMRA as of the end of the reporting period was 40 movements per week, with 34 Fly in Fly out (FIFO) closed charter and 6 RPT services (Jetstar services).

Five airlines are operating from the 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 Sydney, and multiple mining operations across Western Australia. There has also been an increase in the number of A320/B737 aircraft operating compared to Fokker100 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 33 formal landing approvals granted for private jet/charter operations for the reporting period.

There have been 6138 landings during the reporting period compared to 5316 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 undertaken the following projects;

- Runway line marking and central apron equipment clearance markings;
- Back of house asphalt expansion area;
- RFDS apron and building;
- Apron and additional terminal CCTV installation completed;
- Office/ Training transportable in place and operational;
- General Aviation apron surface enrichment completed;
- Runway strip compliance works due to be completed 31 May 2024;
- Central Apron Bay 10 lighting project awarded due to be completed by 31 July; and
- Updated Noise Modelling contours.

OFFICER COMMENT

The 2023/24 FY has been a very busy year with Officers receiving enquiries regarding new closed charter services and the commencement of the Jetstar direct Sydney – Busselton service three times a week. This is in addition to the three times a week direct Melbourne – Busselton services. With the commencement of the Sydney services, the BMRA is now a 7-day a week operation with RPT services flying 6 days a week.

Increased visitation to the airport has resulted in additional car parking usage and officers are monitoring the available car parking spaces. With the commencement of Jetstar Sydney services in March 2024 and the increasing trend in FIFO passengers, the Airport team have had to open the overflow carpark, located behind the hire car park to allow extra parking bays as the public carpark reaches full capacity. A new public car park has been included in the 2024/25 Airport budget to be constructed.

Department of Fire and Emergency Service (DFES) Large Air tanker (LAT) operations were based at BMRA from the 5 November 2023 until the 24 April 2024. DFES have since demobilised all the operational equipment off the Southern apron and until next season. An end of season presentation by the DFES will be provided to the Airport Advisory Committee as part of this agenda.

The existing terminal building septic systems requires upgrading. Contractors have been engaged to prepare a design and tender specifications for a tender to be advertised in the new financial year.

The City continues to work closely with the Southwest Development Commission and KPMG to progress a business case for the construction of a new terminal building and associated landside and airfield infrastructure at BMRA which is expected to be completed by the end of May.

Officers are now planning the operational and capital works for 2024/25, subject to budget approval, with the following works proposed;

- A second office transportable for City of Busselton Airport Staff;
- CBS X-ray machine – the City's existing X-ray machine is nearing its renewal date and it is advisable for the City to purchase a new CBS X-ray machine of similar model and size to ensure that it can operate in the existing terminal;
- Construction of a new public car park - the existing car parking is nearing capacity.
- Onsite sewerage upgrade – the existing terminal septic system is operating at capacity and is required to be upgraded.
- Check-in desk and injector - with additional closed charter services, an additional check-in desk and injector belt is required to be installed.
- Aviramp – Officers are proposing to purchase a mobile ramp to enable aircraft access for disabled and mobility impaired passengers. Options exist to lease the equipment however costing analysis has shown that the total costs to purchase (including ongoing maintenance) is comparable over five years with the City purchasing the equipment.

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:

BMRA Master Plan 2016-2036

Policy:

Not applicable.

Financial Implications

The actual net operating result (inclusive of depreciation and the Airline Attraction allocations) for the reporting period is a surplus of \$1,190,745 compared to an YTD budget deficit of \$269,123. The factors contributing to this result are:

YTD actual revenue of \$4,380,987 compared to YTD budgeted revenue of \$3,788,640 with the following allocations exceeding projections;

- Airport Landing & Take-off revenue - \$1,637,214 actual compared to \$1,083,333 budgeted;
- Car Parking revenue - \$1,151,627 actual compared to \$880,000 budgeted.

YTD actual expenditure of \$3,190,242 (incl depreciation and airline attraction) is less than the YTD budgeted expenditure of \$4,057,763 due to the following;

- Decreased salaries, wages and allowances due to vacant positions;
- Contractor and airport maintenance allocations being lower than expected with reduced operational maintenance performed during the winter months; and
- Timing of airline attraction, marketing and promotions invoices raised.

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 Committee could choose not to receive and note the Busselton Margaret River Airport Update Report.

CONCLUSION

The 2023/24 financial year has proved to be a busy year with increased passenger numbers and aircraft movements. The Jetstar direct Sydney flights to Busselton commenced on 26 March 2024 which is a great result for BMRA, tourism and local businesses throughout the Southwest 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 Southwest region from Sydney and Melbourne.

Passenger numbers and aircraft movements have continued to increase compared to the same reporting period last 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.

New closed charter services are anticipated to commence operations before July 2024 which will take the total number of flights per week to 43 (closed charter and RPT). The flight schedule does include some cross over with closed charter and RPT services and the Airport team are liaising closely with South West Aviation Services and airlines to ensure that operating turnaround times can be managed and met.

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.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

7 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday 7 August 2024

9 CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 9:45am.

The minutes of the Airport Advisory Committee meeting held 5 June 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record on

Date: 07.08.24

Presiding Member:

