

**Southern Drive, Busselton, Western Australia**  
Telephone: (08) 9781 0444 Facsimile: (08) 9752 4958  
Email: [city@busselton.wa.gov.au](mailto:city@busselton.wa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.busselton.wa.gov.au](http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au)



**Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm**

All communications to: The Chief Executive Officer, Locked Bag 1 BUSSELTON WA 6280

21 June 2016

### **Federal Government Makes Commitment to Airport**

Representing the Federal Government, Member for Forrest Nola Marino MP has announced a \$9.78million pre-election funding commitment to progress the Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport project.

The Federal Government's commitment to the project builds on the \$45.9million investment made by the State Government Royalties for Regions Fund and \$10million from the Department of Transport through its Regional Airport Development Scheme. The City has also invested \$3.5million toward the project along with the South West Development Commission (\$300,000) and Tourism WA (\$250,000).

This Federal funding will enable infrastructure necessary for international flight operations to be facilitated in the next stage of the project returning significant economies of scale. City of Busselton Mayor, Grant Henley said this Regional Development Funding will help provide infrastructure necessary for sustained social and economic growth in the South West. "We are committed to future-proofing our growing City and it makes sense to build now to accommodate potential users that may not be active for another 5 – 10 years," he said.

"An expanded airport capable of accommodating flights to the Eastern States as well as international destinations like Singapore, Denpasar and Kuala Lumpur will significantly lower the cost of doing business in this region. It will attract regional investment, expand the market share of local producers, encourage entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities. There will be obvious spin-offs for tourism and tourism-related industries. This commitment by the Federal Government demonstrates their support for and belief in the potential of the Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport as a key driver of long-term growth not just at a local level, but nationally."

The City, in association with key stakeholders and with ongoing support from the Federal Member for Forrest Nola Marino, has worked hard to progress the project. A dedicated project team has been established and a Project Definition Plan that sets out the baseline for the project (to State Government funding level) was developed and subsequently approved by the State Government appointed Project Governance Committee.

Confident of a Federal Government commitment, project planning has incorporated works necessary to accommodate international services from the facility. These works include an additional 120m of runway (taking the runway length to 2,520m) and construction of a General Aviation Precinct incorporating a new hangar apron and connecting taxi-ways; expansion of the existing apron for an additional B737/A320 aircraft; a new fixed-wing aircraft apron; and a new connecting Code C taxi-way.

With this vital planning already undertaken and funding committed, the City is confident that this stage of the project will enter the construction phase by the end of the current year. "We feel enormously positive about this project and obviously share this optimism with the State and Federal Government who have been steadfast in their support."

Media Release

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*Outcomes and objectives outlined in this statement align with Key Goal Area 3: A strong local economy that sustains and attracts existing and new business, industry and employment opportunities and Key Goal Area 4: A well connected City that provides for safe, accessible and efficient transport and communication systems to and within the district.*

Ends. Media enquiries can be directed to [media@busselton.wa.gov.au](mailto:media@busselton.wa.gov.au)