

Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport Development Project

The Busselton-Margaret River Regional Airport (BMRRA) is the future 'Gateway' Airport for the South West region. It is a key infrastructure development and will be a game changer for the region; stimulating and driving economic and social growth.

The City is leading the BMRRA development project which includes upgrading existing facilities to cater for aircraft such as Boeing 737-800 and Airbus 320 and securing domestic and international air services. This follows the Australian Government announcement of \$9.78 million towards the project, capitalising on the State Government's investment of \$56.45 million, including \$45.9 million through the Royalties for Regions program and City of Busselton's \$3.5 million. Design for airside and landside infrastructure is being progressed through discussions with preferred tenderers.

Airline Engagement

The appointment of Business Development Manager, Emma Heys, has seen a number of key milestones achieved in relation to securing a commercial airline. Emma has established an Airline Engagement Working Group, and is overseeing the Airline Engagement Strategy which includes development of business cases and pitching route development to the major Australian domestic airlines.

Melbourne and Sydney have been confirmed as the most viable routes by a number of studies, including the *KPMG Demand and Route Forecasting Study*, commissioned by the State Government Business Case Steering Committee. Recent meetings with airlines have also been held with encouraging outcomes.

In addition, Airline Engagement Consultant, *three consulting* has been appointed to undertake comprehensive analyses including passenger profiling, consumer expectations and inbound and outbound demand. These reports and studies, and the development of business cases are essential to securing a commercial airline.

It is anticipated that there will be approximately three interstate flights per week on completion of airport development in 2018. The number and timing of interstate flights will be determined by negotiation with commercial airlines. In the initial stages, the City is not in a position to dictate timing of flights and is proposing that aircraft are able to operate within the parameters of the updated draft 2016 Noise Management Plan.

Commencing with back of the clock (night time) flights on new routes is a concept often used in commercial aviation, providing airlines a cost effective and risk averse way in which to test a new route without having to reallocate aircraft from existing and proven routes.

The City has been advised that this is the best way for BMRA to prove viability of the route. Once a route is proven it is expected that services will move to day time.

Community Consultation

The City conducted Information Sessions in February and October 2016 which were attended by approximately 90 residents. These sessions focused on understanding noise management and highlighted the proposed changes to the 2015 Noise Management Plan. The October sessions were facilitated by a noise specialist from To70 Aviation.

A number of one-on-one meetings between residents and project officers have also occurred and are still available. This can be done by contacting the City on 9781 0444.

The project also has a Consultative Group which meets bi-monthly and includes one community representative from each of the residential areas; Reinscourt, Kalgup, Yalyalup and Yoongarillup. The representatives were selected based on applications and selection criteria. Their role is to act as a conduit between the project team and the community.

Estimated number of interstate flights per week*



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Busselton-Margaret River Airport website
busseltonmargaretriverairport.com.au

Email to join the mailing list and to ask questions
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