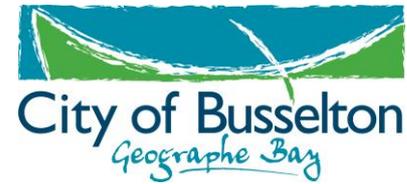


**Southern Drive, Busselton, Western Australia**  
Telephone: (08) 9781 0444 Facsimile: (08) 9752 4958  
Email: [city@busselton.wa.gov.au](mailto:city@busselton.wa.gov.au)  
Web: [www.busselton.wa.gov.au](http://www.busselton.wa.gov.au)



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

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

June 20, 2015

### **Funding Announcement Gives Greenlight to Busselton Airport Expansion**

A weekend funding announcement by Premier Colin Barnett has given greenlight to the commencement of the Busselton Regional Airport Stage 2 Development.

On the strength of the Business Case prepared in conjunction with the South West Development Commission (SWDC) and other stakeholders, the City has received \$55.9million to advance this key strategic project. \$45.9million has been allocated from Royalties for Regions and \$10million has been allocated from the Department of Transport.

This significant injection of funds enables the City to commence construction of Stage 2 of the Busselton Regional Airport Masterplan. This encompasses expansion of the airport's runway out to 2350 metres (45m wide) suitable for landing 737 and A320 jet aircraft. It will also see an expansion of the existing airport car park and terminal. These upgrades will enable regular direct flights to and from the Eastern States and, in due course, some Asian destinations.

With funding now secure, construction is earmarked for commencement in 2016/17. Once complete, Busselton Regional Airport will have the second longest runway in the State's South West capable of providing an additional option for emergency flight services and a vital back-up for Perth Airports. It will also enable the expansion of FIFO services from the South West directly to mine-sites in the Pilbara region.

The City has been committed to securing Government funding for the airport expansion for the past five years. Support has been ongoing from the SWDC, other Local Governments in the South West as well as local Chambers of Commerce and tourist associations.

"This was a collective vision," Acting Mayor Grant Henley said. "We firmly believe that development of the Busselton Regional Airport into a regional-sized airport will be a key economic driver for the South West and the whole of Western Australia. It will bring revenue into local economies; it will provide jobs for our young people; there will be positive spin-offs for industry and commerce; and it will open up this unique region to new tourism markets.

In recognition of the regional significance of the airport and the international profile of the Margaret River brand, the City will consider naming the airport the Busselton – Margaret River Regional Airport to meet the State's requirement to include Margaret River in the name.

This is the largest single funding allocation the City of Busselton has ever received. Not only is it a demonstration of the State Government's commitment to the region and the strength of the Business Case presented, it's also testament to the confidence the State Government has in the City to deliver on a project of this magnitude."

The City thanks the State Government for the generous allocation.

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

Media Release