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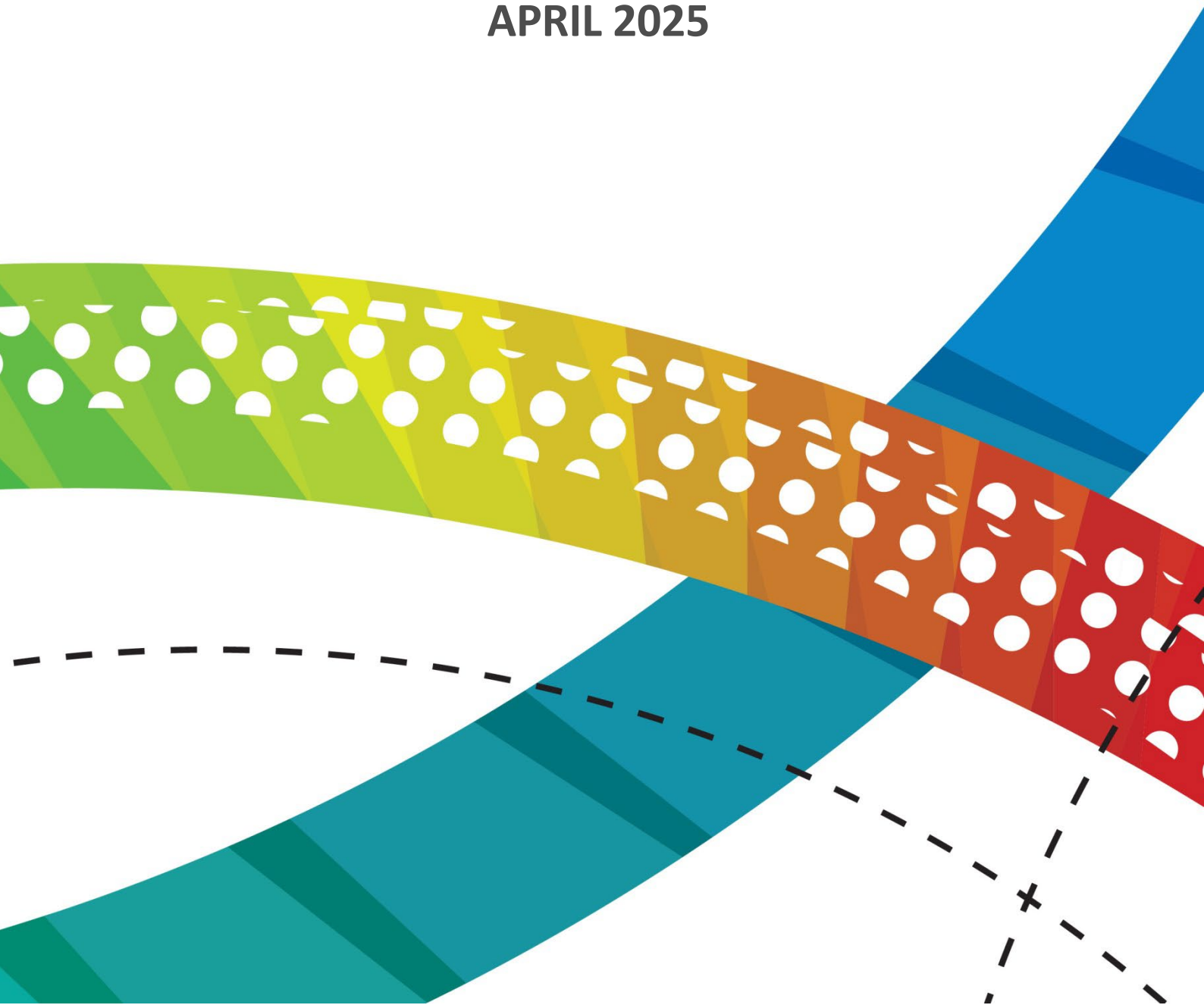
Email: airport@busselton.wa.gov.au

Web: www.busseltonmargaretriverairport.com.au

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

PROTECTION OF AIRSPACE

APRIL 2025



The City of Busselton as operator of Busselton-Margaret River Airport must ensure the Protection of airspace required for BMRAs current and future operations. This is essential to provide a safe, predictable environment for the arrivals and departures of aircraft in all weather conditions.

National and international standards have been adopted which define two sets of invisible surfaces above the ground. The surfaces form the airports protected airspace. They are:

1. **Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS):** a defined area of airspace designed to provide protection for visual flying (VFR) operations, where the pilot is flying by sight. All existing and potential obstacles must be assessed to ensure that any impact on aircraft operations is identified. This would include all crane operations in the vicinity of the airport no matter how small or large the crane or job.
2. **Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aircraft Operations (PANS-OPS):** a defined area of airspace designed to provide protection for instrument flying (IFR), where the pilot is reliant on instrument navigation. PANS-OPS surfaces may also include protection of the airspace around navigation aids that are required for instrument flying activity. PANS-OPS surfaces are not permitted to be infringed in any circumstance.

Any activities that result in an intrusion of protected airspace are referred to as "Controlled Activities" and must be approved by BMRA operations team.

Controlled Activities includes:

- Permanent structures, such as buildings, intruding into the protected airspace;
- Temporary structures, such as **cranes**, intruding into the protected airspace; and
- Any activities causing intrusions into the protected airspace through glare from artificial light or reflected sunlight, air turbulence from stacks or vents, smoke, dust, steam of other gasses or particulate matter.

What this means to you the crane operator

- When considering crane operations on or in the vicinity of Busselton-Margaret River Airport within a 15-kilometre radius the City of Busselton as airport operator requires you to determine whether your proposal or activity is likely to have an adverse impact on airport operations. In particular the operation of cranes or the construction of temporary or permanent tall buildings and structures should be considered as to their effect on airspace and aircraft operations. To do this you should use the attached guide for crane height operations within the BMRA obstacle limitation surface (OLS)



- If you require a height assessment for Crane operations, you must submit a completed Controlled Activities Application form to BMRA Operations Team at least 7 days prior to the proposed crane activity via email flight.opeations@busselton.wa.gov.au
- Urgent applications can be submitted with less than one (1) business days' notice –however you must also telephone Airport Operations on 08 9781 1781 advising of the urgent requirement along with submitting the application form. Airport Operations cannot provide assurances that short notice applications/notifications will receive City of Busselton Endorsement of approval.
- BMRA operations will complete an initial assessment of a Controlled Activities Application to determine whether the activity will cause an intrusion into the OLS or PANS-OPS surface (height assessment), the extent of any intrusion and return your application with approval and any conditions for your operations. The completed form must be retained and serves as a permit for the crane operation during the specified times.

If there is an intrusion into protected airspace, BMRA is required to seek further assessment from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to assess the impact of the intrusion on aviation safety and Airservices Australia to assess any penetration of the PANS-OPS surface that may require a temporary redirection of flight paths. This process may take up to 3 months to complete before approval is granted.

What happens if I don't do any of the above?

- It is an offence under Section 183 of the Airports Act 1996 to carry out, without approval, crane operations which intrude into an airport's protected airspace. This offence is punishable by a fine of up to 250 penalty units (currently \$82,500). It is an offence under Section 185 of the Act to contravene any conditions imposed on an approval. It is also an offence under Section 186 of the Act not to give information to the airport operator that is relevant to a proposed controlled activity.

If you have any questions relating to the Controlled Activity process, please do not hesitate to contact the Airport Compliance Officer or the Airport Manager flight.opeations@busselton.wa.gov.au

