

9 December 2013

State Aviation Strategy
Department of Transport
PO Box C102
Perth, WA 6839
By email: aviation@transport.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft State Aviation Strategy

The Committee for Perth welcomes the development of the draft Western Australian State Aviation Strategy. This submission has been prepared by the Committee for Perth with input from the Committee's Reshaping Working Group.

The draft strategy is a positive, action oriented and forward focused document that has potential to significantly improve the provision and operation of airport infrastructure and heighten the competitiveness of Western Australia and Perth as places to live, work, invest in and visit. The Committee congratulates the State Government on this initiative and looks forward to the implementation of the actions identified.

Perth is a city of growing importance in the global energy network with strong ties to Asia¹ and it is clear that Perth's economic success and global influence hinges on access to high quality infrastructure – of which airports play a central role.

Therefore as an advocate for the long term development of Perth as a competitive and livable city and region, we believe that ensuring that the Perth region is connected to other parts of Western Australia, Australia and the world through high quality airport infrastructure is critical. It is also evident that airport infrastructure has particular strategic importance for Perth given its isolation from other Australian and international capital cities and the reliance of the resource and energy sectors on the fly-in fly-out workforce.

We also believe that there is a significant opportunity for Perth airport to be developed as a strategic economic hub for the region, and that there is a need for Perth airport and the State Government to work together to achieve this goal.

Key Strategic Comments

¹ Martinus K, 2013, Perth's Global Connectivity in Energy, FACTBase Bulletin 31 June 2013, www.committeeforperth.com.au

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The Committee is surprised and concerned by the existing lack of State Government involvement and influence in the planning and management of Perth airport.

We believe that, given the importance of the airport to the Perth region and the State, as well as the critical need for integrated planning of the airport and its service corridors, the full and active involvement of the State Government in the co-ordination and delivery of forecasting and planning efforts for airport infrastructure in the State and in encouraging and enabling improved aviation services is essential.

In particular the Committee believes that there is a need for clear acknowledgement of the State Government role in the planning and management of service corridors that support Perth airport as the logistics hub of the State and which enable the efficient movement of air traffic, people and freight to and from the airport.

Planning for Perth airport, as well as other regional airports should not be done in isolation and must be fully integrated with state led regional planning initiatives, such as the Metropolitan Region Scheme. This is of particular importance in identifying and reserving a site for a second major airport in Perth in the future, planning for which must have a broad strategic focus, with an aim to ensure the opportunities for broad land use integration and economic development are maximized.

We also note that, while the State Government has no jurisdiction over the planning, management or operation of Perth airport terminal, ensuring that the terminal enables the effective and efficient movement of people and freight, as well as provides a high quality visitor experience and first impression is essential.

The Committee therefore encourages the State Government to liaise with the Commonwealth and seek a commitment to redevelop the airport terminals to a high standard, with visitor experience being a paramount objective, and for the State Government to have a key strategic role in this process.

The Committee also believes there is an urgent need for:

- The identification of a regional airport as an emergency alternative to Perth as a priority. We believe that this should be in a northern location.
- Commitment to the development of a third runway.
- Comprehensive forecasting of passenger movements with a particular focus on detailed forecasting of movements associated with growth in the minerals and resources sector, and which acknowledges that passenger movements associated with minerals and resources projects are likely to increase when projects reach operations phase (i.e. projects generate fewer trips during construction phase than during operational phases).

Comments on Key Actions

Specific comments and suggestions on the key actions of the draft strategy are outlined below.

Section	Draft Comment
Objectives and vision	It is suggested that the strategy objectives are revised to include specific reference to the need to ensure high quality infrastructure in the Perth metropolitan region as the state capital and location of WA's principal airport and gateway to the regions, Australia and Asia.
Key Actions	
1. To improve the reliability and scope of aviation forecasting the State Government will...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports listed actions • It is suggested that actions associated with the need for accurate forecasting of passenger movements associated with growth in the minerals and resources sector are strengthened. • It is suggested that an additional action is added: <i>Include a Perth Airport representative on the Infrastructure Coordinating Committee or/and in the recently established Senior Officers Group for Infrastructure Planning.</i>
2. To improve airport planning across the State, the State Government will...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports listed initiatives and suggests that an additional action is added which is <i>to ensure airport planning is fully integrated with other regional land use and infrastructure plans, particularly the Metropolitan Region Scheme.</i> • The Committee suggests that an action is added which is to promote and enable the role of regional airports as regional economic hubs.
3. To provide for the long term aviation and airport capacity requirements of the Perth metropolitan region, the State Government will co-operate with Airservices Australia and other Commonwealth agencies in planning studies to locate a suitable site for a future second Perth metropolitan airport and a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth strongly supports this action and requests its implementation as a high priority. • The Committee suggests that a high level strategic focus is given to this project with an aim to maximize opportunities for the existing and second airport to be established as key economic hubs for the region.

future second general aviation airport.	
4. To assist the timely development of infrastructure at Perth airport the State Government will...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports the listed initiatives. • The Committee suggests that the State Government seeks additional involvement in the strategic planning and management of airport facilities and seeks commitment from the Commonwealth government to aim to develop Perth's airport facilities to maximize visitor experiences.
5. To improve infrastructure planning and development at regional airports the State Government will...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports the actions identified
6. The State Government will take up with the Commonwealth the disproportionate cost of aviation security borne by passengers at small regional airports...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports this action
7. The State Government will encourage private sector investment in, and management of regional airports to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports this proposal.
8. To foster the development of tourism through improved aviation services, the State Government will...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth strongly supports the identified initiatives and actions.
9. To encourage competition and seek to reduce the high cost of intrastate airfares, the State Government will...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee for Perth supports the proposed actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Aviation Strategy. We look forward to the completion and implementation of the strategy.

Yours sincerely



Marion Fulker
CEO