



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

13th September 2005

DCS5	CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY AUDIT OF KEMPSEY AIRPORT FILE: * SJR
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SUMMARY:

Reporting on an audit of Kempsey Airport conducted by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)



An Aerodrome Inspector from CASA recently conducted an audit of the aerodrome for compliance with the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998 and the aerodrome standards. The audit report was completed on 5th August 2005.

The audit inspects:

- Aerodrome runways, taxiways, aprons, runway strip
- Aerodrome emergency plan
- Aerodrome lighting
- Obstacle control
- Handling of hazardous materials
- Protection of radar and navigational aids
- NOTAM recording
- Reporting Officer inspection records
- Access to aerodrome
- Airside vehicle control

The CASA Inspector was satisfied that the aerodrome was operating well and within guidelines with the exception of two items.

A "Request for Corrective Action" was issued for failing to prevent the access of animals into the movement area. A request for corrective action places the onus on Council to report back to CASA within one month stating how we will address the problem.

The aerodrome has long suffered from the problem of grazing kangaroos and several years ago unsuccessful attempts were made to obtain permission to cull kangaroos and wallabies on the site.

Discussions with representatives from CASA suggest that electrification of the perimeter fencing would be the most effective remedy for the problem and accordingly quotations have been sought.

The existing fencing on the site is barbed wire and it is illegal to electrify barbed wire fencing. This calls for the installation of new wiring mounted on Ironbark timber stays that stand off 400 – 500 millimetres from the existing fence.

Another deficiency noted on the audit was that the runway centreline is painted to a width of 300mm and it should be 450mm to meet the current criteria. This was identified last September by our consultants who undertake our annual safety inspection and it was considered as a low priority due to the fact that at the time we had no RPT service operating from the aerodrome. Costs to widen the runway centreline have also been sought. There are several other line markings on the runway and they are in need of repainting. These other lines can be budgeted for in future years.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

It seems more sensitive to native kangaroos to hinder their encroachment on the aerodrome by the erection of suitable fencing than to cull them and have ongoing problems in ensuing years.

- ***Social***

The majority of the six kilometres of fencing is on Council owned land. Approximately two kilometres of the boundary fence is shared with neighbours who may object to the 400 – 500mm encroachment on their land. Alternative strategies may be required if this situation arises.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Electric fence

The cost to electrify the six kilometres of perimeter fencing is as follows:

<i>Parts</i>	<i>\$12,000</i>
<i>Labour</i>	<i><u>\$ 4,500</u></i>
	<i><u>\$16,500</u></i>
<i>Recurrent Cost</i>	<i>\$ 1,000 pa</i>

The electrification of the fence would be far cheaper than installing two-metre high chain wire fencing. Council could be exposed to a claim for liability in the event of an aircraft striking a kangaroo, the financial consequence of which could be significant.

If Council considers that it is unable to allocate sufficient funds to complete the whole of the perimeter fencing, and is prepared to accept the risk exposure, the project could be staged over say 2 years with those sections of the fence most likely to be trafficked by kangaroos and other animals tabled first.

Runway line-marking

<i>The cost to widen the runway centreline</i>	<i>\$ 2,100</i>
<i>To line-mark other areas of runway strip</i>	<i>\$26,500</i>

Council's Working Funds balance should be maintained at approximately \$650,000, the current balance is \$600,000 approx. and any decision to approve of additional funding would reduce the available Working Funds Account.

- *Policy or Statutory*

There are no policy or statutory implications from the following recommendation.

- *Directors Review*

A Security Risk Assessment will be conducted by DOTARS on Monday, 5th September 2005, and grant funding will be sought for the upgrading of perimeter fencing. DOTARS has already indicated that they may fund man-proof fencing in the vicinity of the aerodrome terminal and the hangars. The six kilometres of fencing quoted in this report excludes the terminal and hangar sections.

Other airports contacted have indicated that they have not been successful in attracting grant funds for perimeter fencing, other than that, which is in the vicinity of the terminal area.

With the imminent re-commencement of RPT Services for Kempsey Airport, Council should take adequate steps to prevent the access of animals onto the movement area. A staged approach is not recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That council allocate \$16,500 from Working Funds for the installation of electrified fence to the aerodrome perimeter.
2. That Council allocate \$2,100 from Working Funds for widening of the runway centreline.
3. That consideration be given to providing funding of \$26,500 for the repainting of the remaining areas of the runway in the 2006 / 07 Budget.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES