



KEMPSEY
Shire Council

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

12th September 2006

DCS14	KEMPSEY AIRPORT SIX MONTHLY REPORT
FILE: 183	SJR

SUMMARY:

Reporting on airport activities over the preceding six months



DESCRIPTION:

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A Profit and Loss Account for the period to June 2006 is attached at [\(Appendix L\)](#). The deficit on Aerodrome operations for 2005/06 was \$96,284, and the deficit after capital movements was \$121,083. The original budget deficit was estimated at \$95,000.

STAFF TRAINING

Late in 2005 three KSC staff completed a security course to obtain qualifications as airport security guards. The training qualifies staff to conduct hand wand metal detecting. These procedures will only be implemented when the Federal Government advises of a security alert and is only required for airports that have a Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) service. Two Council staff have been issued with ASIC's (Airport Security Identification Cards). Non ASIC holders are not permitted airside two hours either side of an RPT movement.

ASIC's

Aviation ID Pty Ltd have been contracted to be ASIC issuers for Kempsey, this means that as additional people in the area may need an ASIC they can apply through us and we will forward the documentation to Aviation ID for processing and issuing of the card. There is no cost to Council for this service. Aviation ID is providing this service to numerous airports throughout NSW and they recoup their costs from individual applicants.

SECURITY UPGRADES

Council has previously gained agreement from the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) for our Aviation Transport Security Program which identified the required security measures to meet new heightened security guidelines. These measures were required when we were working toward Big Sky Express commencing an RPT service.

Clarification was sought and gained from DoTARS that this funding agreement would not be revoked should an RPT service NOT commence from the airport.

The funded security measures to be implemented are:

- Five security floodlights
- Four closed circuit television camera's
- DVD recording
- Electronic codes access control to airside sectors
- Security mesh screens to secure baggage handling area
- Two metre fencing in terminal and hangar areas
- Electrically operated sliding gate at main airside access point

These security measures will be implemented progressively over the next few months with a projected completion date of December 2006.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The installation of an electrified fence around the six km perimeter fence has now been completed and is having a positive impact on reducing the number of kangaroos and wallabies within the airport.

RPT

Big Sky Express report that they are still working toward providing an RPT service for Kempsey but in reality we must work on the assumption that it will not happen in the short to medium term.

FUTURE USES OF AIRPORT LANDS

Council's MDAP Committee provided a budget to engage AirBiz Australia to prepare a Strategic Plan for the future of the airport. The MDAP Committee reviewed the draft plan in July and elected to support Option 1 contained within the plan. This option calls for the retention of the main runway and the grass cross strip configuration.

The plan identifies the need for a dedicated person to identify, research, and direct market to potential users of the airport facility. Potential users to be targeted include air freight, small aircraft

owners, micro light and gliders operations, aviation engineering, war birds and aeronautical shows.

An application will be submitted to the Area Consultative Committee for the funded employment of a Project Manager for a period of six months to drive the actions contained within the plan.

The Economic Development Manager has held discussions with an individual who has "floated" the idea of purchasing the airport, however discussions to date have not progressed to formalisation of a financial offer. To further consider such an offer would be contrary to the previous resolution of Council ie. "Council retain the airport as an operational aerodrome". Any sale would require approval from the Commonwealth and would need to be conducted in an open transparent manner.

DRIVER SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM

The airport site has been used successfully by local schools to conduct driver safety awareness programs for students of schools within the Shire. These programs have been well received by both the participants and the schools concerned and cause very minimal disruption to the operations of the airport.

CASA AUDIT

An audit of the Kempsey Airport was undertaken by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in late July and we are awaiting a formalised report from the audit. The Aerodrome Inspector from CASA indicated on the day that he was satisfied that the airport was compliant with regulations and that the business was being conducted in an efficient manner.

ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION

The annual Aerodrome Safety Inspection of the airport, in accordance with the requirements set by CASA in Civil Aviation Safety regulation 139.315 is to be conducted on 12 September 2006 by our consultants Aerodrome Operations Support. This safety inspection also includes an obstacle limitation survey which identifies trees within the approach/take off areas which may require lopping or removal.

AIRPORT EMERGENCY EXERCISE

The last mock emergency exercise was conducted at the airport in September 2005. We have a requirement to conduct an exercise every two years and accordingly the exercise will be planned in consultation with our Local Emergency Management Officer.

PRIMARY WINDSOCK

The primary wind sock was overhauled in the early part of the year and modifications were made to the bearings which enable the sock to rotate with the wind. The windsock is performing adequately.

FLYING SCHOOL

Preliminary discussions have been held with a potential Flying Instructor to rent the terminal space previously occupied by Kempsey Aviation to provide flight training. The training provided will be for fixed wing aircraft and ultralights. A single engine charter service from the airport and future construction of a suitable hangar is also being considered as part of the negotiations.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

No implications

- ***Social***

No implications

- ***Economic (Financial)***

The Annual Aerodrome Safety Inspection of the airport will cost \$4,543 and is within the annual operating budget of the airport.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil implications

- ***Directors Review***

This half yearly report keeps Council informed in relation to Airport matters.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

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G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES