

24 August 2018

New Runway Project
Perth Airport Pty Ltd
PO Box 6
CLOVERDALE, WA 6985

The Runway Project Team,

Draft Major Development Plan – Committee for Perth Submission

The Committee for Perth is an influential, member based organisation driven by Perth's business and community leaders. As an advocate for a brighter, more liveable future for Perth and Peel, the Committee promotes and enables change that will improve the cultural diversity, economic prosperity, sustainability and world-class amenity of Perth.

This submission has been prepared by the Committee for Perth with input from our Reshaping Working Group, a multi-disciplinary group that covers planning, design, development, construction, infrastructure, policy and local government.

The Committee supports the proposal for a new runway project through the draft Major Development Plan. As a key advocate for Perth as it grows to a region of 3.5 million people, the Committee believes that this proposal is critical for the future of our State, and will assist the growth of key industries.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Perth Airport on progressing this important initiative for Western Australia. The consultation approach taken to engage the community is a key part of this project and we give our thanks to Kym Meys and Allan Mason for providing a briefing to the Reshaping Working Group and staff of the Committee for Perth.

Should you require any additional information or clarification on the Committee's submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Marion Fulker
CEO

Comments – Draft Major Development Plan for the New Runway Project

The Committee for Perth agrees that a new runway project is critical in the growth of our State and as Perth and Peel grows to a region of 3.5 million people. Its ability to service the economy, residents and the business community makes this project paramount.

The need for a new runway has been identified by numerous groups since the 1970s, and the Committee recognises the thorough and extensive planning process that has been conducted by Perth Airport to provide certainty for the region.

In acknowledging the above, the Committee also recognises the impact that the new runway project will have on residents located within flight corridors, the environment and for the local Indigenous community. We therefore recommend that Perth Airport continues its extensive engagement process throughout the Major Development Plan's progression to ensure the community is informed and has a voice.

Project importance

The need for a third runway within five to 10 years was identified by Infrastructure Australia (IA) as a Priority Initiative in their July 2018 Infrastructure Priority List to address current capacity issues and increase national connectivity. Priority Initiatives are identified by IA as infrastructure solutions to address a problem or opportunity of national significance.

Early FACTBase research conducted by the Committee for Perth identified the importance of air transport in ensuring Perth's global competitiveness. Connectivity infrastructure can ensure high levels of integration with the global economy, which in turn drives much of a city's success due to its ability to compete globally. This is especially true given Perth's geographical isolation from key national and international markets.

The research identified the growing significance of air infrastructure due to Perth's increasingly important position as a corporate player in the national setting, with more business links to Sydney and Melbourne. It also highlighted the role of FIFO activities in growing the State's economy.

Of additional relevance is our 2012 report, *Towards a Bright Future – a vision for Perth as a region of 3.5 million people*, which was the culmination of four years of research and engagement with approximately 600 leaders from business, tertiary and local government sectors, along with stakeholders in government and the community. The primary aim of this research was to ensure Perth has a bright future when it reaches a population of 3.5 million people.

A key aspiration arising out of the report was for Perth to have a strong economy. Against this aspiration, research found that distance to capital markets created issues for new creative and innovative industries and that Perth's infrastructure needed improvement to meet short and long-term growth requirements, particularly the region's airport infrastructure.

These findings informed the recommended action to ensure the Perth region has the high-quality airport, port, rail and road infrastructure needed to support long-term population and economic growth in the region and the state.

The new runway project is therefore a significant development towards creating a bright future for the region, through providing critical infrastructure to meet a growing population and to ensure distance to capital markets is minimised where possible.

Minimising impacts

Planning for major infrastructure projects is essential for a growing region. As part of this forward planning, the Committee believes that community engagement is essential in order to minimise impacts, reduce potential conflicts and identify best practice solutions arising from issues related to project proposals.

The benefits of community engagement have been collectively identified through our What We Thought Would Kill Us research series. Combined, these reports illustrate that providing opportunities for meaningful public input into development projects, specifically early in the planning and development process, may assist in reducing the potential for public opposition to projects.

Due to the likely impacts on communities through the Major Development Plan, the Committee recommends that Perth Airport continue its engagement process, ensure decision-making is transparent, that progress reports are regular and monitoring of impacts made publicly available. Certainty for residents, government and business is an essential requirement for the new runway project, in order to best equip stakeholders to manage potential impacts and maximise the opportunities arising from this development.

References

Committee for Perth, 2012, *Towards a Bright Future – a vision for Perth as a region of 3.5 million people*. Available from: https://www.committeeforperth.com.au/assets/documents/TowardsABrightFutureSept2012_1.pdf

Committee for Perth, various, *What We Thought Would Kill Us*. Available from: <https://www.committeeforperth.com.au/research/research-projects/what-we-thought-would-kill-us>

Huddleston and Huddleston, 2011, *FACTBase Bulletin 21 – Connectivity Infrastructure: Implications for Perth’s Competitiveness*. Available from: <https://www.committeeforperth.com.au/assets/documents/4-FACTBase-Bulletin-21-Connectivity-Infrastruture-July-2011.pdf>

Infrastructure Australia, 2018, *Infrastructure Priority List*. Available from: <https://ia-priority-list.herokuapp.com/pdf>