

Peel Development Commission Response to:

“Towards a National Aviation Policy Statement”.

The following responses have been developed with input from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

1.3 Regional and general aviation

- What role should all levels of government have in protecting secondary airport infrastructure and in providing for new infrastructure?

There should be a clear, documented and ratified agreement between the three tiers of government that establishes the roles and responsibilities of each authority with regard to infrastructure provision both on and off-airport, (for both leased and other airports), with a view to maximising the return on investment in existing infrastructure and achieving the long term sustainability of current and future airport operations.

The agreement should delineate the hierarchy of strategic land use planning mechanisms that each sphere of government should be responsible for and the agreed nature and duration of consultation and referrals between the different levels. The agreement needs to establish the cost contribution and recovery mechanisms at each level.

Protection will be afforded by an investment in, and commitment to the outcomes of, long term strategic land use and master planning as well as careful consideration of diversification options so that the airport operation is not prejudiced.

1.4 Addressing skills needs in the aviation industry

- Are proposals such as a national industry run flying school to train flying instructors worth investigating and, if so, how might such a school operate?

Provision of infrastructure may include to the development of regional training centres that are located in strategically located regional airports (close to large population centres, transport, infrastructure, business and industry). This includes pilots but may further extend to other aviation related positions such as air traffic controllers and engineers.

The Government may provide the infrastructure and related facilities (lease-hold arrangement); partner with a relevant organisation or association to:

1. Train pilots for the domestic and international markets.
2. Include the training (under the Skills Australia program) to fund other related aviation positions.

The partnership must be sustainable with sufficient linkages between the local community and the training providers to support the development of this industry.

Prospective organisations such as overseas airlines should also be considered however there needs to be changes made to the restrictions on overseas airlines in order to progress this arrangement.

2.1 Airport planning and development

- Are the planning and development mechanisms under the Airports Act working effectively?
- How can we improve consultation with State and local authorities and with the community?
- Could the regulatory regime better facilitate genuine long-term co-operation between airport operator companies and state and local governments on land use planning?
- How can we better integrate investment on airports with the funding and construction of improved road and rail links to and from our airports?

The planning and development mechanisms under the Airports Act need to ensure opportunistic lease holders seeking to realise quick profits from the non-aeronautical development potential of existing airports are not afforded the prospect of divesting themselves of an operational airport with an agreed Master Plan in favour of financial gains and the promise of establishing a new facility in another location.

The establishment of a State level planning policy based on the agreed government framework outlined above would provide for consistency and improvement with regard to consultation at all levels.

Long term strategic land use planning should protect existing, and identify new, airport sites. Future sites should consider the proximity of other existing and planned infrastructure, services and populations to reduce establishment and maintenance costs to all spheres of government, maximise functionality and utilisation of airport infrastructure, provide access to a skilled workforce as well as generate minimal community and environmental impacts.