



The Busselton Aero Club

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Chair - Airport Advisory Committee
Cr. G Bleechmore
26 Ballarat Road
Wonnerup 6280

Re -- Airport landing charges

Dear Sir

On Wednesday August 10th Club representatives met with a delegation from the City to discuss a number of concerns that directly affected the Aero Clubs operations and their future.

Following a good hearing the club was advised to write to the City outlining our proposal for removing landing fees from all privately operated flights under 2000 kg AUV.

The club realizes the City wishes to recover costs to a reasonable level and therefore is offering a modified fuel levy agreement that will compensate the City if the landing fee is abolished.

Our proposal is that the Aero Club increase the levy paid to the City from the current 3 cents/L to 5 cents/ L. In time we hope traffic will increase and return to pre 2012 volumes and fuel sales to return to a similar figure as before fees were introduced. The loss to the City on abolishing landing fees would be compensated for in fuel revenue and in time should provide even greater gains.

On top of this the attraction to Busselton that is now sadly lacking will be re established and deliver gains to local tourism, the service industry, business and the Aero Club.

In support of our case we confirm that in the period before landing fees, Avgas sales exceeded 100,000 litres p.a compared to today of 70,000 litres and sadly trending downward.

On current figures alone at 5c/L the return to the City would be \$3500 p.a. and on an expected return to 100,000 litres a sum of \$5000 p.a Sales history indicates volumes above 100,000 litres are achievable again in time. This would compare very favorably to the advised amount currently collected by the City for landing fees on privately operated aircraft under 2000kg.

Visitors to the club on social flights are now almost non- existent. The club therefore sees this as a great way to restore the Busselton image, which we know to be suffering, and to attract light aircraft back to the Busselton Margaret River Airport without compromising returns to the City.

The club has a wide network of connections within the flying fraternity and is convinced beyond doubt that we need to change our image and place the welcome mat out once again. We are seeking to work collaboratively with Council to achieve this goal and request this recommendation is favorably considered for the future of tourism, light aviation, local commerce and the Aero Club.

We remain available at all times to further assist or discuss this offer and these objectives.

Yours sincerely – Ken Manton (Hon Sec)

cc: all City of Busselton Councillors

cc : Ms J May