

EPA R&R No: 1418

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT

BUSSELTON REGIONAL AERODROME – PROPOSAL UNDER S46 OF THE EP ACT TO REPLACE CONDITION 4-4 OF MINISTERIAL STATEMENT 399

I refer to your letter of 11 October 2011 requesting the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to inquire into and report on the Shire of Busselton's proposed change to the environmental conditions for the Busselton Regional Aerodrome (Ministerial Statement 399).

The following is the EPA's Report and Recommendations (No.1418) pursuant to section 46(6) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Introduction

The Shire of Busselton has approval to operate a regional aerodrome at Four Mile Hill (Ministerial Statement 399, October 1995). Potential noise impacts associated with the operation of the aerodrome are managed through Condition 4 of the Statement, as set out below.

- 4-1 The proponent shall ensure that noise emissions from the aerodrome, including emissions from aircraft using the aerodrome, are efficiently managed.
- 4-2 To achieve the objectives of Condition 4-1, at all times during the operation of the aerodrome, the proponent shall ensure that noise emissions from the aerodrome activities, including emissions from aircraft using the aerodrome, do not cause noise levels at any residential premises in occupation to exceed an average of 55 dB(A) L_{dn} or a maximum of 65 dB L_A Slow, unless a specific variation to the maximum noise level is agreed to by the Minister for the Environment on advice of the Department of Environmental Protection, and following consultation with relevant agencies.

- 4-3 Where a variation has been granted by the Minister for Environment, as referred to in Condition 4-2, the variation may only apply for operation between 0700 hours and 2200 hours, and the proponent shall ensure that the maximum noise level does not exceed 80 dB L_A Slow and that the number of flights is limited.

On 16 October 2007, the Minister for Environment granted a variation under Condition 4-3 above. This variation is as follows:

1. The variation applies between the hours of 0700 and 2200 hours on any day.
2. The number of flights is limited to two per day.
3. The noise level of a flight conducted under this variation shall not exceed 80dB when measured as a L_A SLOW value within 15 metres of a building that is directly associated with a noise-sensitive use on a noise-sensitive premises, in accordance with Part 3 of the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.

The Shire of Busselton has written to you to request that three flights outside the parameters established in Condition 4 and the variation of 16 October 2007 be allowed. The three flights are required to support the Cold Chisel Concert at Sandalford Winery on 26 November 2011 and are as follows:

- a Metro Series III aircraft arriving at the Busselton Regional Aerodrome on 26 November 2011 at approximately 1630 hours;
- a Metro Series III aircraft departing the Busselton Regional Aerodrome on 27 November 2011 at approximately 0030 hours; and
- a Fokker 100 aircraft departing the Busselton Regional Aerodrome on 27 November 2011 at approximately 0005 hours.

The Shire of Busselton advertised the Fokker 100 flight in the media and asked for public comment. Four submissions were received, of which two supported the proposed flight and two objected. The proponent also consulted the Busselton Regional Aerodrome Advisory Committee and received four submissions from Committee members, all in support of the proposed flight. The Shire of Busselton will also advertise the two Metro Series III flights in the media and liaise directly with the Busselton Regional Aerodrome Advisory Committee and property owners in the immediate vicinity of the aerodrome.

Two similar flights to support the 2010 and 2011 Leeuwin concerts were accommodated through the addition of conditions to Ministerial Statement 399.

Discussion

The EPA is aware that the Shire of Busselton is finalising a new noise management plan to replace the existing Ministerial Conditions. The noise management plan is intended to provide a more flexible regime to manage operations at the airport while better addressing noise impacts on the community. The EPA has stated previously that it is important that the noise management regime for the aerodrome is considered in a strategic and transparent manner, through the operation of such a noise management plan.

The EPA considers that the flights proposed above provide an opportunity for monitoring to be undertaken that would inform the EPA's consideration of the noise management plan as well as any further flights requiring approval in advance of the noise management plan. To this end, a condition is recommended that requires monitoring of the noise impacts of the above flights at nearby residences.

EPA Recommendation

The EPA submits the following recommendations to the Minister for Environment.

1. That the Minister note that the EPA has concluded that the environmental impacts of the three flights detailed above are not significant.

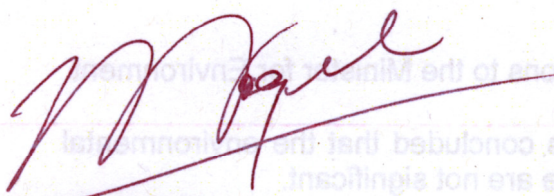
2. That the Minister agree that Condition 4-4 of Ministerial Statement 399 be replaced to provide for the three flights, and that the condition be worded as follows:

4-4 Notwithstanding Condition 4-2 and Condition 4-3, the following flights are allowed:

- a Metro Series III aircraft arriving at the Busselton Regional Aerodrome between 1600 hours and 1730 hours on 26 November 2011;
- a Metro Series III aircraft departing the Busselton Regional Aerodrome between 0000 hours and 0100 hours on 27 November 2011; and
- a Fokker 100 aircraft departing the Busselton Regional Aerodrome between 2330 hours on 26 November 2011 and 0030 hours on 27 November 2011.

The proponent will measure noise levels associated with these flights at locations representative of the residences closest to each end of the runway, and report the results to the General Manager, Office of Environmental Protection Authority by 31 December 2011.

3. That the Minister issue a statement that incorporates the recommended Condition 4-4 into Statement 399.



Dr Paul Vogel
CHAIRMAN

4 November 2011