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MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT WESTER

State # 399

**STATEMENT THAT A PROPOSAL MAY BE IMPLEMENTED  
(PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986)**

**BUSSELTON REGIONAL AERODROME (775)**

**SHIRE OF BUSSELTON**

This proposal to construct and operate a Regional Aerodrome, at the Four Mile Hill site, may be implemented subject to the following conditions:

**1 Proponent Commitments**

The proponent has made a number of environmental management commitments in order to protect the environment.

- 1-1 In implementing the proposal, the proponent shall fulfil the commitments made in the Consultative Environmental Review and in response to public submissions, provided that the commitments and environmental management measures are not inconsistent with the conditions or procedures contained in this statement.

A schedule of those environmental management commitments applicable to the Four Mile Hill site (June 1995) which will be audited by the Department of Environmental Protection was published in Environmental Protection Authority Bulletin 785 (Appendix 4) and a copy is attached.

**2 Implementation**

Changes to the proposal which are not substantial may be carried out with the approval of the Minister for the Environment.

- 2-1 Subject to these conditions, the manner of detailed implementation of the proposal shall conform in substance with that set out in any designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted by the proponent to the Environmental Protection Authority with the proposal.
- 2-2 Where, in the course of the detailed implementation referred to in condition 2-1, the proponent seeks to change the designs, specifications, plans or other technical material submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority in any way that the Minister for the Environment determines, on the advice of the Environmental Protection Authority, is not substantial, those changes may be effected.

**3 Wetland Replacement**

- 3-1 The proponent shall maintain or enhance wetland functions which may be affected as a result of the proposal.
- 3-2 Prior to construction of the aerodrome, the proponent shall provide an Environmental Management Programme to the Department of Environmental Protection detailing how the

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wetland functions (particularly hydrologic functions) which will be lost as a result of the aerodrome will be replaced or relocated elsewhere (i.e. wetland replacement strategies). Additionally this Environmental Management Programme shall provide an overall drainage strategy for the wetlands.

- 3-3 Within twelve months of the formal authority issued to the decision-making authorities under Section 45(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the proponent shall implement the wetland replacement strategies detailed in the Environmental Management Programme required by condition 3-2.

#### **4 Noise Management**

- 4-1 The proponent shall ensure that noise emissions from the aerodrome, including emissions from aircraft using the aerodrome, are effectively 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. (See procedure 3).
- 4-3 Where a variation has been granted by the Minister for the 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.

#### **5 Proponent**

These conditions legally apply to the nominated proponent.

- 5-1 No transfer of ownership, control or management of the project which would give rise to a need for the replacement of the proponent shall take place until the Minister for the Environment has advised the proponent that approval has been given for the nomination of a replacement proponent. Any request for the exercise of that power of the Minister shall be accompanied by a copy of this statement endorsed with an undertaking by the proposed replacement proponent to carry out the project in accordance with the conditions and procedures set out in the statement.

#### **6 Time Limit on Approval**

The environmental approval for the proposal is limited.

- 6-1 If the proponent has not substantially commenced the project within five years of the date of this statement, then the approval to implement the proposal as granted in this statement shall lapse and be void. The Minister for the Environment shall determine any question as to whether the project has been substantially commenced.

Any application to extend the period of five years referred to in this condition shall be made before the expiration of that period, to the Minister for the Environment by way of a request for a change in the condition under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act. (On expiration of the five year period, further consideration of the proposal can only occur following a new referral to the Environmental Protection Authority.)

#### **7 Compliance Auditing**

To help determine environmental performance, periodic reports on progress in implementation of the proposal are required.

- 7-1 The proponent shall submit periodic Progress and Compliance Reports, in accordance with an audit programme prepared by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the proponent.

### **Procedure**

- 1 Unless otherwise specified, the Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for assessing compliance with the conditions contained in this statement and for issuing formal clearance of conditions.
- 2 Where compliance with any condition is in dispute, the matter will be determined by the Minister for the Environment.
- 3 Within twelve months of the formal authority issued to the decision making-authorities under Section 45(7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, the Shire of Busselton will initiate procedures to ensure avoidance of encroachment upon the aerodrome by conflicting land uses which are sensitive to noise.

An appropriate mechanism to achieve the above would be through an amendment to the Shire of Busselton Town Planning Scheme defining the aerodrome and its surrounds, especially within the predicted 55 dB(A)  $L_{dn}$  noise contour for the year 2042, as unsuitable for residences, schools, hospitals or over-night accommodation. Notices should also be placed on titles of lots which are adjacent to the predicted 55 dB(A)  $L_{dn}$  noise contour for the year 2042 to advise prospective purchasers of the potential limitations on uses of the land.

Hon. Peter Foss, MLC  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

16 OCT 1995

**Schedule of Environmental Management Commitments**

**which will be audited**

**by the Department of Environmental Protection**

**June 1995**

**BUSSELTON REGIONAL  
AERODROME**

**FOUR MILE HILL SITE (775)**

**SHIRE OF BUSSELTON**

The proponent will assume responsibility for the management commitments listed in the following text. Where such commitments are outside the authority or expertise of the proponent then such commitments will be arranged with the appropriate authority or experts at the proponent's expense.

### **Management Commitments for the Physical and Biological Environment**

- (1) Removal and or lopping of trees will only take place where they impede takeoff and landing pathways.
- (2) The grassed area surrounding the strip will be maintained to control surface runoff, and decrease the risk of erosion.
- (3) Access tracks to work/construction areas will be located to reduce ground disturbance.
- (4) Loose imported fill material for construction purposes will be stabilised when not actively utilised.
- (5) Dieback does not appear to be present on the site. Every attempt will be made to ensure that fill material used during construction is also free of the disease as the importation of dieback could have implications for remnant vegetation downstream and also for the success of revegetation measures. The use of dieback hygiene procedures for mobile plant during construction will be assessed when the movements of such plant equipment to and from the site is determined.
- (6) A predetermined location, outside drainage depressions areas will be selected for the refuelling area for construction machinery. The area will be temporarily bunded during use and dismantled afterwards.
- (7) If fuel storage facilities are to be installed they will be constructed to the Australian standard guidelines for hazardous liquid storage and handling procedures.
- (8) Site hygiene will be maintained at a high standard. All refuse will be removed for disposal offsite.

### **Management Commitments for Discharge of Nutrients to the Receiving Environment**

- (9) Net nutrients applied during establishment of grass shall not to exceed limitations set by the Department of Agriculture.

### **Management Commitments for Aircraft Noise**

- (10) Ensure that noise levels at any adjacent residential properties do not exceed a maximum of 65 dB(A)  $L_{dn}$ . This constraint will limit the number of aircraft movements and aircraft size.
- (11) In the event that any residence is found to be within the  $L_{dn}55$  noise contour then Council undertakes to liaise with the affected landowners and to implement noise reduction measures appropriate to the circumstance of the dwelling, at Council's cost, and to consider noise management techniques for the airport itself.
- (12) Ensure aircraft over the Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary remain above 640 feet AGL.
- (13) Initiate a monitoring program to determine the effect of aircraft noise on the breeding behaviour of waterbird species.

### **Management Commitments for Air Safety**

- (14) Maximise aircraft movements to the south, to reduce risk of bird strike.

### **Management Commitments for the Social Environment**

#### **Aboriginal Heritage**

- (15) Any artefacts/material unearthed during the construction phase will be reported by the developers and/or contractors to the Department of Aboriginal Sites.