

CM13.3. Albury Airport Users Advisory Committee Membership

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FURTHER ENQUIRIES	Brad Ferris Engineering	PHONE	6023 8233
AUTHOR	Mark Munday		

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to consider membership of the Albury Airport User Advisory Committee (AAUAC) following the recent Expression of Interest process.

Background

The AAUAC was established in July 2009 to support Council in the review and implementation of the Albury Airport Development Strategy (now Albury Airport Master Plan) and to ensure future opportunities for continued growth were realised and considered as part of an overall master plan approach.

The Committee seeks to consider the views and ideas of all stakeholders with reference to:

- airport facilities;
- stakeholders;
- aviation forecasts;
- benchmarking;
- airside and landside development planning;
- environmental and land use planning;
- airport security and safety management systems;
- development strategies;
- asset replacement and major work programming;
- business planning; and
- marketing.

The AlburyCity AAUAC Terms of Reference (clause 5) requires that the structure and membership of the Committee shall be as follows:

- six members from airport related businesses;
- five members from the aviation industry;
- two Councillors (with an additional Councillor appointed as an alternate delegate); and
- such AlburyCity Officers as requested by the General Manager to attend Committee meetings from time to time.

Committee membership was previously considered in late 2016. At this time, responses were limited and one airport related business position remained vacant.

Issues

Following the recent resignation of Mr Andrew Heath (airport related business representative) and with Jetgo ceasing operations at Albury Airport, current Committee membership consists of:

- four airport related business members, with one alternative delegate;
- four aviation industry representatives, being Virgin Australia, Regional Express, Qantaslink and Airservices Australia; and
- two AlburyCity Councillors, with one alternative delegate;

With the resignation of Mr Heath, Council agreed to invite nominations for airport related business membership to the AAUAC for the remaining term of the current Committee, up until September 2020. Expressions of Interest closed at 5 pm on Wednesday 31 October 2018.

The following interest has been received:

- Mr Steve Drage (Secretary of the Albury Aero Club),
- Mr Stephen Death (Hazair Pty Ltd); and
- Mr Graeme Wheeler (Albury Airport General Aviation Pilot).

The Terms of Reference of the Committee allow for six members from airport related businesses. Following the resignation of Mr Heath, the committee has two airport related business committee membership positions available.

Typically, the majority of AAUAC meetings do not realize a full complement, due to other business commitments. With this in mind, it is proposed to change the Committee's membership to include seven members from airport related businesses. This would permit the three submitted nominations to be accepted onto the committee.

Furthermore, as part of the recent organisational review, a recommended action was to consider the following:

- the merit of a skill based board to strategically lead the growth of the airport, or
- an investor keen to grow the airport business to take a stake in the airport.

These items will be further considered once the structural components of the review are completed (mid-2019) and any potential changes to the governance structure can coincide with the next membership review of this Committee (2020) and following consideration by Council.

Risk

- Business Risk – a well-represented and active advisory committee supports positive business activity through stakeholder consideration and input at all scheduled committee meetings.

- Corporate Risk – broad membership on this advisory committee ensures all stakeholders are represented and objectives are balanced across all sectors.
- WHS and Public Risk - each industry sector has input and responsibilities regarding WHS and public risk. The Committee provides a forum where these challenges can be discussed and a holistic approach adopted.
- Delivery Program Risk – activities identified within the Delivery Program will impact on all stakeholders. The Committee provides a forum for information exchange, project input and task coordination.

Options

1. Change the Terms of Reference from the current Committee membership of six members from airport related businesses to seven members and accept the recent AAUAC Committee membership nominations from the three airport related businesses for the remaining two year period 2018 - 2020; or
2. Accept two of the three airport related business nominations, with the aim of satisfying the current Terms of Reference as it relates to the existing Committee membership structure; or
3. Not accept the nominations to the AAUAC and invite fresh applications.

Conclusion

The airport related business Committee membership currently consists of four airport related businesses members, with the Terms of Reference of this Committee allowing for six members.

Following the recent resignation of one of the Albury Airport Users Advisory Committee members and as part of the Committee's Terms of Reference, an Expressions of Interest process was undertaken to secure members for the remaining two-year period. At the close of the nomination period, a total of three nominations were received from airport related businesses for membership to the Committee.

When considering the majority of AAUAC meetings do not realize a full attendance of Committee members, it is proposed to change the Committee's Terms of Reference to allow seven members from airport related businesses. This would permit the three recently submitted nominations to be appointed to the committee, in addition to assisting in improved attendance and stakeholder engagement at future Committee meetings.

It is also considered prudent to review the governance structure for this facility during 2019 and any proposed amendments can be introduced at the conclusion of this Committee term (2020).

Recommendation

That Council:

- a. Amends the AlburyCity Airport Users Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, to include seven members from airport related businesses;
- b. Accepts the nominations for membership of the AlburyCity Airport Users Advisory Committee for the remaining two-year period 2018 – 2020, being:

- Mr Steve Drage (Secretary of the Albury Aero Club):
 - Mr Stephen Death (Hazair Pty Ltd): and
 - Mr Graeme Wheeler (Albury Airport General Aviation Pilot); and
- c. Further consider the Albury Airport governance structure during 2019.