



RAAA SUBMISSION

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY REQUEST FOR NEW OR CHANGES TO EXISTING TAF SERVICES

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Serving regional aviation, and through it, the people and businesses of regional Australia

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4 May 2016

The National Manager
Regional Aviation Weather Services
Hazard Prediction Branch
Bureau of Meteorology
GPO Box 1289
Melbourne Vic 3001

Email: sral@bom.gov.au

Dear Sir,

RAAA SUBMISSION

Request for new or changes to existing TAF services

The RAAA is pleased to provide this submission in support of the request by Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport's Request for new or changes to existing TAF Services.

I. RAAA Background

The RAAA and its Members

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) is a not-for-profit organisation formed in 1980 as the Regional Airlines Association of Australia to protect, represent and promote the combined interests of its regional airline members and regional aviation throughout Australia.

The Association changed its name in July 2001 to the Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) and widened its charter to include a range of membership, including regional airlines, charter and aerial work operators, and the businesses that support them.

The RAAA has 30 Ordinary Members (AOC holders) and 65 Associate/Affiliate Members. The RAAA's AOC members directly employ over 2,500 Australians, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA's AOC members jointly turnover more than \$1.5b, carry well in excess of 2million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight.

RAAA members operate in all States and Territories and include airlines, airports, freight companies, engineering and flight training companies, finance and insurance companies and government entities. Many of RAAA's members operate successful and growing businesses providing employment and economic sustainability within regional and remote areas of Australia.

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RAAA Charter

The RAAA's Charter is to promote a safe and viable regional aviation industry. To meet this goal the RAAA:

- promotes the regional aviation industry and its benefits to Australian transport, tourism and the economy among government and regulatory policy makers;
- lobbies on behalf of the regional aviation industry and its members;
- contributes to government and regulatory authority policy processes and formulation to enable its members to have input into policies and decisions that may affect their businesses;
- encourages high standards of professional conduct by its members; and
- provides a forum for formal and informal professional development and information sharing.

The RAAA provides wide representation for the regional aviation industry by direct lobbying of Ministers and senior officials, through parliamentary submissions, personal contact and by ongoing, active participation in a number of consultative forums.

II. RAAA Support for the Request

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) provides the following arguments in support of the request by Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport for provision of TAF services.

Airport details:

- Aerodrome name: Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport Pty Ltd
- Aerodrome ICAO code: YBWW

Data:

- Intra-aerodrome movement numbers¹ (per annum): 8,500
- Passenger numbers (per annum): 140,000 growing every single month. We have achieved 17 months in a row of passenger growth and forecast to exceed 200,000 in FY 2016/17.

Are there any regular publicly accessible flights to the aerodrome?

YBWW have the following RPT services:

- Qantaslink 30 movements per week
- Regional Express 16 movements per week
- Airnorth 20 movements per week.

Major users of the aerodrome:

- Qantaslink
- Rex
- Airnorth
- Royal Flying Doctors
- Careflight
- Corporate Air
- Alliance
- Aergo
- Qld Government Airwing
- RAAF
- Army Aviation
- Angel Flight
- Basair
- Austrek Charters
- Bain Charters
- Easternwell Aviation
- Vision Helicopters
- A range of corporate jets
- Flying Schools
- Wagners Aviation
- Various private light aircraft

Are there any major events at the aerodrome?

- Bi-annual open day and airshow plus regular fly ins

When did the aerodrome commence operations:

- 17th of November 2014

What is the classification of the aerodrome? ✓ Certified Registered Military

Are there any restrictions on accessing the aerodrome? No

Does the aerodrome have meteorological equipment? No AWS ✓ AWS,C&V2

Who owns/maintains this equipment? ✓ Aerodrome BoM Other:

Does the aerodrome have fuel? ✓ AvGas ✓ JetA1

Does the aerodrome have any other infrastructure (e.g. Nav aids)

- 2.87km x 45m Code 4E runway
- GNS RNAV approaches, SIDS, & Papi lighting
- 8,400m² award winning terminal
- Fuel Farm
- International Cargo Freight Building

Please provide any other relevant information:

Wellcamp Airport (YBWW) is the fastest growing airport in Australia. From a standing start in November 2014, RPT traffic alone grew from an average of 4,000 pax per month in the first 6 months to now achieving well over 11,000 pax per month with consistent growth every single month. The airport has been in operation for 18 months and has achieved 18 months in a row of growth and that growth is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. YBWW is on track to exceed 200,000 pax next financial year.

YBWW will start international operations this calendar year. Cathay Pacific successfully completed a 747-8F trial flight into YBWW in November last year exporting local fresh produce direct into Hong Kong. The final stages of approval from Hong Kong is imminent and a weekly service to Hong Kong will commence in October this year. Cathay Pacific are confident this will become a bi-weekly service very quickly.

Phenix Air (New freight airline) will start scheduled international freight services from YBWW in 777 & 747 aircraft this calendar year.

We are well advanced in negotiations with 3 other international airlines to start regular international 747F and 777F freighter services from YBWW into China and the Middle East by the end of 2016.

Qantas have an A330-300 international passenger charter booked for the 22nd of October 2016.

YBWW is now the preferred airport for arrivals into the region in the RAAF VIP fleet and the Royal Flying Doctor Services uses YBWW daily.

As Toowoomba has a different weather pattern to Brisbane and the Gold Coast, YBWW is now the preferred alternate for a number of airlines.

YBWW is 700 feet below Toowoomba and does not have the fog & weather problems that Toowoomba does. For this reason YBWW is regularly supporting YTWB as an alternate in poor weather conditions. Unfortunately, YTWB cannot support YBWW in the same manner due to its short and narrow runway strip.

YBWW understands the position of the BOM in regard to reducing the overall cost of TAF services around Australia. However, it is extremely important to note that YBWW cannot be put into the same box as other regional airports. YBWW is growing rapidly. This is a B747 capable airport that has already had its first international 747-8F service and will start regular scheduled international freighter services in the coming months.

Finally, it is extremely important that a decision on industry supporting a TAF service at YBWW is not made based on out of date criteria and history. YBWW is a unique case as the first public airport built in Australia since Tullamarine. YBWW is creating new opportunities for the aviation industry not possible 18 months ago and should be allowed to compete on a level playing field with other airports of similar size infrastructure that have industry supported TAF services. To not be supported by industry like our competitors places YBWW in an anti-competitive climate.

Metadata:

Define the time period for movement and passenger data: Rolling 12 months.

Are the data actual recorded details or estimated?

✓ Actual Estimated (forecasts are estimated)

III. CONCLUSION

The RAAA is grateful for the opportunity to provide support for Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport in their pursuit industry support of TAF Services. If you would like further information about the items contained in this submission, or clarification on any of the points we make, the RAAA would be more than happy to assist.

Regards



Mike Higgins
Chief Executive Officer



The arrival of Cathay Pacific at YBWW November 2015



Airnorth commenced operations March 2016



Wellcamp Airport Terminal



Wellcamp Freight Terminal