

**FURNEAUX GROUP AVIATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE
UNCONFIRMED MINUTES**

DATE: Tuesday 21 February 2022
VENUE: Rose Garden Room, FAEC, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 10am

AGENDA

1. PRESENT:

MEMBERS		
Position/Organisation	Name	In-Attendance
Mayor - Chairperson (non-voting)	Rachel Summers	Yes
Councillor (1)	Councillor Peter Rhodes	No
General Manager - Flinders Council (non-voting)	Warren Groves	Yes
Manager Infrastructure (1)	Chris Wilson	Yes
Airport Operating Officer (1)	Richard Harley	Apology
Multi-Purpose Centre Representative	Alanna Cowley	Yes
Regular Passenger Transport Representative	Noel Bowland	Apology
Charter Aircraft Representative (1)	Peter Barron	Yes (via Phone)
Department of State Growth (1) (non-voting)	Arun Kendall	Yes (via Phone)
Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Assoc. Inc.	Denise Gardner	No
Community Representative (1)	Linda Nicol	Apology
Flinders Island and Business Incorporated Representative (1)	Mick Rose	Yes
STAFF		
Executive Assistant (minute taker)	Kyra Newman	Yes

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - Councillors only

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Moved: Mick Rose Carried: Chris Wilson
That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Furneaux Group Aviation Special Committee meeting held 24 August 2022 are a true and fair record.

CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE IN:

None received.

5. CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

None received.

6. COMMITTEE REVIEW:

Members reviewed the function and purpose of committee from the Terms of Reference. The Chair, Rachel Summers asked the members present whether this committee is still required.

The Chair read the statement of the purpose to the members present.

'The purpose of the Flinders Aviation Special Council Committee (hereafter referred to as 'the Committee') is to provide recommendations to Flinders Council regarding aviation matters and associated infrastructure, as they apply to the Flinders Municipality.'

Warren stated that there are issues to do with aviation that at times require attention but they seem to be dealt with easily without the committee. There have been rumours of the Hobart flight being cancelled which could potentially be an issue in the future if it is true.

Chris stated that a lot of the decisions regarding aviation on Councils behalf are operational. Chris does not see the committee as necessary for the operational decisions that are made.

Peter stated that earlier on for this committee to operate as intended, it was to work out ongoing issues at that present time and now the point of contact is operational. This has been going really well and communication is running effectively.

Mick stated that he likes hearing updates on aviation on the Island.

Alanna stated that it is good to know updates on the topic of aviation, especially with the Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) and that an update via email could be sufficient.

Arun stated that there is no requirement for how information is shared. This committee is useful for the Department of State Growth to understand the issues regarding aviation on the Island. The Department of State Growth is responsible for administering grants for flight costs at times.

Rachel stated that Chris does a monthly Infrastructure Manager's Report for Ordinary Council Meetings each month. Can Chris add more detail on this report and send to the members of this committee each month?

Moved: Chris Wilson

Seconded: Mick Rose

The committee recommends to Council that the terms of reference (section 1.1), be amended to reflect that the committee meets at least twice a year. With the commitment of Council to send the monthly Infrastructure Manager Report to members of the Furneaux Group Aviation Special Committee.

CARRIED

7. COUNCIL / AIRPORT UPDATE

Chris Wilson presented the following update to members present.

Operational Update:

- Significant fuel sales due to an aerial aircraft. Another aerial aircraft on the Island for 1-2 weeks which will slightly boost sales;
- Three new fuel tanks (1,200L). This has given a reduction in costs to Council as the organisation can buy fuel in Launceston rather than Hobart;
- An Aerodrome Officer is on long-term sick leave. This has been impactful on staffing;
- Re-aligned entrance on the gate on the northern side which creates better vision;
- Council staff took on more work over the Christmas break, duties such as rubbish disposal;
- Development of the emergency management plan;
- Investigations continuing of the sewerage issue in the Airport terminal and toilet ducting has been repaired to hopefully reduce the odour;
- Repainting and line marking on the runway (\$10,000 annually);
- The revised parking works well in the car park; and

- Council is looking to do upgrades on runway lighting (\$600,000), replacement of the office (CASA requirement to have view over the apron, Council will not be able to do that but can add cameras) and the generator and switchboard to be updated (\$100,000).

Chris thanked Peter Barron on his help and guidance with upgrading the fuel project. It is very appreciated.

Other items of relevance:

- Four inspections have been completed;
- Information about the potential industrial area at the airport presented;
- Potential change for the parking area and leasing areas presented;
- There has been a problem with new transformer box. It has been rusting and will be replaced for free by the supplier; and
- Upgrading the signage as you drive out the airport for will occur soon.

8. SHARP AIRLINES UPDATE

Unable to update due to committee member being absent.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Rachel Summers has been approached by a community member who is interested in joining the committee. Rachel asked if the committee would like to advertise for new members.

All members agreed that they did not feel it was necessary to advertise for more members on the Furneaux Group Aviation Special Committee, especially in light of the proposed reduction in meeting frequency.

Mick stated that he is impressed with Chris' report given to the committee.

Arun stated that it looks like Hobart to Flinders Sharp Flight will not be continuing after the 30th of April 2023. There are not enough passengers to continue this scheduled flight.

Warren asked if this is an official announcement.

Arun stated that this has not been publicly announced.

Rachel told the members present that Malcom Sharp announced yesterday on ABC radio that this route would be pausing for winter and may continue in the summer.

Arun explained that any continuation of the funded service would need to be negotiated with the Government. There is a lot of commercial flights for the Island and it would be tricky to continue. If it were to continue there would need to be a tender process.

Peter Barron commented on the positive's outcomes of this Government incentive. Charter flights Improve the presence of the Island and that it was a good initiative on behalf of the government.

10. NEXT MEETING:

To be scheduled in August 2023.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair announced the meeting was closed at 10.26am.