

MEEKATHARRA AIRPORT ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016 - 2021



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This plan was adopted by the Shire of Meekatharra at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 19 March 2016


 Roy McClymont
 Chief Executive Office

MEEKATHARRA AIRPORT ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016 - 2021

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INTRODUCTION

This Strategy has been prepared to assist in meeting the required environmental obligations at the Meekatharra Airport

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Various legal Acts and Regulations pertain to the environmental effects of operating the Meekatharra Airport.

The Airport is governed by National and State laws with the prime National legislation being The *Airports Act 1996 (the Act)*

The **Meekatharra Airport Environment Management Strategy 2015** (the Strategy), which is a requirement of the Act and which describes the environmental management objectives and the actions to be taken to achieve them, is also applicable.

These requirements are overseen and, where necessary, enforced by the **Airport Manager** under direction of the Airport owner being the Shire of Meekatharra.

The Act, the Regulations and the Strategy are binding on all operators at the Airport – This not only includes the owner of Meekatharra Airport but all other operators using the Airport. That is, all lessees and sub-lessees, contractors and sub-contractors as well as casual or visiting operators at the Airport; indeed, anyone that has business at the Airport.

STATE LEGISLATION

Western Australian state legislation relating to occupational health and safety matters, pollution, ozone depleting substances and the use of pesticides also applies at Meekatharra Airport.

It is the responsibility of the Owners, Managers, lessees and sub-lessees, contractors and sub-contractors as well as casual or visiting operators to establish and understand the requirements of legislation that may affect the operations of the Meekatharra Airport.

The most common legislation has been included as a guide only.



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Examples

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION	RELEVANCE
<i>Bushfires Act 1942</i> <i>Bushfires Regulations 1954</i>	This Act outlines regulations and establishes penalties for certain acts relating to lighting fires.
<i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i> <i>Emergency Management Regulations 2006</i>	This Act outlines the establishment of the Department of Fire And Emergency Services, the operational and emergency response activities of the service, the protection of life, property and the environment against fires and other emergencies and for related purposes
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> <i>Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990</i> <i>Heritage of Western Australia Regulations 1991</i>	These Acts and Regulations provide a system for the identification, assessment, recording, conservation and protection of places and objects of prehistoric, protohistoric, social, aesthetic or scientific value, including geological structures, fossils, archaeological sites, ruins, buildings, gardens, landscapes, coastlines and plant and animal communities or ecosystems of the State. Although Aboriginal sacred sites and movable property located on those sites are excluded from the Act, it covers Aboriginal portable objects, such as ceremonial objects, log / bark coffins, human remains, portable rock / wood carvings or engravings and stone tools. Under this Act, it is an offence to desecrate or damage such objects without approval. All declared places and objects are located on the WA Heritage Register. The WA Archaeological Resources Database, maintained by the Heritage Council of WA is also established under the Act. Under the Heritage Conservation Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Meekatharra must be notified of the discovery of an Aboriginal burial site or skeletal remains, and has power to make decisions about appropriate protection of an Aboriginal burial site.
<i>Litter Act 1979</i>	This Act outlines regulations and establishes penalties for certain offences relating to litter.
<i>Road Traffic (Vehicles) Act 2012</i>	This Act outlines Australian vehicle standard rules to ensure that vehicles do not emit visible emissions for a continuous period of greater than 10 seconds, unless the emissions are visible only because of heat or the condensation of water vapour.
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> <i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i> <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i>	This Act protects and where practicable, restores and enhances the quality of the WA environment; encourages ecologically sustainable development and facilitates the implementation of NEPMs established by the National Environment Protection Council. This act specifies: - That in carrying out an activity that generates waste, take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise environmental harm and to

	<p>reduce the amount of waste. In choosing the measures, consider the nature of the harm, the sensitivity of the receiving environment, best practice for the activity, and the financial implications of implementing the measures.</p> <p>- Do not store a contaminant or waste where it is reasonably likely that it could leak, spill, or escape from storage into the environment and cause environmental harm.</p>
<p><i>Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004</i> <i>Dangerous Goods Safety (Security Risk Substances) Regulations 2007</i> <i>Dangerous Goods Safety (Storage and Handling of Non-explosives)</i></p>	<p>These Acts and Regulations set out general duties for the manufacture, storage, transport, transfer, sale and use of dangerous goods.</p>
<p><i>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984</i> <i>Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996</i></p>	<p>The Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 regulates workplace health and safety (WHS) in the WA. It specifically aims to protect people at workplaces from risk to their health or safety and to promote safe and healthy work environments. The Act has yet to be modified to fall in line with the National ‘harmonisation’ model.</p>

DUTY OF CARE

ENVIRONMENT INCIDENTS

The Airports Act 1996 (the Act) makes it an offence to cause environmental pollution and creates the concepts of environmental harm and environmental nuisance.

The Regulations place a “duty of care” on all operators at the Meekatharra Airport to prevent pollution and to preserve the environment.

It is a requirement that the Meekatharra Airport monitor environmental incidents and that all incidents that reach prescribed levels are reported to the Department of Environmental Regulation.

This means that operators will be required;

- Take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent pollution and ensure there are no adverse environmental consequences from their operations; and

if prevention isn’t possible;



- Take all reasonable and practicable measures to minimise pollution and adverse environmental consequences from their operations or as a result of an incident.

Operators will be required to;

- Identify and assess all the environmental risks associated with their operations;
- Adopt or install appropriate measures to prevent pollution – or to minimise it if prevention isn't possible;
- Check and maintain their pollution control measures on a regular basis to make sure they operate effectively and meet current standards.

Spill Response Kits in the Yellow wheelie bins are positioned at strategic intervals on the airside aprons. They are provided for a quick response to fuel, chemical or sewage spills.

The Airport Manager must be notified on 0417 968 115 as soon as anyone becomes aware of an incident that may cause environmental harm (e.g. a fuel or chemical spills, dumped waste materials).

AIR

The Regulations define air pollution as the presence of a substance in the air that can cause environmental harm or unreasonable inconvenience to another person, and establish standards for the protection of air quality at the Airport.

Dust, gases, smoke and other particulates from activities or the products and equipment used can cause air pollution.

Particulate emissions or dust have the greatest potential to affect off site air quality for the Airport, and can be generated by clearing of vegetation, subsoil removal and stockpiling, excavation, vehicle movement and wind erosion from exposed areas.

To protect air quality at the Airport operators will be required to;

- Prevent uncontrolled emissions of substances that can cause air pollution from any premises and activities.



Further actions to be undertaken to protect air quality at the Airport include;

- Source and use low volatile products (paints); use water based or biodegradable products, where practicable.
- Minimise the use of solvent products and keep them stored in a sealed container when not in use.
- Inspection and maintenance of air conditioning plant cooling towers on a regular basis.
- Inspect and maintain air conditioning units regularly to ensure refrigerant gases aren't escaping.
- Install and use fire extinguishers that are appropriate for the type of fires that could occur in their premises.
- No burning materials or lighting of fires at the Airport unless authorised by the Airport Manager. Apart from being an air pollutant smoke is an operational hazard.
- Preventative measures will be undertaken to minimise fugitive dust sources as part of daily operations.

WATER

The Regulations define water pollution as the introduction of any substance to water that causes or is reasonably likely to cause it to be adversely affected, or to adversely affect its beneficial use. The Regulations also establish standards for the protection of water quality at the Airport. Meekatharra Airport is required to monitor water quality and if pollution is detected to notify the Department of Environment Regulation.

To protect water quality on the Airport will be required to;

- Prevent anything other than rain water from entering stormwater drains on and near any premises.
- Notify the Airport Manager on 0417 968 115 immediately of any fuel, chemical or paint spill that threatens stormwater drains and also if water that is contaminated in any way enters a stormwater drain.

Actions to be undertaken to protect water quality at the Airport include;

- Storage of fuel, oil, chemical and paint products in a bunded area that is well away from any drainage point.
- Capture and clean-up all fuel, oil, chemical product and paint spills and dispose of the spilled product appropriately.





Never wash spilled products down stormwater drains or sinks.

- Sweep or dry-mop workshop or hangar floors; never hose them unless all the water can be collected for appropriate disposal, or drained through an approved waste system.
- Wash vehicles in an approved vehicle wash bay. Never allow wash water to enter a stormwater drain.
- Ensure the capture of all waste solvents and chemicals for disposal via an appropriately licensed waste contractor.
- Ensure all drains inside from any building aren't connected to stormwater.
- Check that all hand basins on your premises are connected to an approved sewerage point. It's illegal to discharge water from hand basins to stormwater or the ground outside.
- Ensure all taps outside a building has an appropriate capture of runoff water.

Meekatharra Airport supports the efficient use of water and encourages all operators on the Airport to do the same to conserve this resource.

SOIL

The Regulations define soil pollution as the contamination of land including groundwater by a substance that causes or is reasonably likely to cause it to be adversely affected, or to have an adverse effect on the current or a proposed use of the land, or groundwater.

The Regulations establish standards for the protection of soil quality at the Airport and require Meekatharra Airport to monitor for soil pollution. If soil contamination is detected during monitoring the Shire is required to notify the Department of Environment Regulation.

To protect soil from contamination on the Airport every effort should be made to:

- Prevent any contaminating materials such as oil, fuel, chemicals, paint, solvents and metal filings from entering the soil during any activity being carried out.
- Notify the Airport Manager on 0417 968 115 if you become aware of, or you suspect, soil contamination has occurred on the Airport grounds.

Actions to be taken to prevent soil contamination include:

- Conduct spray painting in a purpose built spray paint booth. If spray painting in a purpose built booth isn't practical because it's a one-off event or the item is too large for a local spray paint booth, spray painting can be conducted outside, but only during calm conditions and while using a drop-sheet large enough to catch all overspray. No paint should be left on the soil or apron surface.
- Conduct sand blasting in a booth fitted with a dust extraction system. If that isn't practicable, sand items indoors and sweep up all sanding residue. Wrap all waste material in plastic or place it in a container and dispose of it appropriately. If sanding indoors isn't practicable then sanding can occur outdoors but only during calm conditions and a drop sheet used to catch all sanding residue. When finished collect the sanding residue and dispose of it appropriately.
- Contact the Airport Manager on 0417 968 115 before fill or soil material is brought onto the Airport. Any soil, gravel, sand or rock that is brought onto the Airport must be free of all contaminants.
- All tenants for each development must use Best Practice methods for control of Soil Erosion and Sediment Control.

NOISE

The Regulations define offensive noise as noise that is generated at a volume, or in a way or circumstance, that intrudes offensively on individual, community or commercial amenity. The Regulations establish guidelines for the assessment of excessive noise and require Meekatharra Airport to monitor noise levels at the Airport.

To manage noise at the Airport all parties must endeavour to;

- Prevent the generation of offensive noise from Airport operations.
- Minimise the generation of offensive noise if you can't prevent it.

Actions to be undertaken to prevent the generation of offensive noise include;

- Engine ground running is to be conducted in the designated areas as approved by the Airport Manager.
- Ensure all vehicles and equipment is fitted with noise reducing equipment as specified by the manufacturer.





- Ensure the noise reducing equipment fitted to vehicles and equipment is in good working order and appropriately maintained.

The Airport Manager is to be advised on 0417 968 115 if an activity that may generate excessive noise, that may be offensive to other people, is to be undertaken.

WASTE

Waste management at the Meekatharra Airport is controlled under the Health Act and Regulations.

The objective of the Act is to ensure the safe handling and disposal of all waste by, amongst other things;

- Ensuring people and the community are not exposed to a hazard;
- and
- Effectively controlling the disposal of waste.

The Act places a general duty on all persons who conduct an activity or perform an action likely to generate waste to take all reasonable and practicable measure to;

- Prevent or minimise pollution or environmental harm (as a result of the waste);
- Correctly handle the waste in accordance with prescribed manners;
- and
- Reduce the amount of waste.

Actions to be undertaken to minimise your waste and ensure it is disposed appropriately include;

- Purchase only what is needed for a particular job. Only buy in bulk if it is known all the materials will be used.
- The Reuse or recycling of materials is encouraged. Cardboard, paper and most plastics can all be recycled at the recycling depot in Railway St, Meekatharra.

- Store all waste materials properly before disposal. Separate different wastes according to type;
- Ensure that rainwater can't accumulate in stored wastes and create a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- The Shire of Meekatharra provides a regular waste pick up service. Dispose of waste materials frequently; don't allow them to accumulate. Accumulating waste materials outside any premises isn't permitted because it constitutes a safety and environmental hazard.
- Dispose of the waste materials appropriately. Certain types of waste are scheduled and have special requirements for their disposal; This includes chemicals and their containers; paints including the liquids used to clean paint equipment; oil and grease including grease trap waste; asbestos containing materials; tyres; refrigerant gases; lead acid batteries.
- Controlled waste materials are not to be placed into common rubbish receptacles.

Only approved and licenced waste contractors will be used. Where applicable a receipt for the materials removed will be requested.

DANGEROUS GOODS & CHEMICALS

Most workplace chemicals including solvents, fuel, oil and even paint are classified as Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Substances. Their sale, use, storage and disposal are subject to a variety of Regulations and Standards.

Key requirements for the use and storage of dangerous goods or hazardous chemicals are:

- Up-to-date Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for all the dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals used or stored at the airport. Copies of the MSDS should be obtained from supplier or the manufacturer of the product.
 - Dangerous goods or hazardous chemicals should only be used by properly trained persons; this means that they know where to find the MSDS for the products they use and that they can read and understand the MSDS instructions. They also know the risks involved with using the product
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be used by any person using dangerous goods or hazardous chemicals.
- All containers in which dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals must be kept are labelled in a way that their content



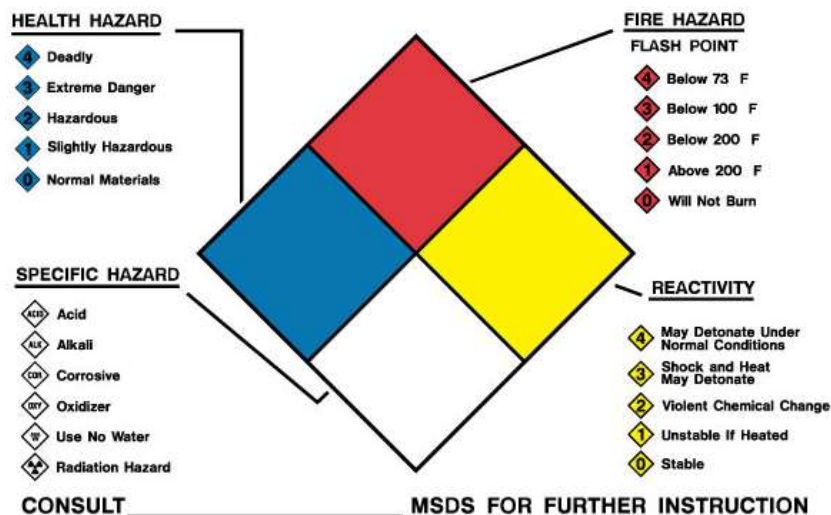


can be easily identified; this includes containers into which these products may be decanted for use. Food containers must not be used.

- The storage of dangerous goods and hazardous substances are to be in an appropriate manner; that is, keeping substances that may react with each other separate and ensuring that any accidental leaks won't cause harm to people or the environment.
- If storage of a substance exceeds the prescribed level as defined by the Work Health and Safety Regulations, WA Worksafe will be notified.
- Persons using or storing dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals will be prepared for any potential accidents that may occur; This means a spill kit stocked with sufficient quantities of an appropriate absorbent material for the type of products used or stored is available and the appropriate firefighting equipment for the types of fire that could be associated with the products use.
- Persons must be trained in responding to accidents of the type that could occur during the use or storage of these products.

REMEMBER: If you use or store any dangerous goods or hazardous chemicals you are responsible for knowing what is required of you under the law.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS



HOUSE KEEPING

Good housekeeping will not only boost the professional image of the airport, it will also make it the less likely of a costly accident or incident. It is required that;

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- The interior and the exterior of premises are kept in a neat and tidy condition, in accordance with Lease Agreements. This includes removing any litter that may accumulate around a premise.
- All excess parts, drums and other materials are stored in an appropriate storage facility.
- The appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers are held, as per the Building code of Australia (This will be based on the type of activities conducted and the products used).
- All fire extinguishers are regularly checked by an appropriately qualified person as per AS 1851-2005: Maintenance of fire protection systems.
- Appropriate signage is clearly visible for the products stored on or used and for the fire equipment.

RESOURCE USE

All the products that are purchased have some environmental effect associated with their manufacture, use and disposal. Products with low environmental footprints that still meet the required quality criteria should be used where possible.

It is suggested that the following principles to rate and compare competing products and services:

- Avoid products or services made with, containing or using environmentally harmful substances.
- Avoid over packaged goods.
- Maximise the use of recycled or recyclable products.
- Minimise the use of non-renewable resources.
- Buy only what is needed, rather than in bulk.
- Buy energy efficient equipment.
- Buy water saving equipment and products
- Work with suppliers and contractors who have adopted an environmental policy.

FLORA & FAUNA

The Regulations place a duty on all operators at the Airport to make sure there are no adverse consequences for local flora and fauna and their habitat as a result of their activities.

Guidelines for the removal of vegetation issued by the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) makes it illegal to





remove, or prune, any native vegetation at the Airport without first consulting DER.

The Meekatharra Airport has several areas of natural vegetation every effort will be undertaken to withhold those areas from development.

To protect flora and fauna on the Airport the following will be considered;

- The likely impact of the activities on flora and fauna at the Airport,
- and
- All reasonable and practicable measures should be investigated to ensure that activities don't impact adversely on the flora and fauna at the Airport.
- Ensure that the plant species used for landscaping are suitable for use on the Airport.

WEED MANAGEMENT

The Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 and Regulations 2013 lists the weeds and organisms that are required to be controlled. It is noted that controlling pests is the responsibility of the land manager.

There are 3 classes of weeds

a) Category 1 (C1) — Exclusion: if in the opinion of the Minister introduction of the declared pest into an area or part of an area for which it is declared should be prevented;

(b) Category 2 (C2) — Eradication: if in the opinion of the Minister eradication of the declared pest from an area or part of an area for which it is declared is feasible;

(c) Category 3 (C3) — Management: if in the opinion of the Minister eradication of the declared pest from an area or part of an area for which it is declared is not feasible but that it is necessary to —

(i) alleviate the harmful impact of the declared pest in the area; or

(ii) reduce the number or distribution of the declared pest in the area;
or

(iii) prevent or contain the spread of the declared pest in the area.

The following categories are designated as the control categories to which a prohibited organism may be assigned for the reasons stated in relation to that category —

(a) Category 1 (C1) — Exclusion: if in the opinion of the Minister introduction of the prohibited organism into the State or a part of the State should be prevented;

(b) Category 2 (C2) — Eradication: if in the opinion of the Minister eradication of the prohibited organism from the State or a part of the State is feasible.

Airport ground-staff conduct regular checks for declared pests (Weeds) and are aware of possible organism pests; however they have restricted abilities to detect an organism pest.

CULTURAL

The Regulations place a duty on all operators at the Airport to make sure there are no adverse consequences for existing aesthetic, cultural, historical, social and scientific values of the local area; this includes any areas of indigenous significance on the Airport.

To date, there haven't been any sites of cultural significance identified at Meekatharra Airport.

The Aerodrome is a recognised heritage site from WWII being listed on the State Heritage Register reference 25167

To protect the aesthetic, cultural, historical, social and scientific values of the local area all activities undertaken or any new developments considered will be assessed.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The environmental performance of the Airport is monitored on a continuing basis. Any issues identified should be raised with the Airport Manager. The Department of Environmental Regulation or Work Safe WA may conduct an audit of Airport operations as a whole or they may audit just a single operator.

All operators at the Airport should be aware of their responsibilities and the requirements of the various Acts and Regulations so as to best meet the requirements of this Strategy.



CONCLUSION

The Shire of Meekatharra as owner of the Meekatharra Aerodrome aims to comply with all aspects of good environment management by being vigilant and seeking to adopt best practice processes and a proactive attitude.



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