

Commercial in Confidence

28 June 2023

Mr Stuart Hobley
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Cunderdin
PO Box 100
Cunderdin, WA, 6407

Via email: CEO@cunderdin.wa.gov.au

Dear Stuart,

End of Option Period – Option to Lease, Cunderdin Aerodrome

I am writing to confirm that Ascent will not be requesting an extension to the lease option agreement relating to the Cunderdin Aerodrome. Despite Ascent's best efforts, and the continued support of the Shire of Cunderdin, we have been unable to secure the aviation enterprise necessary to exercise the option.

While we are disappointed we haven't been able to build on our early successes, we are pleased that we were able to deliver at least two significant outcomes for the Shire and its community – the retention of the TAF and NDB at Cunderdin Aerodrome, and the expansion of the Cunderdin Agricultural College farming area.

In ~2013, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and Airservices Australia (ASA) decommissioned the vast majority of weather monitoring and reporting services (TAFs), and associated aerodrome NDBs from regional aerodromes around the country. Ascent garnered written support from various aviation enterprises at Perth and Jandakot airports, and made representations to BoM and ASA to retain both the TAFs and NDB at Cunderdin. These endeavours were successful, resulting in the continued "registered" status and use of the aerodrome by various fee-paying pilots and flying schools.

Secondly, in our pursuit of modest additional land for a minor future runway extension, Ascent secured the sale of the Syme family farm, "*Greyhome*", adjacent to Cunderdin Agricultural College. Ascent negotiated the price, secured the property under an option agreement, then led the "Royalties for Regions" grant submission with the WDC, assisting the college Headmaster (Mr Bernard Beatty) and the WA Department of Education to complete the application. The successful award was announced in December 2014, enabling the expansion of Cunderdin Agricultural College to more than 3,000ha of arable farmland.

We'd like to think that these two significant contributions to the Cunderdin community is a demonstrable reflection of the commitment we had to delivering tangible benefits to Cunderdin by our genuine efforts to establish our aviation business at the aerodrome.

Your aerodrome is still the single best location in Western Australia to establish a flying school. And we will continue to pursue that. However, we won't ask to tie up the aerodrome any longer while doing so, and we wish the Shire and its next aerodrome proponent the very best in commercialising the site.

If the Shire would like to explore whether any future commercialising of the site might be assisted by Ascent's agreement with the Minister for Education in relation to the reconfiguration of land surrounding the aerodrome, please let us know as we'd be very pleased to provide any reasonable assistance we can.

We thank you, Stuart, and the shire councillors past and present, for their support over what was a very fluid number of years. And while we haven't enjoyed the success we'd hoped for, it certainly was not from lack of support from you, Peter Naylor before you, nor the councillors. Please convey our thanks and gratitude to the Shire councillors (and, if you wish, a copy of this letter can be shared with the councillors on a 'commercial in confidence' basis).

Please feel free to contact me at any time should you wish to discuss any ways Ascent might be able to assist with the aerodrome in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Benjamin Reid
Managing Director