

Rottnest Island Aerodrome Usage Fees

The Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) is responsible for the maintenance, upkeep and administration of the Rottnest Island Aerodrome. The RIA, which is largely self-funded, does not receive any State or Commonwealth funding for the Aerodrome.

Regulation 5 of the *Rottnest Island Regulations 1988* (the Regulations) states that:

“an admission fee...is payable in respect of every person who enters within the limits of the Island”.

Regulation 7B (1) and (2) relating to Aerodrome Usage Fees states that:

“...the owner of any aircraft in which persons are carried to the Island shall pay to the Authority, for each occasion when the aircraft lands on the Island, the aerodrome usage fee set out in Schedule 6 item 1”.

“If the owner of an aircraft pays the applicable aerodrome usage fee under regulation 7B or annual payment under regulation 7C, a person who is carried to the Island in the aircraft shall be deemed to have paid the admission fee prescribed by regulation 5”.

The revenue received from the Aerodrome Usage Fees compensates, in part, for the cost of maintaining the airport whilst the Admission Fee contributes to the cost associated with the provision of Rottnest Island's essential infrastructure and services, including utilities such as water, wastewater, electricity, waste, community buildings and services, emergency management, heritage management, marine and terrestrial environmental management. These aspects of the Island are used and enjoyed by all visitors to Rottnest Island and are largely self-funded by the RIA without funding from the State or Federal Governments.

The RIA identified that in the past the Admission Fee component of the Aerodrome Usage Fees has been inequitable (in favour of aircraft) when considered against other means of transport to Rottnest Island, due to the Admission Fee component not having been adequately recovered.

To partially address this inequity, the RIA has increased the Aerodrome Usage Fees, to better reflect the Admission Fee that is required to be paid by all visitors to Rottnest Island.

The current Aerodrome Usage Fee is \$52.50.

The Admission Fee component within the Aerodrome Usage Fee has been based on an average of two passengers being carried on each aircraft. On this basis, if an aircraft has two passengers each paying the required Admission Fee of \$18.00 (2x\$18.00 = \$36.00) only \$16.50 of the total fee is for the usage of the Aerodrome. An aircraft carrying three or more passengers currently receives a significant saving on the required Admission Fees.

The owner of an aircraft in which visitors are carried to the Island may pay to the RIA, an annual payment in lieu of the Aerodrome Usage Fee in advance of and in respect of a financial year.

Regulation 7 Annual Fee for non-commercial vessels or aircraft in lieu of admission fees.

Non-commercial aircraft are required to pay Rottnest Island aerodrome usage fees and admission fees in accordance with r.7B and r.7C of the Regulations. Admission fees were combined with aerodrome usage fees in 2011 to improve compliance and to reduce burden on aircraft pilots who previously were required to attend the Rottnest Island Visitor Centre to purchase admission fees for their passengers.

As a result of this amendment, there was no provision in the Regulations to pay a fee solely for the use of the aerodrome to which the annual fee in lieu of admission fees could be added. This was an oversight when the regulations were amended in 2011 and had created an anomaly in the aircraft fee structure. The annual fee in lieu of admission fees was therefore removed from the Rottnest Island Regulations on 26 October 2016.

Regulation 7C(1-3) relating to an annual payment in lieu of aerodrome usage fees states that:

“The operator of an aircraft in which persons are carried to the Island may pay to the Authority, instead of the aerodrome usage fee referred to in regulation 7B for each occasion when the aircraft lands at the Island, an annual payment:

- (a) in advance of and in respect of a financial year; and
- (b) calculated by multiplying the amount set out in Schedule 6 item 2 by the number of visits declared by the operator to be made by the aircraft to the Island during that financial year.

At the time when the operator of an aircraft makes a declaration of the number of visits to be made by the aircraft to the Island during a financial year, the operator shall also declare the number of visits made by the aircraft to the Island during the previous financial year.

If the number of visits made by an aircraft to the Island during the previous financial year is different from the number declared by the operator in respect of that financial year, the RIA may make an appropriate adjustment to the annual payment”.

The RIA distinguishes between ‘landings’ and ‘training practice approaches’ on the Island. No fees will be levied for practice approaches that form part of training operations. Fees for all other landings (including ‘touch-and-gos’ and ‘stop-and-gos’) will be levied accordingly.

To calculate and pay your usage fee, please complete and sign the ‘Calculation of Annual Payments’ form which can be found at <http://rotnnestisland.com/byair>

If you have any questions please contact the General Manager of Avdata Australia on 02 6262 8111.



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