



Tuesday, 9th January 2018

Peter Thompson
General Manager – City of Wagga Wagga
PO Box 20
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Email: thompson.peter@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Greg Conkey OAM
Mayor – City of Wagga Wagga
PO Box 20
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Email: councillor.conkey@wagga.nsw.gov.au

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
PO Box 6022
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia.

Ross Tyson
Editor – Daily Advertiser
Email: ross.tyson@fairfaxmedia.com.au

**AOPA Australia calls on City of Wagga to unlock its airport’s potential,
by removing unnecessary general aviation landing and parking charges.**

Dear Mr Thompson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia (AOPA Australia) and your local general aviation community, calling on the City of Wagga to remove general aviation landing and overnight parking fees, so as to encourage greater use of your airport by private and business aircraft participants.

Unlike general aviation users, at any time of the year Australians are encouraged (via local and state funded marketing initiatives) to drive into the region to enjoy the Council’s managed public parks, public spaces, art projects, camping grounds along with lakes and rivers – all of which are free to use. These fantastic public facilities cost the City of Wagga millions maintain, and each play an invaluable role in helping attract the 1.3 million tourists and visitors who invest some \$340 million locally and keeping some 35,000-people employed.

The AOPA Australia notes that local and visiting boat owners are not required to pay any landing charges at ramps nor are they required to pay parking fees for their vehicles and trailers. Caravan owners are not required to pay landing fees or parking charges at council owned and managed camping sites. Nor are bus and truck owners required to pay any fees or charges for visiting the city.

However, should a tourist or visitor choose to fly their general aviation aircraft to Wagga Wagga, they are required to pay landing fees and parking charges – **simply because they used a runway not a highway.**

Wagga Wagga Airport is a community owned Council managed asset and is no different to the myriad of boat ramps, camping grounds and other public space assets, which are provided to improve the lives and lifestyles of your local residents, tourists and visitors alike.

Yet, the City of Wagga is imposing special and unique conditions that discriminate private and private business aircraft owners, requiring them to pay fees and charges that are not expected or levied against their boating, camping, caravanning or road-travelling counterparts, who are all using public facilities that cost millions to maintain.

Therefore, the AOPA Australia is calling on the City of Wagga to end the unfair discrimination of aircraft owners, by removing unnecessary landing and overnight parking charges at the Wagga Wagga Airport, which are detracting users and negatively impacting on the tourism potential of the asset.

The AOPA Australia would appreciate an opportunity to address a meeting of the Councilors of the City of Wagga, to discuss this important matter. If an appropriate time could be arranged, we shall be happy to fly to your city to make our presentation.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting soon.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Morgan', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal stroke at the end.

BENJAMIN MORGAN
Executive Director

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia (AOPA Australia)
Hangar 600, Prentice Street, Bankstown Airport NSW 2200 Australia.
PO BOX 26, Georges Hall NSW 2198 Australia.

Telephone: (02) 9791 9099
Mobile: 0415 577 724