



Airport Landing fees and Fuel Costs

Council has an obligation under the Local Government Act to either recover the cost of providing a service or, recognise the community donation associated with that service.

The decision to impose charges was reflective of the additional cost to Council and benefit received by the aeroplane operators.

Council was one of the last Council's in the region to impose landing fees and is one of the few to exempt the regular passenger services (Rex Airlines).

Council is the only shire in this region that provides an airport with subsidised refuelling facilities, most others do not provide fuel and the pilot must make an arrangement with a private operator. In such cases the cost is not borne by the Council.

The cost of transporting Avgas and JetA fuel, storing it and ensuring that it is safe for aircraft use is so prohibitive that in many cases only specialist agencies provide this service or none is provided at all.

JetA fuel is purchased in 200 litre drums, has to be manually pumped and has a storage life of 12 months. Avgas is supplied in bulk and stored in underground tanks and a paid employee is required to provide the refuelling service. Council has examined options for 24 hour fuel dispenser but the capital cost is excessive.

Council has imposed minimal airport landing charges and additional charges for Avgas based on the cost to Council plus 20% administration. Also a charge for the Council staff member to refuel the plane is levied based on the estimated time involved at Council's normal rates.

Council does not impose landing charges on the RFDS or Rex Airlines due to the community benefit received, all other users are required to pay what are considered to be the approximate additional costs of having a Council employee at the airport at any hour, on weekends and afterhours to provide a service.

The airport landing fees and refuelling costs cover only 24% of the actual cost of providing the service. This charge then becomes a reasonable 'user pays' fee.

If you have any further queries please feel free to contact the Council's Director of Works and Operations, Mr Harin Karra email dwo@boulia.qld.gov.au