

Media release

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Airservices introduces services to Port Hedland Airport

Airservices Australia, the nation's air traffic management provider will be delivering new services for Port Hedland residents with the introduction of an Aerodrome Flight Information Service (AFIS) and Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting service (ARFF) at the airport.

Airservices has been closely monitoring air traffic numbers at Port Hedland in anticipation of the requirement to introduce the AFIS and ARFF services. These services will provide airlines with directed traffic information, emergency services alerts, local weather advice and aviation rescue and fire fighting services.

Airservices Executive General Manager ARFF, Michelle Bennetts says, "Airservices Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Service will have two large MK8 Rosenbauer fire fighting vehicles housed in an interim fire station at the airport with a new fire station to be built by mid 2014.

"The re-introduction of fire fighting services at Port Hedland will protect the community by offering vital first response capabilities to airport emergencies. The re-introduction of this service at Port Hedland provides an added layer of safety to airport users in north-west WA."

She added, "With one of the largest and most professional aviation rescue and fire fighting services in the world, the community can be confident that in the unlikely event of an incident anywhere on the airport, we will be able to respond within minutes with appropriately trained personnel and state-of-the-art equipment."

Airservices had previously operated an aviation rescue fire fighting service at Port Hedland until 2003 when the service was withdrawn following a steady decrease in passenger numbers, caused by a downturn in the resources sector.

Airservices is investing significantly in infrastructure and facilities to support an increase in air traffic levels – particularly in the state's north-west. This has included re-establishing a fire service and air traffic control tower at Karratha and Broome airports and installing a radar at Paraburdoo.

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