

George Town Airport Association (GTAA) - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Association?

The airport association is an incorporated body under the Tasmanian Associations Incorporation Act 1964. It was incorporated in October 1997 and holds a lease with the George Town Council to operate and maintain the George Town airport.

George Town airport has a 1km all weather sealed strip (06/24) with Pilot Activated Lighting (PAL) and grass cross strips that are suitable only for light aircraft. The CTAF frequency is 127.3 MHz and the PAL is 121.3 MHz.

The aims of the Association include:

- The encouragement and development of an airstrip at George Town
- Provide a centre of information and advice on the operation of the airfield

What does the Association do?

The Association holds a lease with the George Town Council and it is responsible to operate and maintain the airport.

A management committee manages the airport on behalf of the Association members. Committee members are elected from the financial members of the Association and serve for a term of one year and can serve for more than one term, if re-elected.

Airfield maintenance is mostly, but not limited to, grounds maintenance. Members volunteering their time and effort usually complete this. Specialist contractors are used as needed.

Importantly, the Association aims to only recover via annual subscriptions the operating costs and funds to complete improvements that financial members wish to see completed.

Benefits of being a member

Being a current financial full member of the Association gives you:

- the option to build and access your own hanger
- full use of the airport facilities – main sealed all weather strip, the grass cross strips, (all with no landing fees), and the club house; and
- a financial share in the adjacent grass runway property.

Costs

There is a one off full membership fee of \$5,000 This purchases a Unit in the Trust that owns the grass cross strip land and full access to the council owned strip and land.

All Association members are expected to pay an annual subscription that is calculated on the floor area of your hanger. A typical subscription is between \$1,200 to \$1,500 per annum.

This fee is kept as low as possible consistent with combined fees covering lease and maintenance costs.

A quarterly electricity connection charge is also invoiced to connected hanger owners, together with the cost of electricity used. All connected hangars are required to be metered.

Who owns the George Town airport?

The sealed main strip and land immediately around it, including the area that hangar are now constructed on is owned by the George Town Council.

Immediately to the north of the main sealed strip are two grassed cross strips. This land is owned by the airport association. See the diagram below.



How long is the Association lease?

The lease with the council extends until 2018 with a ten year extension option, with further terms to be negotiated with the council at that time. The Association pay around \$1,000 per month lease to the Council (as at 2017).

Can I build a hanger on the airfield?

Yes, as a full financial member of the Association you can build a hanger on the airfield subject to the approval by the association management committee. You then require formal approval under the George Town Council planning scheme.

Our lease with the council may require the removal of hangers, if the lease were to be terminated. This is not expected and would be a most unusual set of circumstances.

If I build a hanger what costs am I responsible for?

Simply all of them!

Design and construction, geo technical tests, council planning approval, project management (if needed), excavation, construction, clean up and electrical connection. The taxiway in front of the hanger, downpipe connection and local drainage works are the responsibility of the new hanger owner.

Can I rent hanger space at George Town?

It is possible to rent hanger space at the airport if there is space available as a Flying Member of the Association. In addition to any rental paid to the hangar owner you are required to pay the Association an annual fee of \$100 for 'Flying Membership' (current as at 2017). This money goes towards aerodrome maintenance.

Operating from George Town

We have neighbours and it helps all of us if we fly neighbourly!

This means all circuits must be towards Bass Strait (the wet stuff to the north of the airport!) when operating from the airport.

Flights over George Town and Low Head houses should be avoided and where necessary be no lower than 1500 ft AGL.

Anything else?

When you look at the airport what you see is what you get – at this stage the taxiways and short term parking areas are grassed and as we are in Tassie it does rain.

There will times when as a pilot in command you will need to exercise your judgement to ensure the ground conditions are suitable for the safe operation of your aircraft. If damage is caused to the

taxiways or parking area by the operation of an aircraft the committee may require the aircraft operator to pay for the cost of repairs. The Association is not responsible for any aircraft damage.

Motor vehicles are not allowed on runways without the express permission of the management committee. There will be times when the taxiways, hangar aprons, and aircraft parking areas are closed to vehicles due to ground conditions caused by inclement weather.

Importantly the Association aims to only recover via annual subscriptions, the operating costs and funds needed to maintain and complete improvements to the property that the financial members wish to see completed. Capital expenditure requires the passing of an approval motion at a Committee meeting, unless urgency dictates otherwise.