



## Plain sailing now...

★ **THIS RAAF Dakota would have ended up as a target in cluster bomb trials at Woomera but for public reaction in the press and parliament.**

Intervention of state and federal politicians resulted in the plane being acquired by the West Australian Air Force Association for its aviation museum at Bull Creek.

The Dakota was the last of 124 acquired by the RAAF in 1945. It was put into service in Japan, Korea, and

Butterworth (Malaysia) until being stationed in Darwin to replace one destroyed in Cyclone Tracy. For a few years, before being withdrawn from service in 1980, it was used in surveillance patrols along Australia's northern coastline.

After being handed over at Perth Airport in a ceremony involving Air Commodore Ashworth, commanding officer of RAAF Pearce, Les Gordon, president of the W.A. Air Force Association and federal MP Peter Shack, the plane was towed, with wings removed, to Bull Creek.

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