



DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Report on Meeting No 1 – 17 MARCH 2011

The Darwin International Airport (DIA) Community Consultation group held its first meeting on 17 March 2011 and outcomes of that meeting are outlined below.

Context of Community Consultation Group

The context for the institution of the Community Consultation Group was discussed. This included that it is an initiative arising from the Aviation White Paper which sets out the federal government aviation policy. It was acknowledged that the Community Consultation Group would be important as it provided a forum to seek community and industry input and views on issues and developments.

Sarah Butterworth was welcomed to the role of Independent Chair.

Terms of Reference

The Draft terms of Reference were finalised with minor amendment.

Darwin as an Airports Act Airport and Joint User Airport

The Consultation Group was provided with an overview of the statutory and operational context of DIA as both a core regulated airport under the *Airports Act 1996* and a Joint User Airport with military and civil aircraft operations.

Airline Pricing Agreement and Terminal Expansion

The Consultation group was briefed that agreement with airlines on long term pricing has enabled DIA to recommence work on the terminal expansion project.

DIA presented its thinking on the major terminal expansion project which involves both new building and redevelopment of existing areas.

Presentation on 2010 Master Plan

DIA gave a presentation on the DIA 2010 Master Plan which was approved by the federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport in December 2010.

Aircraft Noise

Airservices Australia outlined the role of Airservices in receiving and addressing aircraft noise complaints and also the role of the Noise Ombudsman (Ron Brent). A demonstration of the Airservices Webtrak aircraft noise tool that is currently in use for Sydney Airport was provided.

DIA tabled the low number of civil aircraft noise complaints received during the 2009/10 financial year and for the 6 months to the end of December 2010. There was general discussion on the

issue of aircraft noise in the Darwin context and the need to prevent inappropriate development in the vicinity of the Airport.

Implementation of Defence Noise and Flight Path Monitoring System

The Department of Defence reported on implementation of a Noise and Flight Path Monitoring System (NFPMS) which is to be installed on RAAF Base Darwin/DIA. The NFPMS is being installed to measure military noise but can also measure civil aircraft noise. Two noise monitoring stations will be on-airport and several others on external sites.

Draft *Significant Impact Guide* issued by Department of Infrastructure and Transport

Department of Infrastructure and Transport presented the draft *Significant Impact on the Local or Regional Community Guide* which has been issued by the Department. The *Significant Impact on the Local or Regional Community Guide* outlines the considerations in deciding whether an on-airport development has significant impact on the local or regional community and hence triggers the requirement for a Major Development Plan.

It was queried whether clearing of vegetation should be included as a consideration. This query was triggered by two aspects of the recently approved Airport Lodge Stage 3 development: firstly, it was not understood that the vegetated area to be cleared was not a part of the Rapid Creek Conservation Zone and secondly, it was felt that insufficient notice was given to interested groups of the building application. DIA undertook to provide as long a notice period as it could for building applications submitted for Airport Building Controller consideration.

The Department highlighted already established environmental triggers for the Major Development Plan process.

Comments are due on 31 March 2011 and the Department is seeking comments from the Consultation Group collectively or by individual members.

Update on Property and Commercial Projects

DIA provided an update on DIA property issues and potential developments. These included:

- the Australian Federal Police (AFP) offices currently under construction; and
- Airport Lodge Stage 3 development.

Airport and Airline Service Developments

DIA provided a comprehensive presentation on airline services, car parking, ground transport options and terminal retail. Included in the presentation were the:

- unique airline operating pattern in Darwin because of flying time to domestic and international destinations and the operation of the domestic – international hub;
- current domestic and international routes and likely development of the Jetstar hub;
- perspectives on DIA charges to airlines; and
- air service development initiatives and DIA objectives in pursuing further airline services.

Points discussed by the Consultation Group included the business community need of a business class offering on international services and the desirability of increased public bus services for both airport employee and passenger purposes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 4 August 2011.