



## **DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP**

### **Report on Meeting No 3 – 1 December 2011**

The Darwin International Airport (DIA) Community Consultation Group held its third meeting on 1 December 2011 and outcomes of the meeting are outlined below.

#### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

Independent Chair Sarah Butterworth welcomed members to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the DIA Community Consultation Group. Apologies were noted.

The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 4 August 2011 were previously settled by circulation.

The Independent Chair observed that the 'education phase' of the Community Consultation Group would be largely complete after today, and that members should think about the issues and role that the Group should focus on in the future. She will be in contact with members prior to the next meeting to discuss the matter.

#### **2. Role of Australian Federal Police at DIA**

Supt Mark Setter, Airport Police Commander, presented on the role of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) at airports and DIA operations.

Topics covered by Supt Setter included:

- principal findings of the Wheeler Review into Australian airport law enforcement and security;
- the Unified Policing Model and its various components;
- DIA AFP capabilities and operations;
- the local emphasis on stakeholder engagement;
- joint operations with NT Police; and
- the decision to withdraw AFP from Alice Springs Airport.

#### **3. Terminal Expansion Project Update**

Alex MacDowell provided an outline of the possible design look for the eastern end Terminal expansion and the approximate timings for the eastern and western end stages of the Terminal expansion project:

- eastern end – construction to commence 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2012 with the construction period being up to 16 months;
- western end – construction to commence early 2013 with a construction period up to 14 months; and
- western end construction will commence before the eastern end is completed.

#### **4. Airline Industry Outlook and Passenger Traffic Performance**

Jim Parashos presented a comprehensive Darwin and Alice Springs overview of passenger traffic outlook for 2011/12 financial year, airline service changes affecting passenger numbers, Qantas Group and Virgin Australia airline strategies and additional Asian opportunities for Darwin international routes due to the extra range afforded by the coming A320neo and B737MAX aircraft.

Jim also outlined new arrangements for managing outdoor and internal advertising.

#### **5. DIA Community Engagement**

Emma Andrew, Communications and Media, outlined the DIA approach to community engagement, corporate giving and sponsorship. Emma's highlights included:

- regular publications - Touchdown, Tenant Times, Plane and Simple and In-Touch (internal newsletter);
- digital communication through Facebook, Twitter, iPhone app & website;
- formal consultation such as through this Community Consultation Group;
- sponsorship of the Darwin International Film Festival, Darwin Fridge Festival and Darwin Festival during 2011; and
- company corporate giving supplemented by staff fundraising activity (eg Golf Day).

#### **6. Community Consultation Group Member Issues**

Dawn Lawrie enquired how the Airport coped with Qantas grounding its fleet in October. Tom Ganley outlined that there was a significant impact but that fortunately Darwin still had Qantaslink services operating. Ms Lawrie also queried the impact on aircraft operations of the Evolution building exceeding the maximum allowable building height in the CBD. Linda Pollard outlined that the Defence sponsored RAAF Base External Land Use Study and the work by the National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group should assist the protection of RAAF Base Darwin/DIA aircraft operations in the future. WGCDR Graham observed that the set of circumstances around the approval of a building penetrating aircraft circling minima were unlikely to be repeated in the future.

Daryl Manzie raised a representation from a Nightcliff resident who queried whether RAAF Base Darwin/DIA would ever be relocated in the future plus the safety of light aircraft which overfly the northern suburbs and use the cross runway. Mr Manzie noted that Chris Bigg had provided a comprehensive reply on behalf of the Consultation Group and DIA.

Bill Risk mentioned that he would publicise his membership of the Consultation Group in Larrakia circles which will hopefully lead to people raising Airport issues with him.

#### **7. Airside and Air Traffic Control Tour**

A number of members proceeded on an airport familiarization tour comprising:

- RAAF Air Traffic Control Tower;
- selected Terminal airside systems; and
- Aircraft Movement Area on both the civil and RAAF sides.

#### **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 15 March 2012.