



Concurrent Meeting on 17 July 2025
**Darwin International Airport Community Consultation Group
& Planning Coordination Forum**

Web Report

held at Tindal Room, Airport Development Group Office & Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and apologies

Airport Development Group (ADG) welcomed Eddie Fry as the new Chair of the Darwin International Airport Community Consultation Group, followed by a roundtable of introductions by members the group. No conflicts of interest were raised.

The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the CCG meeting on 20 March 2025 had been previously settled by circulation.

2. Darwin Airport / Airport Development Group

Airport Development Group (ADG) overview

- ADG is attending the NT Investment Summit being held in Darwin this week.
- ADG continues through our sponsorship program to partner with Government and organisations to support increased visitation to the Territory and improve the liveability of the region.
- Our third community grants program has been finalised. Since the start of the program, 31 grassroots community organisations have been supported.
- ADG remains firmly focused on growth and long-term value for the Northern Territory and Northern Australia more broadly, as well as our shareholders and stakeholders.
- We continue to invest in the ongoing development of the Darwin Airport precinct and our associated assets. This includes ensuring the sustainability of our assets and developments and our commitment to carbon neutrality.
- Darwin Airport Resorts (comprising Mercure, Novotel and Ibis):
 - Continues to perform well, with 75-85% occupancy expected over the next couple of months.
 - The new Novotel restaurant is anticipated to be completed in August.
 - There has been good patronage from the local Darwin community utilising the pool and Splash Café.

Aviation Development and Operations

Aviation development

- Flights to and from Darwin have recovered to 2019 levels, however total seats on domestic routes have reduced due to airlines operating smaller aircraft types.
- New competition and improved connections to the east coast have led the recovery in 2025, including AirAsia (Denpasar and Kuala Lumpur), Qantas (Singapore and a seasonal service to Canberra), and Jetstar (seasonal service to the Gold Coast).

- ADG continues to collaborate with the NT Government to improve air connectivity to the NT.

Terminal operations

- The new landside café on the ground floor of the terminal, Charlie's, is scheduled to open shortly.
- Relay, the news and gifts store in the domestic departure lounge is now open.
- Improvements are underway to the terminal forecourt to provide safer undercover walkways and a better customer experience, as well as providing extra space during busy periods. These works are due to be completed during the dry season.
- An assessment of the Darwin Airport terminal was recently undertaken against the Disability Discrimination Act, with various initiatives in the pipeline to improve traveller experiences. A review of the accessible carparking spaces in the front-of-house areas is being completed to assess locations and usability.
- The hearing loop in the Darwin Airport terminal is not functioning as it should. ADG is investigating accessible technology (such as BindiMaps) as an alternative.
- ADG has been actively engaging with our travellers by hosting various events and activations within the Darwin Airport terminal.

Airside operations

- Resurfacing of the main runway is now complete. The project comprised reconstruction of new asphalt and concrete slabs covering 3,354m of runway at 45m wide, airfield lighting upgrades, and improvements to the airfield drainage system.
- Works to expand the western general aviation (GA) apron is underway. It is expected to be completed later this year, and will provide an additional 28 parking bays for GA aircraft.

ADG Indigenous Training Academy

- ADG launched its Indigenous Training Academy in April 2022 with 7 trainees undertaking a Certificate III in Hospitality. The academy expanded in 2023 with a further 13 trainees, along with and expanded education offering with certificates in Horticulture, Business, Electrical Apprenticeship and IT.
- The Indigenous Training Academy has built strong interagency partnerships and connections, as well as placing the trainees into ADG's business.
- An Indigenous Mentoring Program connects and supports Indigenous employees and trainees, building job satisfaction and has helped to maximise retention of all Indigenous employees.
- As the academy has become more established, ADG is now receiving trainee enquiries through word of mouth, relations of trainees and Indigenous agencies.

Airport Carbon Accreditation

- Darwin Airport is a participant in the global Airport Carbon Accreditation program, an airport-specific standard for carbon management and reduction in the aviation industry. 645 airports participate globally, 17 of which are Australian airports and of these 10 are accredited at Level 3 or above.
- Darwin Airport has achieved accreditation at Level 3 for a second year, requiring: a robust and verified carbon footprint; a set emissions reduction target with demonstrated year-on-year reductions; reporting of Scope 3 (indirect) emissions and engagement with stakeholders.

- The carbon footprints of Alice Springs Airport and Tennant Creek Airport are calculated in-line with the program but are yet to apply for accreditation.
- Darwin Airport recently received a Silver Award in the Airports Council International Asia-Pacific & Middle East Green Airports Recognition 2025, under the category of airports handling fewer than 6 million passengers annually.
- ADG's journey to net zero has focused on reducing our emissions, followed by offsetting any residual emissions. In June 2025, ADG purchased carbon offsets for the first time, in the form of Australian Carbon Credit Units, related to the West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement Project.

Darwin Airport 2023 Master Plan

- The Darwin Airport 2023 Master Plan was approved by the Federal Minister in late June. ADG is now preparing the document to be published to the Darwin Airport website in the coming weeks.
- In other planning matters, ADG continues to provide comment on development applications around its airports. ADG has also been approached by the NT Government to discuss the integration of Guideline C (Managing the Risk of Wildlife Strikes in the Vicinity of Airports) of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework into the NT Planning Scheme.
- ***Post meeting note:*** The Darwin Airport 2023 Master Plan can be downloaded from: <https://www.darwinairport.com.au/business/planning-development/airport-master-plan>

3. Department of Defence / RAAF Base Darwin

RAAF Base Darwin operations

- Following the completion of the main runway resurfacing, infrastructure works continue at RAAF Base Darwin with resurfacing aprons as well as constructing a new apron. Minimal if any impact is expected to the Joint User Area.
- Exercise Talisman Sabre is underway involving Air Force, Army and Navy, conducted across a number of locations in Australia, including Darwin. It is expected to finish by mid-August.
- City of Darwin recognised the efforts of Defence to coordinate with stakeholders during Talisman Sabre. Early engagement minimised disruption to local businesses, services and dry season events.

Air Traffic Control

- In response to a question by the Chair, military air traffic control at Darwin Airport / RAAF Base Darwin extends to 40 nautical miles from the airfield. Beyond this, civilian airspace control is managed by Airservices Australia.

Base Management

- Major reconstruction of the RAAF Base Darwin front gate precinct is underway, to improve base access.

Estate Planning

- Defence continues to comment on development applications and airport-related strategic planning matters.
- Development pressures around the aerodrome at the moment include crane heights and stormwater management (in the context of increased development).

- Planning is underway to deliver upgraded power and water infrastructure to RAAF Base Darwin, with work scheduled to commence in early 2026.

4. Airservices Australia

- From March to June 2025 Airservices received 4 aircraft noise enquiries (by a total of 3 complainants from the suburbs of Berrimah, Millner and Humpty Doo). These enquiries related to general aviation traffic, helicopter traffic, and fixed wing circuit training.
- ADG noted that Darwin Airport has received 2 enquiries regarding aircraft noise since the last meeting. One related to civil aircraft and the other related to military aircraft. ADG has referred the complainants to Airservices and Defence respectively.
- Members acknowledged the broad acceptance of aircraft noise by the local Darwin community noting the strong military presence.

5. NT Government – Lands Planning

- The NT Government is a member of the National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group and is committed to the implementation of the NASF guidelines within the NT's planning framework. Work has commenced to incorporate Guideline C into the NT Planning Scheme.
- The NT Government has welcomed the first report from the Approvals Fast Track Taskforce, which contains a number of recommendations that relate to planning. The report and context can be found here: <https://cmc.nt.gov.au/advancing-industry/approvals-fast-track-taskforce>

6. NT Government – Transport Infrastructure Planning

- The team's current focus is delivery of the Territory's transport infrastructure program. Information about the projects can be found here: <https://dli.nt.gov.au/projects>
- Procurement planning is underway for future infrastructure projects that support aviation and regional growth.

7. City of Darwin

- City of Darwin has released its *Draft Place and Liveability Plan 2050*, aimed at enhancing the city's overall liveability and community wellbeing:
 - Consultation is open until 28 July 2025: <https://smart.darwin.nt.gov.au/pages/home/>
 - Four Key Liveability Principles have been prioritised based on earlier community consultation. These are: open space and recreation; physical connectivity; safety and security; arts and culture.
 - A liveability toolkit (available on the website) has been developed to guide planning and investment.
- The new Beam e-scooters and e-bikes have resulted in improved safety outcomes, with the new equipment requiring cognitive safety checks before riders can start their journey. City of Darwin to speak with ADG regarding the potential to expand the e-bike network to Darwin Airport.

8. Community Consultation Group member issues

No member issues were raised.

The Chair offered some closing remarks, reflecting on his first Community Consultation Group meeting and the airport's importance to the Darwin community.

9. Planning Coordination Forum

Planning Coordination Forum members agreed there was no need for a separate closed session following the Community Consultation Group meeting.

Remaining 2025 meeting dates: Thursday 6 November