



Concurrent Meeting on 6 November 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

Chair Eddie Fry welcomed members to the meeting, and apologies were noted. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the CCG meeting on 17 July 2025 had been previously settled by circulation.

2. Darwin Airport / Airport Development Group

Operations and Aviation Development

Operations

- The refurbishment of the landside café in the terminal has been completed.
- Since opening in April, the new Relay Store has expanded its product offering to include locally sourced ranges from House of Darwin and Bush Medijina.
- Terminal forecourt improvements are progressing well with works to be completed by mid-2026. These will provide safer undercover walkways and a better customer experience.
- ADG has been strengthening traveller engagement by delivering a range of events and activations in the terminal.
- ADG and Defence have completed an annual pavement maintenance program for the runways and taxiways.
- The annual Airport Safety Week was held in October. The foreign object debris (FOD) walk was a great success with the largest participation rate to date.

Aviation Development

- Darwin Airport passenger volumes are up 7.2% year to date compared to the same period in 2024. There has been significant growth in international passengers with moderate growth in domestic passengers.
- ADG continues to collaborate with the NT Government to improve air connectivity to the NT. Recent engagement has included meetings with China Southern Airlines and AirAsia, and attendance at the Routes World conference.

ADG submission to NT Visitor Economy Strategy

- In October, ADG provided its submission to the NT Government's Visitor Economy Strategy, supporting the strategy's vision for a safer, stronger, and more prosperous Territory.
- ADG is having success improving product offerings and growing new services to the Territory. We are working on making Darwin a destination for international travellers – on their way to Uluru for example.

- ADG's submission focussed on 5 key themes:
 - Air connectivity
 - Investment in infrastructure
 - Value-for-money products and experiences
 - Authentic Indigenous experiences
 - 365-day a year tourism season

Planning matters

- The Darwin Airport 2023 Master Plan is available to download from the airport's website: <https://www.darwinairport.com.au/business/planning-development/airport-master-plan>
- ADG continues to provide comment on proposed developments surrounding Darwin Airport. These are typically assessed in relation to the National Airports Safeguarding Framework, including aspects such as: aircraft noise, airspace protection, building generated windshear and turbulence, wildlife hazard, extraneous lighting.

3. Department of Defence / RAAF Base Darwin

RAAF Base Darwin operations

- Planning for 2026 activities is underway, including exercises from February – October. This will see an increase in aircraft volume.
- Return of Marine Force rotation will likely occur in February 2026, which will see the return of the Osprey aircraft to Darwin.
- Upcoming posting cycles will see WGCDR Lauren Guest depart Darwin. ADG notes for the record its appreciation of WGCDR Guest's leadership, cooperation and support during various projects including the recent runway resurfacing project.
- SQNLDR James Lee is also posting out of Darwin. ADG notes for the record its thanks to Jimmy in his openness and willingness to work together and his valued participation in the airport's CCG meetings.

Base Management

- Base management continues to be busy with many projects underway on base.
- Preparations for the upcoming cyclone season are also in progress.

Estate Planning

- Estate Planning continues to respond to development applications and enquiries surrounding RAAF Base Darwin.
- Defence has received a number of Defence Aviation Area (DAA) applications for Darwin that are currently being assessed.
- The Land Planning and Regulation Directorate has commenced an update of the RAAF Base Darwin Defence Aviation Area which was last declared in 2018. A draft map is being prepared, with further information to be provided at the next meeting.

4. Airservices Australia

- Over the period July to September 2025, one complainant contacted Airservices' Noise Complaints and Information Service. This related to military helicopter operations at night, with investigations revealing two Osprey aircraft operating in the area on the nights in question. Airservices referred the complainant on to Defence.

5. NT Government – Lands Planning

- The department continues its focus to implement the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF) within the NT's planning framework.
- The department has recently engaged with ADG on:
 - Guideline B (building generated windshear and turbulence) – an overlay is being prepared. Buildings of a certain height within the assessment areas will need to go through a windshear evaluation process.
 - Guideline C (wildlife strikes) – wildlife management areas close to the runway are being looked at, with a list of land uses (including incompatible uses in close proximity to the airport) to be prepared.

6. NT Government – Transport Infrastructure Planning

- The department is working closely with Defence on the intersection on the Stuart Hwy providing access to RAAF Base Darwin.
- There is a long list of infrastructure projects to be delivered across the Northern Territory.
- Q: Are there any projects planned regarding road access in Kakadu?
A: The Commonwealth Government has awarded \$70M to upgrade these roads, being facilitated by the NT Government.

7. City of Darwin

- The construction of the new civic centre in the Darwin CBD is progressing and is on track.
- City of Darwin's Christmas events program has been released.
- City of Darwin's Place and Liveability Plan was adopted by council on 28 October 2025.

8. Community Consultation Group administrative matters

- ADG proposed a number of administrative updates to the group, which were agreed by members:
 - ADG will rename the Community Consultation Group (CCG) to become the Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) to better align with the Department of Infrastructure's terminology for these types of groups.
 - ADG will soon commence revising the Terms of Reference for both the CACG and the Planning Coordination Forum (PCF). This review will also consider the Department of Infrastructure's recently released 'Draft CACG Guidelines'.
 - ADG intends to remove the PCF 'closed' session from the CACG agenda, as it isn't been utilised by PCF members. Instead, ad-hoc PCF discussions will be held after the CACG meeting if requested by PCF members.

9. Community Consultation Group member issues

No member issues were raised.

10. Planning Coordination Forum

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

2026 meeting dates: To be advised