



Community Aviation Consultation Group

Meeting on 19 March 2026

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

Web Report

The Web Report for the 19 March 2026 Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) meeting is a true and proper reflection/recording of the discussions.

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair Eddie Fry welcomed members to the meeting, and apologies were noted. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the CACG meeting on 6 November 2025 had been previously settled by circulation.

Eddie Fry shared that long-standing CACG member Dawn Lawrie has resigned from the group. On behalf of all members, Eddie thanked Dawn for her significant contribution to the CACG over the past 15 years. This sentiment was echoed by Rob Porter, who highlighted Dawn's strong advocacy on accessibility issues, noting that her influence can be seen across the Darwin Airport terminal and its operations.

2. NT Government – Lands Planning

- The proposed Bagot Rd commercial development was considered by the Development Consent Authority on 6 March. The DCA's decision on the development application is expected to be published in the coming week.
- An application has been lodged to rezone a section of land within Bagot Community from 'Community Living' to 'Commercial'.
- Members generally discussed the recent announcement that the Department of Defence intends to divest some of its properties.

3. Darwin Airport / Airport Development Group

ADG overview

- ADG is mindful of what impact higher fuel prices may have on the aviation industry in future. ADG is heavily engaged with government on fuel security. ADG anticipates a contraction in international travel, but potential opportunities for domestic travel.
- ADG continues to progress its capital works program, with particular consideration of compliance, safety and access issues.

Operations and Aviation Development

Aviation Development

- Darwin Airport passenger volumes are up 7.4% in 2025 compared to 2024, with significant growth in international passengers and moderate growth in domestic passengers.
- Despite significant international passenger growth in 2025, capacity grew at a materially higher rate. Airline performance suffered as a result of demand not matching supply. AirAsia's recent decision to cease services to Darwin is attributed to not enough people flying the routes.

- Aero Dili will commence direct Darwin to Dili to Denpasar flights in May.

Operations

- ADG continues to strengthen its customer experience engagement and support for local community events through a range of activations in the Darwin Airport terminal.
- To mark International Women's Day, Darwin International Airport partnered with Airnorth to showcase women leading end-to-end operations across the terminal, airside, security and flight operations. A video celebrating the event can be viewed here: [Women in Aviation: Celebrating Leadership in Northern Australia | Airport Development Group | ADG posted on the topic | LinkedIn](#)
- Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance works are being delivered across the terminal, aligning with legislative requirements and improved passenger services.
- Wildlife hazard activity remains elevated due to the prolonged wet season (which has affected the regular Integrated Vegetation Management program) and drainage works associated with the recent runway resurfacing project (which has increased habitat attractiveness for some bird species).

Projects

- ADG outlined its strategic approach to capital management, including planning and controls.
- Terminal forecourt upgrades are progressing, and once complete will deliver a consistent, more vibrant and welcoming customer experience across the entire forecourt area.
- Two of the five terminal aerobridges have reached the end of their serviceable life and are being replaced. The works are planned to minimise operational impacts and maintain continuous passenger service throughout the upgrade.
- Development of the Darwin Airport Resorts precinct continues, with a new RV park concept to be constructed, ready for the 2027 dry season.

Planning matters

- Updated CACG guidelines have recently been released, available at: [Community Aviation Consultation Group \(CACG\) Guidelines | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)
- ADG is updating the Terms of Reference for the CACG to generally align with the updated guidelines. Once completed, this will be circulated to members.
- ADG continues to provide comment on developments surrounding Darwin Airport, with reference to the National Airports Safeguarding Framework and aircraft noise considerations. Recent submissions include the proposed commercial development on Bagot Rd, a residential townhouse development on Boulter Rd in Berrimah, and a new hotel planned for the Stuart Hwy in Winnellie.

4. Department of Defence / RAAF Base Darwin

RAAF Base Darwin operations

- The northern exercise and activity period will occur between May and September.
- Pitch Black 2026 will be held from mid-July to early August. Like previous years, there will be an Open Day and Mindil Beach airshow.
- The Marine Rotational Force – Darwin is now arriving and will remain in Darwin until October, with an aviation presence similar to last year.

- The mid-term base refresh is underway. Works include the new front entrance precinct that is under construction and is anticipated to be finished later this year.
- An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) detection trial is underway at RAAF Base Darwin.

Air Traffic Control

- Community consultation is underway regarding this year's military exercise period, including noise abatement considerations and minimising disruptions. Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) Supplements and Aviation State Engagement Forum (AvSef) reports have been published, detailing priority windows for military jets during the exercise period and potential impacts to civil aircraft traffic.
- New air traffic control surveillance capabilities have been introduced in recent years, with continual review of processes with Airservices Australia as part of the transition to the Civil Military Air Traffic Management System (CMATS).

Base Management

- There is a new base management team at RAAF Base Darwin.

Estate Planning

- Estate Planning continues to respond to development applications and enquiries surrounding RAAF Base Darwin, working closely with the NT Government's planning team.
- Defence has installed permanent noise monitors at either end of the main runway.

5. Airservices Australia

- Over the period October 2025 to February 2026, one complainant contacted Airservices' Noise Complaints and Information Service. This related to helicopter circuit training in the evening, in the Rapid Creek area.

6. NT Government – Transport Infrastructure Planning

- The Department of Logistics and Infrastructure has been busy responding to the recent weather events, to ensure NT Government managed roads are open and no long-term damage to assets.
- The Road Report website (<https://roadreport.nt.gov.au/>) provides up-to-date road condition information on all NT Government controlled roads.

7. City of Darwin

- City of Darwin is hosting the Darwin Fusion Festival from 10-12 July, with dignitaries attending from Darwin's sister cities.
- The intersection of Dick Ward Dr and Fitzer Dr is to be upgraded to address safety concerns, with works funded by the Australian Government's Black Spot Program.

8. Community Consultation Group member issues

The small visitor car park on Larkin Ave (that provides access to the Rapid Creek Reserve walking path) was discussed including whether there are any plans to improve it, noting it is quite small and awkward following fencing works at the adjacent Darwin Airport Resorts.

Stormwater management and erosion and sediment control were discussed. It was noted that Darwin Airport's Environment Strategy outlines several stormwater initiatives to be

implemented. The drainage design associated with the recently completed runway resurfacing project contemplates no further impact to Rapid Creek. Stormwater is drawn away from the runway and held in the large drain that has been engineered to hold and then throttle discharge.

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 2026 meeting dates: Thursday 9 July, Thursday 19 November.