



DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Web Report No 27 – 14 November 2019

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair Daryl Manzie welcomed members to the 27th meeting of the Community Consultation Group. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 11 July 2019 had been previously settled by circulation.

2. DIA Property Developments

Ross Baynes spoke on the status of property developments at Darwin Airport:

- It is anticipated construction of Osgood South Stage 3 "West Village" may commence next dry season, subject to securing pre-commitments.
- Woolworths has lodged an appeal to the Liquor Commission's verdict on the liquor licence substitution application for the proposed Dan Murphy's in the Bagot Road development. The other retail tenancies within the proposed development are dependent on the Dan Murphy's decision.
- The proposed Bagot Rd / Totem Rd / Osgood Dve intersection upgrade is conditional on the Bagot Road development going ahead.
- Construction has now commenced on the 6000m² freight and cold storage facility at the corner of Osgood Drive and Charles Eaton Drive, due for completion in late 2020. The project is supporting local builders and tradespeople, and will provide enabling infrastructure to help our airlines move freight.

3. DIA Air Service Developments and Commercial Developments (Retail & Ground Transport)

Shane de Wit shared the following air service development update:

- Darwin Airport has recently participated in some major aviation events including World Routes 2019 Conference (in conjunction with Tourism NT) and Reaching South.
- Darwin Airport has recently signed an MOU with HNA Airports Group.
- Recent network changes include:
 - Virgin Australia Darwin to Bali seasonal flights will not recommence in 2020
 - Virgin Australia Darwin to Melbourne afternoon flight to be rescheduled to back of clock departure
 - Tigerair flights to/from Brisbane will end in February 2020
 - Qantas Darwin to Broome flights commenced 30 October 2019
- Darwin Airport has been in discussions with Donghai Airlines to improve NT travellers' ability to book flights to Shenzhen.

The group discussed recent visitation numbers to Darwin. Domestic passenger figures continue to be flat, and international passenger figures have increased in the past few

months mainly due to outbound services to Bali and Singapore. Shane explained that the airport is in discussions with many airlines about future air services to/from Darwin (the World Routes Conference is one avenue for this), but that these decisions are dependent on airline business cases and aircraft available.

Recent commercial developments at Darwin Airport include:

- A review of Aboriginal products for sale at the airport, in response to the Federal Government's report on the sale of inauthentic art and craft in the style of First Nations peoples. Darwin Airport's retailer Australian Way (AWPL) is a leader in selling authentic Aboriginal products, and has been reviewing its distribution chain and ensuring artists receive fair compensation for their work.
- A food and beverage review is underway, considering new brands and latest trends.
- Car parking specials are being released for the upcoming festive period.

Dawn Lawrie suggested the airport should introduce a halal offering in its food & beverage.

4. Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Update

Helen Gannon advised that:

- Simon Atkinson was appointed as Secretary of the Department and commenced on 11 November 2019.
- The Aviation Access Forum met on 12 November 2019 so Helen will provide an update on any outcomes at the next CACG meeting.
- The Implementation Review of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF) Guidelines is currently underway with submissions closing on 22 November 2019. The draft report is due in February 2020 to coincide with the next National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) meeting.
- The final report of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Economic Regulation of Airport Services was tabled in Parliament in October 2019 – the Government is currently considering views of all stakeholders and will respond in due course.
- CASA completed its trial of drone detection capability in August 2019 and will shortly be releasing de-identified reports to the airports involved in the trial.
- The Department is conducting a review of the Air Navigation (Aircraft Noise) Regulations 2018 to determine the appropriate scope of future noise regulation in relation to Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs or drones) as well other specialised aircraft such as supersonic and historic aircraft. Two issues papers are available on the Department's website and submissions are being accepted until 22 November 2019.

There was discussion around the latest information available on PFAS, with the most recent public information found at the following links:

- <https://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/>
- <https://www.pfas.gov.au/>
- <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas.htm>

5. Aircservices Flight Path Update

Fiona Lawton dialled in to present on a flight path update to be implemented in February 2020. The flight path update relates to aircraft arriving from the south to Runway 11 at Darwin Airport. The proposed changes are intended to improve safety through improved separation assurance for arrivals and departures. It is anticipated that six jet aircraft on a

busy day will be realigned on this path. Aircraft noise levels are expected to remain similar. A fact sheet will be published to the Airservices Australia website soon.

In Q3 2019, one noise complainant was recorded by Airservices. The complainant was concerned with general aviation traffic.

Airservices has added another two episodes to their video series on Air Traffic Control:

- Episode 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch2ZASP5IXE>
- Episode 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJxvDmsxVqc>

6. RAAF Base Operational Update

SQNLDR Melanie Free advised that RAAF Base Darwin has a busy schedule for 2020 with a range of construction projects on base including: aircraft arrestor program; fuel farm expansion and system upgrade; construction of the forward operating base for the P-8 fleet. Pitch Black 2020 is to be held from 27 July to 14 August. The Marine Rotational Force – Darwin (MRF-D) is expected in Darwin from April to September 2020, with the same aircraft types and quantities as this year.

7. Defence Support Report

John Cox reiterated the high level of activity on base, noting there will be a lot of heavy traffic vehicles to support these projects. Improvements are being made to alleviate congestion at the entrance to the base, and he advised to use caution when entering the base due to these heavy vehicles.

Defence's PFAS investigation team has recently visited RAAF Base Darwin to review the previous fire training area. Studies are to be undertaken and then mitigation works completed.

Defence's weed management program for 2018/19 has been completed and the 2019/20 program planned. Weed management for the base forms part of the weed mitigation program and bushfire management plan, both involving careful liaison with Darwin Airport. Lesley Alford queried Defence's weed management, in particular Gamba grass.

8. DIA Security Improvements Update

Rob Phillips provided members with an update on the security upgrades underway at Darwin Airport. The Main Screening Point upgrades are underway to expand the current facility and install new screening equipment including body scanners. In early December a series of soft launches are scheduled to begin trialling the new equipment before becoming fully operational later in the month.

9. DIA Projects Update

Zac Neck provided an update on projects recently completed at Darwin Airport, including:

- 300mm water main project now completed, providing additional redundancy to Power and Water's main supply.
- Stage 1 of the HV replacement is now complete, having replaced approximately 3km in length. Stage 2 is currently being designed.
- The Bunnings roof replacement has been successfully completed, with all works undertaken at night to maintain 100% operations.

Projects currently underway include:

- Darwin Airport security screening upgrades
- Aerobridge replacement
- Expansion to the Regular Public Transport (RPT) apron including concrete bays
- Autobag drop and self-service kiosk installation at check-in
- Carpet and floor tile replacement to the ground floor of the terminal
- Preliminary design of a large scale solar installation to car park roof and ground mounted in the airside

10. DIA Environment Update

Nick Fewster presented on Northern Territory Airports' focus on sustainability. Historically, sustainability has been framed around the environment, however NT Airports now defines sustainability as conducting business to create long term value for stakeholders across the environment, society and the economy. The business has commenced sustainability reporting using the Global Reporting Initiative framework and has publicly stated some ambitious targets. Issues and areas of focus have been developed based on feedback received on the sustainability questionnaire distributed earlier this year to stakeholders.

Nick went on to discuss the three fires that occurred at Rapid Creek Reserve over the past three months during hot and extremely dry conditions. The airport undertakes intensive weed management, slashing, installs fire breaks, and undertakes fuel load assessments. Some prescribed burns are being planned.

Darwin Airport has commenced a community partnership with Larrakia Rangers to work with existing airport contractors to maintain the health of the Rapid Creek Reserve within the airport lease area.

11. DIA Wildlife Hazard Management

Mike Clancy gave members an update on the airport's wildlife hazard management program, and in particular the integrated vegetation management (IVM) trial undertaken over 2018 and 2019. The outcomes of the IVM program trial included: reduced bird activity and wildlife risk; reduced frequency of mowing/slashing rotations; reduced operational man-hours spent on mowing/slashing; reduced post-mowing wildlife harassment; and reduced vegetation biomass and post-mowing clip/debris. Now that the trial has been completed, the airport plans to develop an IVM grass management program for 100ha of land surrounding the main runway.

12. Community Consultation Group member issues

Daryl Manzie suggested airlines should offer umbrellas for passengers when it's raining, when embarking/disembarking aircraft that isn't connected by an aerobridge to the terminal.

13. General Business

No general business items were raised.

14. Tour of National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre

For those who could stay, members were taken on a short tour of the recently opened National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre facility at the airport. The tour gave a fascinating insight into the NCCTRC's operations and capabilities, with all attending

thoroughly enjoying the visit and leaving with a better appreciation of the important work the NCCTRC do.

2020 meeting dates:

Thursday 12 March, Thursday 30 July, Thursday 5 November