



DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Web Report No 28 – 12 March 2020

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

1. Welcome and apologies

Chair Daryl Manzie welcomed members to the 28th meeting of the Community Consultation Group. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 14 November 2019 had been previously settled by circulation. It was noted this was Daryl Manzie and Ian Kew's last CCG meeting. Daryl thanked Ian Kew and welcomed DIA's new CEO, Tony Edmondstone.

2. Coronavirus airport action plan / stakeholder update

Ross Baynes briefed members on the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. NT Airports is acutely aware of the seriousness of COVID-19 and the impacts it may have on our people, our airline and passenger customers, and our suppliers. Ross outlined a range of measures that have been put in place to minimise the risk of transition. NT Airports is actively monitoring the situation and is in constant communication with government departments.

3. DIA property developments

Ross Baynes provided an update on property developments at Darwin Airport, including:

- Endeavour Group Drinks' (EDG) appeal to NT Civil and Administrative Tribunal on the proposed Dan Murphy's development was dismissed on the technicality that the premises do not yet exist. EDG has appealed the decision to the Supreme Court. The NT Government has agreed to amend Liquor Act to remove uncertainty.
- The proposed Bagot Rd / Totem Rd / Osgood Dve intersection upgrade continues to be conditional on the Bagot Road development going ahead.
- Construction continues on the freight and cold storage facility, due for completion in late 2020.

For the benefit of new attendees, some members shared their personal thoughts on the proposed Dan Murphy's development.

4. DIA air service developments and commercial developments (retail & ground transport)

Shane de Wit spoke on recent air service and commercial developments:

- Up until the end of January, international services were up 13%. There has been a softening in demand of domestic services.
- Darwin Airport has been involved in a range of key aviation events over the past few months to promote services.
- COVID-19 will have a negative impact on air travel in 2020.
- Initiatives introduced to improve food & beverage offerings, including local food and a unique Territorian menu.

- There has been significant growth in the purchase of authentic indigenous products.
- A decline in passenger numbers as a result of the cancellation of air services due to COVID-19 will impact on sales.
- A design is underway for half of the existing short stay car park to install shade structures with solar panels on the roof, providing approximately 250 undercover parking spaces.

Dawn Lawrie raised two previous queries: Do any of the retailers offer halal products? Is it feasible for the City of Darwin disabled parking permits to be extended to the airport's car parks?

5. Defence support report, including weed management presentation

John Cox advised that RAAF Darwin has recently provided manpower to assist with the recent bushfires, and also assisted with the repatriation of Australian citizens from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to the Howard Springs COVID-19 facility.

Matthew Faulkner spoke about weed management at RAAF Base Darwin. Defence has recognised and addressed previous weed management issues. Better data, mapping and treatment has now delivered good results across Defence estates in the NT, including RAAF Base Darwin. Defence is collaborating with Larrakia Nation to perform weed management, and Defence meets regularly with DIA's Environment Manager. Defence's focus is to continue to build on these improvements, including rescoping and expanding monitoring.

Lesley Alford provided positive comment on Defence's presentation, noting that previous areas of concern for weed management are now included in the monitoring program.

6. Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications update

Helen Gannon shared:

- the Department has recently taken on the Communications portfolio, and there are now nine ministers. Michael McCormack continues to be responsible for transport.
- Drones continue to be an area of focus:
 - A whole of government framework is to be developed, with an issues paper expected to be released in the coming months.
 - Drone detection technology is currently being rolled out at a number of Australian airports.
 - A noise regulation review of drones is underway.
- The Aviation Access Forum's current focus is hidden disabilities.
- In February 2020, Mr Kieran Pehm was appointed as the next Aircraft Noise Ombudsman.

7. DIA strategy and innovation

Stephanie Smith spoke about the airport's growing culture of innovation. She introduced a series of user cases that have been trialled recently to facilitate and improve customer experience at the airport. CCG members shared some suggestions for future user cases to be developed.

8. RAAF Base operational update incl. Airservices matters

SQNLDR Craig Sedgman provided an update on a range of developments on base, including the solar farm, airside fence, apron expansions, aircraft arrestor program, and increased biosecurity footprint. The Northern Air Campaign is scheduled for April – October 2020, and Exercise Pitch Black is scheduled for July – August 2020.

FLTLT Dominic Martin gave an update on Air Traffic Control, outlining recent developments in the ATC upgrade project, and RAAF is currently working up Pitch Black procedures.

Airservices' draft flight path design principles were presented. Airservices had two noise complainants in Q4 2019, making a total of four complainants in 2019.

9. DIA security improvements update

Rob Phillips (DIA) and Nikki Harley (Trident Security) gave an update on the security improvements at Darwin Airport. The main screening point upgrade opened in December 2019 and has now been operating for four months. The eastern screening point upgrade is under construction and due for completion in April.

Dawn Lawrie thanked Rob Phillips for the tour of the security screening point late last year. CCG members also gave positive feedback about the new equipment. Nikki Harley explained that a customer service framework is currently being developed that is specific to the Northern Territory and includes cultural awareness, special circumstances, and hidden disabilities.

10. DIA projects update

Zac Neck showed a short video of the recent runway overlay project at Alice Springs Airport. Zac provided an update on projects at Darwin Airport, including:

- The aerobridge replacement program will be staged over an 18 month period
- The new terminal carpet design has been completed and is going into manufacture.

Dawn Lawrie queried whether the new carpet design had been tested for photosensitivity.

11. Community Consultation Group member issues

Nil.

12. General business

Members expressed their thanks and appreciation in farewelling both Daryl Manzie and Ian Kew. All members thanked Daryl for his involvement as Chair for the past five years, and his calm demeanour that made the meetings progressive.

Members went on to thank Ian Kew and wish him well in retirement, reflecting on Ian's stewardship of the airport and achievements. Ian advised that Chris Bigg will be the next Chair of the CCG. Chris has a strong interest and knowledge in transport, and a love of aviation.

Remaining 2020 meeting dates:

- Thursday 30 July
- Thursday 5 November