

DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Report on Meeting No 17 – 14 July 2016

held at

Pandanus Room, Airport Management Centre, Darwin International Airport

1. Welcome and Apologies

Acting Chair Ian Kew welcomed members to the 17th meeting of the Community Consultation Group. Apologies were noted. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 31 March 2016 had been previously settled by circulation.

2. DIA Property Developments

Ross Baynes provided an update on DIA property developments, including:

- Babcock helicopter hangar (previously Bond) now complete, on time and on budget.
- Negotiations are ongoing for the construction of a new jet fuel storage facility.
- The previous Axis precinct has now been rebranded as Darwin Airport Central, with a formal launch expected in Q3 2016.
- The construction of the new Flipout and Play Centre (adjacent to Kingpin) and the new South Osgood Logistics and Showroom are both underway.
- A second childcare centre is anticipated for construction adjacent to the South Osgood Logistics development.

Dawn Lawrie queried whether there had been significant rent increases for GA tenants, as she had been advised as such by a member of the community. Ross Baynes and Ian Kew advised that although rents can increase, lease agreements and market reviews are negotiated collaboratively and transparently between DIA and its tenants.

Jan Nordin of Defence enquired whether the ANEF noise contours for the airport had been considered within the design of the proposed second childcare centre. Ian Kew confirmed that the proposed development aligned with the land uses identified in the current Master Plan, and has been approved by the Airport Building Controller and Airport Environment Officer in relation to the noise contours. Helen Gannon (DIRD) also commented that most federally leased airports have childcare facilities on airport.

3. DIA Air Service Developments, Retail and Ground Transport

Stephen Prasser reported on the following developments:

- There has been minimal domestic passenger traffic growth for the year at DIA, with limited growth also occurring nationally. This growth has been affected by airlines removing capacity from the market and increased fares.
- Extra domestic capacity has been provided for the dry season peak, with these services performing well so far.
- International passenger traffic at DIA is down considerably from last year.
- DIA continues to work with tourism bodies in a bid to boost passenger numbers.
- The airport's new premium international lounge (owned and operated by DIA) is due to open to passengers on 1 September 2016.

- A new Rip Curl store is scheduled to open shortly in the domestic departure lounge.
- The airport has a new travel money provider, Travel Money Oz.
- A range of ground transport improvements are currently underway, including the installation of new car parking equipment, new car park branding, the construction of a new staff car park, and road realignment to Henry Wrigley Drive near the terminal.
- The airport shuttle has a new operator – the Darwin City Airport Shuttle Service.

Dawn Lawrie asked whether the new airport shuttle provider offered any accessible buses.

Grahame Webb commented that the passenger statistics presented were consistent with his tourism figures.

Action: DIA to confirm whether the airport shuttle offers any accessible buses. DIA to also follow up on query from previous CCG meeting raised by Dawn Lawrie, regarding whether appropriate quantity of disabled car parking spaces have been provided in the car parks.

4. DIA Introduction of new Customer Service Charter

Cassandra Fitzgerald and Tara Dennison presented DIA's new Customer Service Charter to the group. The airport recognises that enhancements to infrastructure, processes and ambience at DIA have improved our customers' experience when travelling through the airport, and that people/staff are recognised as the final ingredient in improving the overall experience of our travellers. The Customer Service Charter will soon form part of the broader induction process for all DIA staff. Eventually it will also be a requirement for all tenants, stakeholders and contractors to complete. DIA will provide an update to the CCG group at the next meeting on the uptake of the charter and measurable differences seen since its introduction.

5. RAAF Base Operational Issues including Pitch Black 2016

SQNLDR Darren Prior provided a briefing on the upcoming Pitch Black 2016:

- Approximately 2500 personnel are expected to take part from seven nations: Australia, New Zealand, USA, Singapore, Thailand, UAE and France.
- This year's exercise includes a land element, which may grow in future years.
- The flying schedule for the exercise will be published online.
- The Pitch Black Open Day at RAAF Base Darwin will be held on 13 August, and a Flypast and Handling Display at Mindil Beach on 11 August.

In addition to Pitch Black, SQNLDR Darren Prior provided the following updates:

- Exercise Kakadu is scheduled for later this year, likely to have wide-body aircraft involvement – not as intrusive.
- Exercise Talisman Sabre (2017) is anticipated to have a reduced presence in Darwin.

6. Airservices matters including civil noise complaints

Rhiannon Eddy outlined the following Airservices matters:

- Minor changes have been made to the Darwin Air Traffic Control Management Plan, relating to altitudes and turning points around the airport (refer email circulated to CCG members in May 2016).
- No noise complaints were received in the last quarter (Q1 2016).
- Implementation of Webtrak for Darwin is still anticipated for early next year.

- The Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS) no longer has an email address for lodging complaints, with the online form now the preferred method.
- Airservices is currently transitioning to a new operational model.

7. Department of Infrastructure & Regional Development Update

Helen Gannon advised that policy approval has been given for a number of amendments to the Airports Act, however this still needs to go through both houses of parliament. The proposed amendments include:

- Master Plans to increase from a 5-year to an 8-year cycle for all airports except for Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. (N.B. Transitional arrangements yet to be determined).
- The monetary trigger for Major Development Plans (MDPs) is to increase from \$20M to \$35M.
- A time limit is to be imposed on the Minister's decision for the approval of shortened MDP applications.
- Arrangements for the withdrawal of MDPs.

8. Defence Support Report

Justine Nordin reported on the following:

- A digital copy of the Water Quality Monitoring Program Report for RAAF Base Darwin has been provided to Victoria Moore (CCG Secretariat). CCG members can contact Victoria directly for a copy.
- Defence has now completed its testing in relation to PFCs at RAAF Base Darwin (one of a number of Defence sites to be tested).
- Road works along the west perimeter road are due for completion shortly.

Lesley Alford queried Defence's gamba grass management in relation to fuel loads and risk of fire. Jan Nordin to follow up, noting that test and prescribed burns have recently been completed to reduce fuel loads. He encouraged Lesley to continue reporting on any overgrown areas she might see around the base.

Post-meeting note: Jan Nordin provided further feedback to Lesley via email (sent 26 July 2016), advising that the overgrown areas previously highlighted by Lesley have now been addressed. Further discussion on weed management will be included as an agenda item at the next CCG meeting.

9. NT EPA update on water quality testing

Ian Kew introduced Bill Freeland of NT EPA to the CCG group, explaining that DIA had engaged NT EPA to review DIA's water quality data for Rapid Creek and provide a contextual report.

Bill Freeland explained to the group that findings show that both Zinc and Copper levels in Rapid Creek are elevated, however these figures are completely typical of urban environments, e.g. run off from zinc roofs. Bacteria is also found in Rapid Creek, with elevated levels during the wet season. Although levels are significant, they are entirely typical of freshwater waterways in the region, with peaks during the wet season as bacteria breed, and conversely lower levels found in the dry season as there is no run-off from external sources.

Bill highlighted the broadness of the Rapid Creek catchment, of which the airport is just one entity. The elevated zinc, copper and bacteria levels in Rapid Creek all show a wet season peak as they are being washed into the creek system from the entire catchment area.

10. DIA Planning Issues

Victoria Moore gave an update on a range of planning items:

- DIA's first solar facility (4MW) is now complete, and is the largest airside photovoltaic solar array in the world. Construction of a second solar facility (1.5MW) is to begin shortly. The new solar facility provides 60% of daytime power to the airport (excluding Darwin Airport Central), and it's expected that Stage 2 will provide another 20%.
- DIA will soon commence construction of a footpath to connect with the new footpath constructed by NT Government earlier this year. This will provide full pedestrian access from McMillans Road through to the airport terminal.
- The major development plan for the proposed new Air Traffic Control tower is soon to be issued to DIRD for review, prior to the public comment period commencing.

11. DIA Rapid Creek flood mitigation update

Peter Saunders from Jacobs provided an update on the proposed flood mitigation measures for Rapid Creek, being developed by both DIA and NT Government. These combined mitigation measures ignore lease boundaries (i.e. DIA / NT Gov) and instead consider the best holistic solution.

- The NT Government plans to build a detention basin on the Triangle Block that will capture run-off from one third of the catchment area between the existing flood control weir and the gauging station. Anticipated timing for construction to be next dry season.
- Design development is currently underway for three DIA flood mitigation projects:
 - Diversion of 23ha of catchment (in the vicinity of Sir Norman Brearley Drive) from downstream of the existing flood control weir to upstream.
 - Creation of a channel pond within the conservation area.
 - Development control guidelines to be implemented.

Ian Kew noted the recent formation of the Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee (RCWAC). DIA had invited RCWAC to attend this CCG meeting, however the committee is still in its formation stage and members to be confirmed. RCWAC is expected to attend the next CCG meeting in November.

12. Community Consultation Group member issues

Jamie O'Donnell noted that a number of the 108 new rooms in the Mercure Darwin Airport Resort have now been occupied, after a lengthy defect period. It is anticipated that these new rooms will be fully operational by the end of July, providing greater diversity in accommodation types available to guests. Jamie reiterated that Accor Group welcomes the opportunity to assist in the accommodation and meeting room needs of any future Darwin projects.

Lesley Alford circulated an updated DIA Gurumbai Walking Trail pamphlet to CCG members.

Gilly Thompson of Hardy Aviation (on behalf of Andrew Hardy) raised a concern that the parking facilities in the Northern GA are currently very tight. DIA advised that extra GA parking areas are currently under design.

13. General Business

It was agreed that DIA will provide an update on the airport's Bird and Animal Hazard Management (BAHM) plan at the next meeting.

Note: Remaining 2016 meeting – Thursday 10 November