



DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Web Report No 18 – 10 November 2016

held at

Pandanus Room, Airport Management Centre, Darwin International Airport

1. Welcome and Apologies

Independent Chair Daryl Manzie welcomed members to the 18th meeting of the Community Consultation Group. Apologies were noted. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 14 July 2016 had been previously settled by circulation. DIA has a new Environment Manager, Mr Darren Skuse, and a new Head of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, Mr Mike Little.

2. Community Aviation Consultation Group Chairs Meeting

Daryl Manzie provided a summary of the recent Community Aviation Consultation Group Chairs meeting that he attended in Canberra. A range of topics were discussed including aviation policy, *Airports Act* amendments, PFAS, and recommendations of the independent review of CACGs (and PCFs). In regards to PFAS, Daryl highlighted the need for Australian based guidelines to be published, and that there is no evidence as yet that PFAS is linked to impacting human health. He emphasised the requirement for clear and transparent communication.

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Justine Nordin from Defence went on to advise CCG attendees that a public consultation evening on PFAS is to be scheduled for 24 November 2016 in Darwin. Preliminary sampling of RAAF Base Darwin has been undertaken, with PFAS levels recorded being below the minimum requirements for recreational use as indicated in the current guidance statements. Two reports in relation to PFAS have recently been released:

- Department of Defence – Preliminary Sampling Program RAAF Base Darwin Fact Sheet, October 2016:
http://www.defence.gov.au/id/pfospfoa/_master/docs/PSPFactSheets/PSPFactSheetDarwinFinal.pdf
- NT Department of Health – PFAS Summary Report, October 2016:
https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/381148/cdu_pfas_report_summary.pdf

Defence are looking to the Department of Health for guidance on the health aspects of PFAS, and note that as yet there is no consistent evidence that links PFAS to adverse human health effects. Helen Gannon (DIRD) commented that from a Commonwealth perspective there are many departmental groups investigating PFAS.

Post meeting note: The presentation from Defence's community walk-in sessions held on 24 November 2016 can be accessed via the following link:
http://www.defence.gov.au/id/pfospfoa/_master/docs/Darwin/PresentationCommunityWalkinSession24November.pdf

3. DIA Property Developments

Ross Baynes outlined the following recent property developments at DIA:

- DIA's business park was relaunched in October 2016, as Darwin Airport Central.
- South Osgood commercial development is now complete, with a number of businesses now having commenced trading including Bargain Car Rentals and Muzz Buzz.
- Flipout is nearing completion and expected to open in time for the school holidays.
- The second childcare facility (adjacent to South Osgood) is currently under construction.
- DIA is currently undertaking a traffic modelling study of the existing Osgood Drive / Bagot Road signalised intersection, for a potential right hand turn out of Osgood Drive onto Bagot Road. Initial discussions have been held with NT Dept of Transport.
- Discussions are being held with the current suppliers in regards to the proposed new jet fuel storage facility.

Ian Kew commented that discussions are ongoing with NT Government regarding a potential dedicated fuel pipeline from East Arm to the airport site.

4. DIA Air Service Developments, Retail and Ground Transport

Stephen Prasser provided updates on the following:

Air service developments

- Domestic passenger numbers are very close to last year's figures, down 1% on FY16 year to date. DIA is currently working on strategies to attract more leisure traffic to Darwin.
- International traffic up 1.5% on FY16 year to date. However total international traffic numbers quite flat due to less transit passengers.
- Malaysia Airlines departing services retimed for better connectivity in Kuala Lumpur.
- Jetstar to commence daily Bali services over December/January.
- Philippine Airlines has added a fourth weekly MNL-DRW-BNE service.

Ground transport developments

- New car park equipment has been installed in all three car parks, including licence plate recognition.
- A new online booking system is being established over the coming months.
- The entrance to the Short Stay Car Park has been realigned, and a new staff car park constructed to accommodate the relocation of the Car Rental car parking area to the eastern end of the terminal.

Commercial developments

- A new Rip Curl store has opened in the terminal, it is trading well and is particularly popular with arriving passengers.
- The Catalina Lounge, DIA's new airport-operated premium international lounge, is now open. The lounge is to be incorporated within the Priority Pass global program.

5. DIA 2017 Master Plan (incl. Environment Strategy)

Victoria Moore outlined DIA's upcoming 2017 Master Plan, including Environment Strategy. The Master Plan has a 20-year design horizon to 2037, and the Environment Strategy a 5-year period to 2022. The 'preliminary draft' document is expected to be released in February 2017 for public comment (60 business days).

6. DIA Communications Strategy for Master Plan

Claire Eltringham outlined the communications strategy developed for the public comment period of the Master Plan (including Environment Strategy), with the objective of ensuring stakeholders and the community are aware of the master planning process, have access to information, and know how to provide feedback. A broad range of communication tools are currently under development. CCG members commented that it is a comprehensive communications strategy.

Two short films were previewed to the group, one on DIA's environmental stewardship of Rapid Creek, the other on DIA's new solar project. CCG members provided positive feedback on the films, commenting on the promotion of good news stories and the films' ability to reach a broader audience. DIA plan to release these films in the coming months.

7. DIA Planning Issues

Victoria Moore provided the group with an update on a range of projects underway at DIA:

- Solar Stage 2 is due for completion in mid-December, with the earthworks now complete and 50% of the solar panels installed.
- DIA's portion of the Henry Wrigley Drive foot path is scheduled to commence construction in December. Lesley Alford commented on the delay to the footpath, noting the possibility that the wet season may impact on timeframes.
- The design drawings for the Rapid Creek flood mitigation measures have now been completed, and are to be reviewed with local and NT Government. Following this consultation, it is anticipated that works will commence in the 2017 dry season.
- The Major Development Plan for the new Air Traffic Control tower is to be released for public comment in November, for 60 business days.

8. Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development Update

Helen Gannon advised that the Aviation Access Forum is scheduled to meet in mid-November. Key issues being considered by the group include the carriage of assistance animals in the cabin, and the review of disability standards for public transport. Currently 12 airlines and 30 airports across Australia have facilitation plans. Daryl Manzie (on behalf of absent CCG member Dawn Lawrie) reinforced the need for dignity for reduced mobility / disabled passengers. Helen noted that the Department works with industry to encourage this, but can't enforce it.

The Department's review of federally leased airport's consultative arrangements is now complete. Overall CACGs and PCFs meet the objectives of facilitating open discussion and supporting strategic dialogue between airports, communities and governments. The Department has agreed to three of the four recommendations.

The 39th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) held in Montreal from 27 September to 6 October 2016 agreed to adopt a carbon offsetting and reduction scheme to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation. The scheme will work in combination with a range of other practical measures such as aircraft technological and operational improvements and the use of sustainable alternative fuels to keep the greenhouse gas emissions from international aviation at 2020 levels.

9. Weed Management Issues

Katie Elsley (Defence) and Tim Spawton (Broadspectrum – Defence’s estate management provider) gave the group an update on weed management at RAAF Base Darwin. It was acknowledged that the level of weed management necessary was not fully appreciated when the changeover of contract occurred, however this has now been rectified, with the team now taking a more proactive and agile approach. Mapping, monitoring and development of weed management plans has been undertaken, with better outcomes expected on the estate.

CCG members also discussed the importance of weed management off airport, and recognised the NT Government’s Weed Management Branch launch of the Gamba Action Program to eradicate the invasive weed from the Top End.

10. Defence Support Report

Justine Nordin provided the following update:

- The Defence owned Rapid Creek weir now has a draft formal licence agreement in place for the NT Government to manage it.
- NT Government currently has a licence to use the Defence owned Buffalo Creek boat ramp. A disposal discussion is currently underway between Defence and NT Government.
- Flood mitigation works at RAAF Base Darwin are scheduled to be undertaken with Defence and NT Government, supporting the works finished earlier this year.
- The land piles on the estate are scheduled for removal in 2017.

11. RAAF Base Operational Issues, incl. Airservices Matters

SQNLDR Darren Prior presented the following operational update:

- Exercise Pitch Black 2016 was the most successful to date, and although there were more aircraft flying, there were less noise complaints received (< 5 in total) due to early media and community engagement, including social media. The Pitch Black Open Day at RAAF Base Darwin was extremely well received, as was the Mindil Beach aircraft display.
- The USMC rotation will arrive in April 2017, with a larger aircraft contingent. 13 aircraft are to be based in Darwin, including Ospreys, Hueys and Cobras.
- WGCDR Wes Perrett is departing for his next post, to be replaced by WGCDR Steve Parsons.

The following Airservices matters were communicated on behalf of Defence:

- No noise complaints were received in Q2 2016; two noise complaints were received in Q3 2016 (one from Ludmilla relating to Pitch Black, the other from Coconut Grove relating to change of flight path).
- No further update on WebTrak since last meeting.

12. Community Consultation Group member issues

No member issues raised.

13. General Business

CCG 2017 meeting dates have been confirmed. They are: Thursday 9 March, Thursday 20 July and Thursday 2 November.