



DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Web Report No 20 – 20 July 2017

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

1. Welcome and Apologies

Independent Chairman Daryl Manzie welcomed members to the 20th meeting of the Community Consultation Group, being held in DIA's new Wirraway Business Centre. Apologies were noted. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 9 March 2017 had been previously settled by circulation.

2. Introduction and Tour of Wirraway Business Centre

DIA's new Director Commercial, Shane de Wit, welcomed members to the airport's new Wirraway Business Centre. Andrew Warrender and Laura Magan gave members a short tour of the Wirraway Business Centre and highlighted a number of its key features:

- 25 seat board room
- 75 seat conference room
- 2 x 6 seat meeting rooms
- 2 x 1 seat offices
- 3 hot desks
- 7 office tenancies (four of which are still available to let)
- Tea point and breakout area
- Toilet facilities
- Easy access to the Catalina Lounge for events (when not in service for International flights)

Members were very impressed with the quality of the fitout, the facilities on offer and the ease of proximity for catching flights, with many showing preference for future CCG and PCF meetings to be held at the Wirraway!

3. DIA Air Service Developments, Retail and Ground Transport

Shane de Wit gave members an update on air service developments at Darwin Airport, on behalf of DIA's new Head of Aviation Development, Matthew Findlay:

- Aircraft fleet forecasts indicate that Asia will receive delivery of over 15,000 new narrowbody aircraft by 2035, with most deliveries occurring within range of Darwin. The economics of narrowbody aircraft therefore make Darwin a strong growth prospect.
- ASEAN open skies (open market) for air services between member countries creates options for Darwin.
- Darwin comfortably sits within easy narrowbody range of mainland Asia, a point of difference to most other Australian international airports.
- DIA is preparing itself to be Asia-ready, to capitalise on future growth and profitability, as well as to deliver significant differences to our city, regions, state/territory and the country.

Shane went on to discuss retail and ground transport developments, including:

- An online booking engine for car parking at the airport is under development. This will provide customers with the option of pre-booking their parking before arriving at the airport, as well as ticketless entry into the car parks.
- DIA will soon be embarking on a customer awareness program to promote these new car parking features like ticketless technology.
- A new 'premium' car parking offering is being considered, providing customers with larger car parking bays in close proximity to the terminal building, and that are undercover (potentially utilising the roof structure for solar panels to build upon the airport's existing solar energy production).
- DIA is currently undertaking office fitouts for a number of airlines and aviation support providers, both within the existing terminal and the new Wirraway Business Centre.
- New retail categories are being considered for the terminal, such as cosmetics and confectionery.
- The Catalina Lounge continues to foster new industry relationships, as well as new distribution e.g. travel agents, online.

Dawn Lawrie noted the challenges of accessibility to reach the ticket machines at the boom gates upon entry and exit to the car parks, for both able bodied and reduced mobility customers. Shane noted that the introduction of licence plate recognition to the airport car parks will be able to mitigate some of these challenges.

4. DIA Property Developments

Ross Baynes advised on the following property developments at DIA:

- Darwin Airport Central's Osgood South commercial precinct is now fully leased. 'West Village', a continuation of Osgood South, has been earmarked for future development.
- Since the initial proposal for a Dan Murphy's development on airport was discussed at the last CCG meeting in March, the NT Government has now amended the regulations to legislation to provide that browsing floor area be no greater than 400m². DIA does not plan to develop the proposed site without an anchor tenant.
- Traffic modelling of the proposed right-turn out from Osgood Drive onto Bagot Road is now complete, and indicates only minimal delay caused during peak flow times. Discussions are on-going with NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to secure approval.
- DIA has reached agreement to acquire the existing fuel facility at the airport over a 12-year period and fund all future expansion. This introduces an open access model, creating increased competition and providing a lower cost of fuel to airline partners.
- Construction of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) hangar is ongoing, due for completion in late 2017.
- A second hangar (and associated apron works) has been designed for Careflight, to be located adjacent to its existing facility. It is anticipated that construction will likely commence in late 2017.

5. DIA Planning issues

Victoria Moore advised members of the CCG that the 60-day public comment period for the Preliminary Draft 2017 Master Plan (including Airport Environment Strategy) ended in early June. During the public comment period, DIA received a total of 7 valid submissions. DIA

submitted the Draft 2017 Master Plan to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport prior to the deadline of 30 June 2017. The Minister now has 50 business days to review the Master Plan for approval, with his determination expected in early September.

Rhett Nothling and Tom Karvonen presented on the proposed design and construction of a second sewer rising main at the airport, of which DIA is currently in the procurement stage. The existing sewage pump station and rising main is a critical asset for the DIA sewerage system, with sewerage from DIA discharging via this infrastructure to the Power and Water Corporation sewerage network. This project will:

- Provide a new rising main running parallel with the existing sewer rising main;
- Assist with maintenance requirements for the infrastructure;
- Provide redundancy in the event of damage to the existing rising main pipe.

6. Defence Support Report

Jules Domigan provided an update on the following Defence matters at RAAF Base Darwin:

- 80 new homes are currently under construction (by a local NT company) next to The Narrows. These are due for completion by the end of the year.
- Flood mitigation works on Base appear to have been successful through the recent Wet Season, one of the wettest on record.
- Significant apron extension works with US Marine Corps are to commence next year.
- Existing asbestos on site is earmarked for removal and subsequent burial on a different part of the RAAF base, under very strict conditions and buried within an EPA-endorsed containment cell.

7. RAAF Base operational issues including Airservices matters

SQNLDR Darren Prior provided the following Darwin update on behalf of Airservices:

- Six noise complaints were received by Airservices in Q2 2017 – three relating to training, two relating to military, and one relating to helicopters.
- In total 27 complaints were received by both Airservices and Defence combined in Q2 2017. Half of these related to fast jet movements (military exercises e.g. Diamond Storm), and the other half related to helicopter movements (a direct result of the USMC presence).

Lesley Alford noted that some members of the community have recently submitted aircraft noise complaints in relation to helicopters flying over the northern suburbs in the evening, and have apparently been told the helicopter movements are related to oil/gas industry organised training. Aircraft Noise Ombudsman, Narelle Bell, offered to look into this further. Lesley Alford to provide more information on the complaint direct to Narelle.

SQNLDR Darren Prior gave the following update regarding RAAF Base operational issues:

- The US Marine Corps are currently in Darwin for the 2017 rotation, with 13 aircraft and approximately 225 personnel on base. Within the next five years it is expected this could grow to 25 aircraft and 500 personnel on base. A number of infrastructure improvements are underway to support this future growth.
- Exercise Diamond Storm was held in June, the first of its kind to include both air and ground components.
- August will see a break from military exercises, with Exercise Grumpy Meteor commencing in September with 110 personnel and 12 jets.

8. Aircraft Noise Ombudsman

Recently appointed Aircraft Noise Ombudsman, Narelle Bell, and Deputy Aircraft Noise Ombudsman, Tim Abberton, spoke with CCG members about the ANO's role and current initiatives:

- The ANO's focus is on the activities of Airservices' and Defence's management of aircraft noise, in particular:
 - How complaints are handled by the two entities
 - The quality of information provided to complainants
 - How they consult with the community
- The ANO is an avenue of appeal for members of the community who may not be happy with the feedback provided by Airservices or Defence regarding aircraft noise. Each complaint received is considered on an individual basis.
- The ANO's voice is through the publishing of reviews and recommendations.
- The current focus of the ANO is community engagement on aircraft noise.

In response to an earlier query received by the CCG prior to the meeting, Narelle and Tim noted that it is difficult to compare the aircraft noise experienced in Darwin with other Australian cities as each site is different (i.e. geography, demography, history, economics, aircraft types) and therefore the issues felt are different.

9. Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development update

Helen Gannon presented:

- As previously discussed, the proposed Airports Amendment Bill was referred to Senate Inquiry in early 2017. The Inquiry received 22 submissions. It will be holding off on the release of its recommendation report until March 2018, following the release of the ATSB report into the Essendon Airport event.
- The Aviation Access Forum last met in May. Key issues currently being considered include:
 - The review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002
 - The carriage of mobility aids
 - Ongoing work to regulations relating to the carriage of assistance animals.

10. Community Consultation Group member issues

Dawn Lawrie queried whether there had been any issues in regards to building heights recently. Bob Calaby advised that there had not, however he noted that any construction cranes for the proposed Poinciana Inn site development would likely infringe airspace.

11. General Business

No general business matters were raised.

Next meeting: Thursday 2 November 2017