



## **DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP**

### **Web Report No 21 – 2 November 2017**

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Acting Chair Ian Kew welcomed members to the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Community Consultation Group. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 20 July 2017 had been previously settled by circulation.

Bob Calaby noted the proposed development of a new 36 storey building at 84 Mitchell St, that would infringe the airport's Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) by 11m. DIA and Defence have both indicated to DAS that they do not support the infringement, and will go through the appropriate regulations for its determination.

#### **2. DIA Property Developments**

Ross Baynes provided members with the following update:

- Stages 1 & 2 of Osgood South have been fully leased, with a proposed Stage 3 now under development.
- The NT Government has undertaken to amend the legislation removing the 400m<sup>2</sup> area restriction for take away bottle shops at the November sittings. The proposed Dan Murphy's development at the airport still requires approval of a liquor licence transferral, with the NT Government indicating this won't be considered until the Liquor Commission is re-established in early 2018. The proposed Dan Murphy's development could create up to 120 jobs during construction and 50 jobs in subsequent operation.
- The NT Government has advised it is supportive in principle of the Right Turn out at Bagot Rd from Osgood Drive. NT Government has also asked DIA to include in its traffic modelling review the opening up of the full intersection (Bagot Rd / Osgood Dve / Totem Rd).
- The Air Traffic Control Tower development is ongoing, with the draft Major Development Plan soon to be submitted to the Federal Minister for approval. There has been some progress on the possible acquisition by DIA of Defence land on Bagot Rd.
- The construction of the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar is complete, with apron works due to be completed by the end of the year. Ian Kew thanked WGCDR Steve Parsons for his involvement in helping to resolve the communications cable challenges with the apron projects.
- The slab of Careflight's new hangar has been poured, and is due for completion in Q2 2018.
- DIA continues to investigate other fuel opportunities at the airport, in particular a dedicated fuel pipeline and port storage at East Arm. The project was presented by Ian Kew at the NT Major Projects Conference in late October. DIA has had positive meetings with Defence, NT Government and local Government on the proposed

pipeline. DIA has executed a negotiation with the Land Development Corporation on the proposed location at the port.

Lesley Alford noted for the record that she is still opposed to the proposed Dan Murphy's development, believing it will increase public harm in alcohol.

### **3. DIA Air Service Developments, Retail and Ground Transport**

Shane de Wit advised on the following air service development at DIA:

- DIA is in discussion with a number of Chinese carriers about direct services between Darwin and China. Darwin is in a superior location to other Australian international airports as it is the only international airport in Australia that can reach mainland China using narrowbody aircraft.
- Malaysia Airlines has ended its Darwin – Kuala Lumpur services.
- DIA is working hard for greater domestic capacity to offset the constrained supply of seats.

Members discussed the challenges and opportunities around a potential Chinese air service, recognising that NT Government is working with business to build the visitor experience for Chinese travellers and Darwin as a destination.

Shane also gave an update on Retail and Ground Transport initiatives at DIA:

- Online booking for car parking is expected to launch early next year.
- DIA is meeting with ridesharing operators who have applied for NT Government licences about future ridesharing operations at the airport.
- DIA has been undertaking a digital customer survey in the terminal.
- There has been significant growth in the Darwin Airport Shuttle Service.
- A number of events have now been held in the new Wirraway Business Centre
- DIA is currently reviewing proposals for the redevelopment of a few of the terminal's food and beverage offerings.
- Catalina Lounge has now been trading for 12 months. New distribution channels are being developed through online sales and travel agents.

Brian O'Gallagher queried how ridesharing works at other airports. Shane noted there are a number of key principles, and these will also apply at Darwin Airport:

- Similar access arrangements to taxis / similar distance from terminal
- Access fees charged by the airport are the same
- Fair and equitable access for operators

Lesley Alford commented on the limited public bus service to the airport, highlighting that no existing services go to the CBD. Helen Gannon noted that Canberra Airport has only recently commenced a public bus service, having been met with industrial issues around the lifting of luggage.

### **4. Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development update**

Helen Gannon noted there have been a few ministerial changes due to the citizenship issue, with Darren Chester now taking responsibility for the Regional Development portfolio for now. In addition to this, the Department has a new Secretary, Dr Stephen Kennedy.

The Disability Access Forum met yesterday, with Helen to provide an update on their meeting at DIA's next CCG in March 2018.

A number of aviation related regulations are currently going through 'sunsetting', a process of reviewing and remaking them. The first pass consultation comprises of a general survey for those who are interested to complete. It will be available until mid-November.

## **5. CACG Chairs Forum**

Victoria Moore provided an update on her recent trip to Canberra to attend the Community Aviation Consultation Group Chairs Forum hosted by the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. Victoria attended on behalf of Independent Chair Daryl Manzie.

A broad variety of topics were discussed, including PFAS, drones, aviation and air cargo security, aircraft noise, National Airports Safeguarding Framework, and sunseting regulations.

## **6. RAAF Operational Update including Airservices Matters**

SQNLDR Darren Prior advised:

- The US Marine Corps rotation has now departed Darwin.
- An exercise with Singapore Air Force is scheduled to commence next week for a duration of three weeks.
- No noise complaints were received relating to the recent international exercises. Defence has been working closely on the approaches to RAAF Base Darwin.
- Exercise Pitch Black 2018 is expected to see an increase in numbers from 2016.
- 1 July – 31 July 2018 will see Pitch Black 2018 and Exercise Kakadu, with exercises slowing down by the end of August.
- A number of infrastructure works are being planned following Pitch Black 2018.

Note: No update was provided by Airservices.

## **7. Defence Support Report**

Jules Domigan provided the following update:

- A key focus is preparing the Base for next year's military exercises. In addition to this, significant construction is expected on base over the next four years, due to US involvement and the base now being categorised as a Main Operational Base.
- Defence has been improving its weed management on base, with a more collaborative approach now taken with DIA, consultants, and contractors. Defence is hopeful of meeting weed management target dates for this year's weed cycle.
- A bushfire mitigation schedule is currently being developed in collaboration with DIA.
- 80 new homes being built at the RAAF Base will go online in January 2018.

Lesley Alford commended Defence for its improvements in weed management, noting good collaboration.

## **8. Defence PFAS Update**

Danny Hetherington and Allan Combridge presented an update on PFAS at RAAF Base Darwin:

- In November 2016 a report confirmed PFAS had been found at RAAF Base Darwin. Since March this year, Defence have been collecting data samples at the base, and working closely with DIA, NT Government and NT EPA. Source areas (e.g.

firefighting sites) have the highest concentration, which is consistent with expectations.

- The draft Detailed Site Investigation Report is expected to be released soon and will be shared with stakeholders in early December. A public consultation event will also be held in Darwin around the same time.
- In early 2018, a human health assessment into PFAS will be undertaken.
- A strategic management plan and remediation plan will be finalised in early 2018.
- Defence has advised there are no properties near RAAF Base Darwin that are using bore water for drinking, with all properties having a town water connection.

Ian Kew commented that until now PFAS has been a Defence and Airservices matter, but is now becoming a broader issue, and is very topical for state and territory governments.

## **9. DIA 2017 Emergency Exercise**

Bob Calaby presented on the emergency exercise held at DIA in August this year, called 'Solar Excursion'. The exercise is held every two years, enabling DIA and emergency services to test their coordinated emergency response to a simulated aircraft crash on airport. Bob creates a new scenario for each exercise, in conjunction with airport stakeholders and emergency services.

This year's exercise included Airnorth as the host airline, providing an Embraer 120 Brasilia aircraft for the simulation. Other agencies participating in the exercise included Defence, NT Police, Australian Federal Police, St John Ambulance, Australian Border Force, NT Fire and Rescue Service, and NT Emergency Service. US Navy doctors attached to the US Marine Corps on rotation in Darwin also took part. The event was recorded and evaluated, with outcomes informing future emergency planning at the airport.

## **10. DIA Wildlife Hazard Management**

Mike Clancy gave an informative presentation on wildlife hazard management at DIA. Wildlife hazards to civil aviation have a worldwide financial cost of US\$1.2 billion per annum. Darwin has one of the highest bird strikes in Australia. During 2016, a total of 26 different bird and bat species were involved in strikes with aircraft in Darwin. As there are variations in species each year, strategies for management need to continually adapt. Wild dogs are also a hazard, with DIA placing a number of traps around the airfield.

DIA has recently implemented a new digital reporting tool called *Aero Ascent* which includes a wildlife hazard management function that has streamlined the reporting process for the airport's airside officers, whilst providing greater efficiency and compliance.

## **11. Darwin Major Business Group – Facing North event**

Ian Kew briefed CCG members on the Darwin Major Business Group (DMBG) and the recent 'Facing North' event held at Parliament House in Canberra on 13 September 2017. The DMBG was formed by 14 major businesses in January 2017, with DIA being one such member. Importantly, each of these members are businesses whose prosperity is linked to the Territory. The group was established for major business to have a strong coordinated voice to inform and influence Government, and to share information among member businesses.

The Facing North event was created by the DMBG in partnership with the NT Government. It was a show of bipartisanship and an opportunity to showcase the Territory and highlight the importance of developing Northern Australia. Ideally it will become an annual event that tells the story of how important the Territory is and in influencing its future.

## **12. Community Consultation Group member issues**

Dawn Lawrie queried whether future improvements to the airport's car parking system could include registration of disabled drivers for number plate recognition. Dawn also noted that City of Darwin provides a permit system that entitles disabled drivers with twice the length of stay for paid parking.

Brian O'Gallagher advised that business in the Territory is generally quite flat. The Chamber of Commerce is discussing with NT Government the support of private sector investment.

Andrew Hardy provided positive feedback on the recent infrastructure improvements made to the General Aviation parking arrangements at DIA.

Grahame Webb reiterated the importance of innovation, investment and cooperation in boosting tourism in the NT.

## **13. General Business**

The confirmed dates for CCG meetings in 2018 are:

- Thursday 15 March
- Thursday 5 July
- Thursday 22 November