



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

### **Web Report No 23 – 5 July 2018**

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

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

Acting Chair Ian Kew welcomed members to the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Community Consultation Group. An email received from Lesley Alford was tabled as she was unable to attend the meeting. Lesley's correspondence noted her disappointment that the detailed feedback she had provided on the Summary Record from the previous meeting on 15 March had not been included more thoroughly. Ian read out Lesley's email to the group, addressing each item raised. Ian emphasised that the Summary Record is a summary of the meeting and does not report verbatim on what was discussed.

Ian informed members that Tom Ganley would step in as Acting Chair for the second half of the meeting.

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

Ross Baynes provided an update on the many developments progressing at DIA:

- The development of Osgood South Stage 3 is progressing with a local builder appointed, however construction is subject to securing pre-commitments.
- Dan Murphy's are expected to lodge an application for a liquor licence transferral in the coming days. A preferred builder has been appointed for the construction of the project, with commencement of construction targeted for Q3 2018. The development has the potential to expand with a second retail site positioned adjacent to Dan Murphy's.
- Stage One of the proposed Osgood Dr / Bagot Rd / Totem Rd intersection improvements will open it to become an all movements intersection. A working group has been formed between DIA and the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, to progress design and commence construction in Q3 2018.
- DIA continues to seek interest in the proposed 1.6ha land subdivision adjacent to Little Flyers Childcare on Osgood Drive.
- A new facility is to be built for the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC), located in close proximity to the RFDS, Careflight and TEMRS hangars.
- DIA is awaiting the outcome of its application with the Building Better Regions Fund for a new cold storage facility at the airport. A seminar on air freight opportunities was held at the airport earlier this week.
- DIA is continuing discussions and due diligence on the proposed fuel pipeline and fuel storage facility at the port.

### **3. DIA Commercial Developments (retail & ground transport) and DIA air service developments**

Shane de Wit presented to the group on air service developments at Darwin Airport, on behalf of DIA's Head of Aviation Development, Matthew Findlay. DIA has four key pillars to its aviation development strategy:

- Maintaining domestic capacity
- Leveraging off fast-growing 'local' successes, like Uluru
- Intervening in changing itineraries, and driving demand
- Focusing on Asia, with new connections and new volumes

Much time is being spent educating passengers about the Top End and how easily accessible it is to China. Donghai Airlines inaugural Shenzhen-Darwin flight arrived on 30 May 2018, with a flying time of 5.5 hours. Ian Kew highlighted that the Donghai service is dependent on the inbound market, unlike other international destinations to Darwin (e.g. Bali) that rely on Territorians.

There was discussion by members around the importance of tourism offerings for Chinese visitors, not only in and around Darwin but also the Top End more broadly. Brian O'Gallagher advised that the NT Chamber of Commerce is actively working on business-to-business connections with China.

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

- The online car parking booking engine is now live, with a minimum discount of 10% every day, and special offers of 35-50% off.
- A new undercover premium parking product is being investigated.
- Uber has announced its interest in entering the Darwin market.
- MAC cosmetics opened in March and is trading well.
- The Catalina Lounge has received great feedback on quality and value, and is being supported well by the local community.

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

Helen Gannon updated members on a range of Departmental matters:

- Steve Campbell has been appointed as Senior Aviation Advisor in the Minister's office.
- The Aviation Access forum last met in May. Items discussed included the carriage of mobility aids and flight information display screens (FIDS) accessibility. CASA is progressing its review of the regulations relating to the carriage of assistance animals.
- The National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) has released for public comment a draft new NASF Guideline I – *Managing the Risk in Public Safety Zones at the Ends of Runways*. The public comment period closes on 12 July 2018.
- The Productivity Commission has now formally launched its latest inquiry into the economic regulation of airport services. These reviews are held every 5-6 years, and take approximately 12 months. The Terms of Reference have been published to the Commission's website: <https://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/airports-2019/terms-of-reference>
- There are a number of aviation measures included in the 2018 Federal Budget:
  - \$28M over four years to the Remote Airstrip Upgrade Program
  - \$2.9M to CASA for the management of safety and compliance of drone use

- \$20M to Avalon Airport infrastructure and service upgrades to accommodate international air services

Ian Kew advised members that DIA will be providing comment on the Public Safety Zone draft guideline. Ian also mentioned that the airport had a positive meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister last month when he was visiting Darwin, briefing him on a variety of matters.

## **5. Airservices Australia update**

Chris McCormack gave a presentation about Airservices' typical flight path change process. The process has four key steps to it: Design; Environmental Assessment; Community Engagement; Final Approval.

Chris went on to update members on the latest noise complainant statistics for Darwin Airport, summarising that no complaints were received in Q1 and Q2 for 2018.

Dawn Lawrie queried a recent article in the NT News (*Airport fee hike shock*, 11 May 2018) regarding Airservices and Defence's air traffic management agreement under the new OneSKY Program and the article's suggestion of increases in costs to operators / passengers.

## **6. RAAF Base Operational Update**

SQNLDR David Anderson outlined the upcoming military exercises at RAAF Base Darwin:

- Exercise Pitch Black will be held from 26 July – 24 August comprising approximately 110 aircraft and 12 nations. The Pitch Black Open Day will be held on 4 August, and the fly past at Mindil Beach on 2 August.
- Exercise Koolondong is scheduled from 21-25 August.
- Exercise Kakadu is to be held from 28 August – 15 September.
- Exercise Diamond Storm will be held from 30 April – 26 May 2019.

## **7. Defence Support Report**

Daryl Grey provided the following update:

- The land management program has completed all scheduled burns except for one, the remaining area to be burned will be slashed instead.
- Defence is working with its contractor on the eradication of gamba grass on base.
- The PFAS Human Health Risk Assessment has now been released, and an environmental management plan to be created for the Base.
- Daryl will be in the position of Base Support Manager at RAAF Base Darwin until November this year.

Bob Calaby shared that DIA is trialling an inhibitor of grass growth in a few plots on DIA land. The purpose of this trial is to assist with wildlife hazard management at the airport. DIA would like to work collaboratively with Defence on this matter.

## **8. DIA Cyclone Marcus Event**

Bob Calaby gave a short presentation to the group on Cyclone Marcus, which crossed Darwin as a Category 2 system on the morning of Saturday 17 March (two days after our last CCG meeting in March). Cyclone Marcus unfolded quickly, with airlines ceasing services at 7pm on Friday evening. By 6pm Saturday operations were back to normal after the cyclone had passed.

Good preparation prior to the cyclone resulted in minimal damage to the airport, however there was significant loss of trees across the airport site due to winds up to 130km/h. Three newly built aircraft hangars lost doors, and investigations discovered a design defect in the door fixings which are now being rectified. Some aircraft moved around as they hadn't been tied down properly, and some ground servicing equipment was blown around on the main apron. These learnings from Cyclone Marcus have been captured and will be applied to the airport's Cyclone Plan.

## **9. DIA Events – The Green Room**

Claire Punch introduced the Green Room, an exciting new pop-up space to be created inside the airport's terminal, designed to showcase Northern Territory arts and culture. It will be a space to relax, have a drink and enjoy on-stage live performances, paying homage to the original Green Room in Hotel Darwin. The Green Room is scheduled to open in August in time for the Darwin Festival, and a program of live performances is being developed, including music, dance and digital content.

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

Dawn Lawrie commented that she would like to see the public bus service pick-up and drop-off passengers at the airport terminal building, as well as accessible buses being considered by the airport shuttle.

## **11. General Business**

Victoria Moore advised the 2018 Stakeholder Engagement Report has been completed, and will be published to the Darwin Airport website shortly.

Next meeting: Thursday 22 November 2018