



DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP

Web Report No 25 – 14 March 2019

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

1. Welcome and Apologies

Acting Chair Ian Kew welcomed members to the 25th meeting of the Community Consultation Group. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 22 November 2018 had been previously settled by circulation.

2. DIA Property Developments

Ross Baynes gave a detailed update on property developments, including:

- It is anticipated building approval for Osgood South Stage 3 will be granted shortly. Construction is subject to securing pre-commitments.
- Dan Murphy's liquor licence substitution application is ongoing, with an initial directions hearing of the NT Liquor Commission held at Woolworths' request in February, and a second planned for late March. The hearing itself is scheduled for late May 2019. Subject to the approval of Dan Murphy's, the development will also include a fast food outlet, a second large retail tenancy, and significant intersection improvements at Bagot Rd / Osgood Drive / Totem Rd. The total project value is circa \$19M (excluding the off-airport intersection improvements), with up to 150 people to be employed during construction.
- The Bagot Rd / Osgood Drive / Totem Rd intersection upgrade will no longer be a staged development, instead the fully master planned all-directions intersection will be implemented, subject to the Dan Murphy's liquor application outcome. The project is a joint venture between DIA and DIPL, with DIPL being the developer.
- Some interest has been received on the proposed land subdivision adjacent to Little Flyers Childcare on Osgood Drive.
- The expansion of Little Flyers Childcare is progressing well, with construction due for completion in Q2 2019. Once complete, it will be the largest childcare centre in Darwin.
- A potential site for the freight and cold storage facility has been identified on the corner of Osgood Drive and Charles Eaton Drive. Stakeholder consultation is ongoing, with construction targeted to begin in late 2019.
- An Expression of Interest has been completed for a second pet boarding kennel located at the airport.
- Construction of the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre is due for completion in Q2 2019, weather permitting.

Members engaged in a discussion about Dan Murphy's and the Liquor Commission hearing. A range of opinions on the proposed development were heard, with all agreeing that finality on this long-running matter will be welcomed.

3. Air Service Developments

Matthew Findlay presented on recent air service developments, including:

- Virgin Australia will commence a new seasonal service from Darwin to Bali in April, with three services weekly.
- Qantas will commence a new service between Darwin and Uluru in April.
- Airnorth will commence onward flights to Townsville and the Gold Coast in April.
- As recently reported in the media, Qantas and Jetstar have cut a number of flights between April-June, reducing capacity.
- Domestic passenger volumes continue to trend down. Similarly, international passenger trends are still down, but turning a corner. The current decline in passenger numbers is not a new occurrence, with Darwin having experienced downturns at various times in the past.
- NT Airports is heavily engaged with both domestic and international airlines, and recently attended the Asia Routes Conference.

The group discussed further comments received from a member of the public regarding air service development between Darwin and Bali.

Matthew reinforced that new air service discussions between airports and airlines are inherently confidential in nature, and new services take many years to come to fruition, citing the new Virgin Australia service to Bali as an example of this.

4. DIA Security Enhancements

Rob Phillips, Head of Security and Contingency Planning, presented a range of security enhancements to be undertaken at Darwin and Alice Springs airports, to meet new security measures mandated by the Federal Government. These improvements will be made to the passenger screening points as well as to the screening of checked baggage. The works will be staged and are anticipated to commence at Darwin Airport in Q3 2019.

5. DIA Commercial Developments (retail & ground transport)

Shane de Wit highlighted a range of commercial developments at Darwin Airport, including:

- JR Duty Free was rebranded at Lotte Duty Free on 1 February, and has been trading well.
- Community events held in the Green Room in the lead up to Christmas were well received and attracted locals to the terminal, resulting in a higher spend rate at retail outlets.
- The 'Happy or Not' customer satisfaction kiosks continue to provide valuable feedback about the passenger journey. In February close to 18,000 responses were received relating to the departing passenger journey, of which 84% of these were positive.
- In response to strong demand, Darwin Airport has opened a new car accessory parking and storage facility at the airport, for customers to park boats, trailers, caravans and motorhomes.
- Uber launched at Darwin Airport on 21 February, with 45 drivers already registered.
- A series of promotions have been launched to promote the airport's online booking engine for car parking, with significant savings for customers.

Shane also provided members with an update on NT Airports' brand strategy project and shared some of the findings from the brand discovery stage of the project.

Dawn Lawrie suggested more publicity would be beneficial about car parking offers at the airport when attending Green Room events. Claire Punch, DIA's Community Engagement Manager welcomed Dawn's feedback, and took the opportunity to tell CCG members that the Green Room's 2019 performance program is currently being developed, and an Artist in Residence program is scheduled to commence in May.

6. Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities update

Taryn Powick advised there had been further ministerial changes to the Department, with Andrew Gee MP, Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister, replacing Andrew Broad.

Changes are to be made to the CASA Regulations regarding the carriage of assistance animals, taking effect in 2021. Changes will consolidate a large number of existing documents into two, and amendments will include allowing pilots to determine whether the carriage of an assistance animal should be accepted. Dawn Lawrie queried what constitutes an 'assistance animal'.

The Productivity Commission's draft report into the Economic Regulation of Airports was released in February. The Commission will hold public hearings to inform its inquiry in late March, with the final report expected to be submitted to the Government in June 2019.

Following the drone event at Gatwick Airport in December, there has been renewed focus on drone operations in and around airports. CASA continues to improve regulations and processes regarding drones, and is currently trialling surveillance equipment at airports around Australia, including Darwin.

The National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) met on Tuesday, with the focus this year to be on supporting state and territory jurisdictions in the implementation of the framework into their respective planning systems.

7. RAAF Base Operational Update including Airservices Matters

SQNLDR Craig Sedgman advised of the following matters at RAAF Base Darwin:

- Exercise Diamond Storm will be held from 26 April – 25 May.
- There will be three cycles of B-52 aircraft to Darwin this year.
- Planning has already commenced for Pitch Black 2020.
- Celebrations are being planned for the 100th birthday of the RAAF on 31 March 2021.
- The Air Traffic Control Upgrade Project is underway. Bob Calaby commented that airspace issues are currently being worked through.
- Infrastructure works continue on base, including roadworks, electrical and sewer upgrades.
- A range of construction projects are underway on base including helicopter pads, new buildings, fuel tanks and aprons.

SQNLDR Sedgman also provided an update on Airservices matters, primarily:

- There was one noise complainant in Q4 2018, with a total of 3 noise complainants for the 2018 calendar year. This is significantly less than the 12 noise complainants received in 2017.
- All complainants in 2018 were concerned with military operations.

Lesley Alford confirmed her acceptance of SQNLDR Craig Sedgman's previous invitation to visit the base.

8. Airservices PFAS Statement

Acting Chair Ian Kew circulated a statement from Airservices providing an update regarding PFAS and the recent investigation report by the Commonwealth airport regulator into waste mismanagement allegations at Airservices. No questions were raised by members.

9. DIA Environment Update

Following Airservices' PFAS statement, Nick Fewster summarised the investigation at Darwin Airport into waste mismanagement at Airservices, and outlined DIA's ongoing engagement with Airservices.

An environmental sustainability questionnaire was distributed to members. Feedback from the questionnaire will assist NT Airports in better understanding stakeholder priorities across various aspects of environmental management and sustainability.

10. Community Consultation Group member issues

Dawn Lawrie asked for an update on wildlife hazard management at the airport. Bob Calaby shared that DIA is currently undertaking an integrated vegetation management trial, where a plot of grass on the airfield has been treated with a herbicide and a growth inhibitor, with the purpose of detaching wildlife from the airfield. The trial has gone well so far.

SQNLDR Craig Sedgman advised that works on access to/from the RAAF base are underway, pushing vehicle access further down the Stuart Highway towards Bombing Road.

11. General Business

No general business items were raised.

Remaining 2019 meeting dates: Thursday 11 July, Thursday 14 November.