



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

### **Web Report No 26 – 11 July 2019**

held at

Board Room, Wirraway Business Centre, Darwin International Airport

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

Chair Daryl Manzie welcomed members to the 26th meeting of the Community Consultation Group. The Summary Record and Meeting Report of the meeting on 14 March 2019 had been previously settled by circulation. SQNLDR Craig Sedgman introduced SQNLDR Melanie Free as the incoming Air Base Executive Officer (ABXO) RAAF Base Darwin. SQNLDR Craig Sedgman has now transitioned to the role of Base Redevelopment Officer.

Bob Calaby shared with members that CASA has recently commenced a one-month drone surveillance trial at Darwin Airport. Bob also mentioned that the Integrated Vegetation Management trial (discussed in previous meetings) continues with good results.

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

Patrick Bellot presented an update on property developments at DIA:

- The Liquor Commission hearing into the Woolworths liquor licence substitution application for the proposed Dan Murphy's development was held in June, now awaiting the Commission's decision.
- The proposed Bagot Rd / Osgood Drive / Totem Rd intersection upgrade works are subject to the outcome of the Liquor Commission hearing.
- The \$1.05M Little Flyers Childcare centre expansion was completed on time and on budget. The expansion provides for a further 49 placements (168 in total) and is already at 90% occupancy.
- The proposed freight and cold storage development is to be located on the corner of Osgood Drive and Charles Eaton Drive and will be run by a local operator. Construction is targeted to commence in late 2019.
- Construction of the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre is now complete, having been delivered on time and on budget. The new facility has tripled the operational capacity.

For the benefit of new members to the Community Consultation Group, Lesley Alford and Dawn Lawrie both reiterated their individual opinions of the proposed Dan Murphy's development. Lesley offered to share her formal submission to the Liquor Commission with the group.

### **3. Defence Support Report**

John Cox advised that with all the works underway on Base and increased heavy load vehicle traffic, Defence has identified the constrained space around the entry control point to the Base in Eaton, with a temporary traffic solution being prepared.

The issue of weed management and Gamba grass was raised by members. John will take up with his environmental officers for an update.

#### **4. RAAF Base Operational Update**

SQNLDR Melanie Free recapped recent exercise activity at RAAF Base Darwin:

- Exercise Diamond Storm was held from 29 April to 29 May with participation from RAAF and US Air Force. The purpose of the exercise is to train fighter pilots and upgrade their competencies. During the exercise 28 noise complaints were received, with Defence now creating a noise management plan for the exercise.
- This year's Marine Rotational Force – Darwin began arriving in April and in total there will be approximately 2,500 Marines. The rotation will conclude in October.
- As a result of noise complaints received relating to the MV-22 Osprey helicopters, approach profiles have been revised with air traffic control.

SQNLDR Craig Sedgman shared an update on works occurring on base, including:

- New airside fences are being installed as part of a two-phase project.
- A new northern perimeter fence is being constructed.
- Works continue on the new Air 7000 hangar and hardstand.
- A solar farm is to be constructed airside adjacent to DIA's West Village Stage 3. Defence anticipate an access point will be required on Osgood Drive, with Defence to discuss further with DIA.

Dawn Lawrie asked about wild dogs passing through the airport site, with Bob Calaby advising that sightings have been rare in recent times.

#### **5. Community Consultation Group Chairs' Forum 2018**

Daryl Manzie spoke of his attendance at the Community Consultation Group Chairs' Forum held by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development in September 2018. Topics included aviation policy, airport traffic trends, PFAS, Airservices Amendment Bill, aviation security, disability access, CASA airspace protection, cities deals, aircraft noise, Western Sydney Airport, airport rail links, national freight supply strategy.

#### **6. Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Update**

Helen Gannon advised there have been changes to portfolio Ministerial arrangements following the May 2019 Federal Election. There are now 7 portfolio Ministers – the Hon Michael McCormack MP remains as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development. The Department's name has changed and is now the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development. Within the Department, Ann Redmond has commenced as the General Manager, Airports Branch, replacing Leonie Horrocks who has moved to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Helen responded to a query from the last CCG meeting as to the definition of an 'assistance animal'. Currently CASA considers dogs as the predominant assistance animal, of which these fall into three categories: guide dogs; hearing dogs; and other assistance dogs.

Following the December 2018 drone incident at Gatwick Airport there has been an increased focus on the impact of a similar event in Australia. Following a roundtable discussion in

March 2019, the Department facilitated a drone incursion desktop exercise at Sydney Airport on 16 May 2019. The results of the desktop exercise will be shared with all major Australian airports. CASA is trialling the use of surveillance technology around a number of airports (including Darwin), to identify illegal use of drones and pinpoint the location of the operator. The trial is initially a passive data collection exercise but will be used to inform ongoing drone management strategies.

## **7. Airservices Update**

Jenny Welsh, from Airservices' Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS), explained Airservices' classification scheme for handling noise complaints, and the NCIS review process. Airservices received no noise complainants for Darwin airport in Q1 2019, which is consistent with Q1 2018. One complainant was recorded in Q2 2019, however their issue was not noise related and they were instead seeking information regarding a solar installation.

Airservices has recently created a video series on air traffic control:

- Episode 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKa10xrx6qo&feature=youtu.be>
- Episode 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apxBuzh5vGc&feature=youtu.be>

## **8. DIA Security Improvements Update**

Jason McGlashan gave an update on the construction program for the proposed security enhancements in the terminal that are scheduled to commence in Q3 2019. The main screening point will be increased in size to accommodate new technology screening equipment. It is expected the main screening point will be closed for approximately two months while these works are undertaken and the new equipment installed. During this time the secondary screening point at the eastern end of the terminal will be utilised.

## **9. DIA Projects Update**

Jason McGlashan went on to discuss a range of projects proposed for the Darwin Airport terminal, including:

- New common use automatic bag drop machines and self-service kiosks will replace the existing check-in desks. The kiosks will be wifi enabled so that they can ultimately be placed in hotels around Darwin to allow passengers to check-in and even tag their bags before coming to the airport.
- Three of the existing aerobridges are to be replaced, along with the link bridge to Bay 1. The new aerobridges will include some glazing panels for greater visibility to the airside. The new aerobridges will also incorporate Ground Power Units and Pre-Conditioned Air units, which will be charged from the airport's existing solar farms, thus reducing our emissions.

Zac Neck advised that sections of the existing infrastructure (water, electrical, sewer) are due for replacement to maintain essential service supply and reliability to the airport and its tenants. Zac also noted that the early works have commenced for Defence's Air Traffic Control Upgrade Project with site establishment well underway.

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

Ian Kew advised members that there was no Aviation Development or Commercial presentation today as DIA's Director of Commercial was currently on annual leave. However, Ian gave a short summary of the current climate, noting that:

- Domestic passenger numbers continue to be down, associated with the main Inpex program, and it is expected there will be little to no passenger growth this financial year with the Australian economy also slowing.
- In early July, Silkair commenced its 7<sup>th</sup> weekly service between Darwin and Singapore. International passenger numbers on the Darwin-Singapore sector are up 16% on last year.
- Virgin Australia's seasonal services to Bali have been very strong.
- Darwin Airport's Catalina Lounge is trading very well.

Darwin Airport recently celebrated 21 years since the airport became privatised. To mark this anniversary, DIA hosted the movie premiere of *The Sweet Little Note of the Engine*, a documentary which showcases the importance of Northern Australia in the context of Australian aviation. The documentary was jointly commissioned by Darwin International Airport, Channel Nine, and the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre. CCG members able to attend the evening were very complimentary about the event, commenting that it was a unique Darwin experience.

SQNLDR Craig Sedgman noted that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RAAF will be marked on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

## **11. General Business**

No general business items were raised.

Remaining 2019 meeting dates: Thursday 14 November.