



**Sydney Airport
Community Forum**

SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM

Meeting 2/2009

Conference Room A, 8th Floor,
70 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000

9.00am to 12.00pm

Friday, 10 July 2009

SUMMARY RECORD



AGENDA ITEM 1: Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda

- The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members and nominees. He advised members that Chris Stewart, Robert McClelland's representative passed away and it was agreed a letter of condolence would be prepared and sent on behalf of SACF.
- The draft Agenda was accepted by the meeting.

ACTION:

- **Condolence letter to be prepared and dispatched.**
-

AGENDA ITEM 2: Confirmation of Draft Meeting Summary Record

- The Draft Summary Record of the meeting held on 20 March 2009 was accepted without amendment. All action items were identified as completed with the exception of the letter to councils concerning the contact details for the Noise Enquiry Unit - the Department advised this task was well under way and would be completed in the near future.
-

AGENDA ITEM 3: 'Towards a National Aviation Policy' Green Paper and White Paper process

3.1 Progress report – Department

- Ms Maureen Ellis Department of Infrastructure reported:
 - the SACF National Aviation Policy submission was received on 13 May and was one of 230 submissions;
 - the White Paper is expected to be released in the latter half of 2009;
 - the Department has released a paper, *Safeguarding for Airport and the Communities around them*, (copies available at the meeting and also available on the Department's web site).

3.2 General discussion

- Members were concerned the Safeguarding paper raised new issues relevant to SACF and Sydney Airport and were reassured by the Chair that the paper was a commitment in the Green Paper which the SACF submission had already covered.
- Issues of particular interest included the proposed review of the ANEF system and the OLS (Obstacle Limitation Surface) around Sydney Airport. It was agreed the Department would provide a list for SACF members of the buildings currently penetrating the OLS.
- An update was requested in relation to the second Sydney Airport. The Chair drew members attention to the copy of the Minister's press release included in meeting papers. Member for Cook, Scott Morrison, asked the Department if it was Government policy that the Sydney second airport would be in the Sydney basin. The Chair repeated that the information currently available was contained in the Minister's press release and suggested it was more appropriate for this matter to be taken up with the Minister. The Chair agreed to include the question in his report to the Minister on the meeting. BARA representative Warren Bennett offered to provide SACF members with a copy of the BARA paper on second Sydney airport for information.
- While a SACF submission on the safeguarding paper was not considered necessary it was agreed the Department would work with the Community Advocate to cross check the safeguarding paper with the SACF Green Paper submission to identify any issues that should be raised by SACF and this would be progressed out of session.



ACTIONS:

- List of OLS penetrations for Sydney Airport to be provided to members by Department;
 - Chair's SACF report letter to Minister to include query "Is it Government policy that the second Sydney airport will be in the Sydney Basin?";
 - BARA will provide members with a copy of its paper on the location of a second Sydney airport;
 - Department to work with ACA to cross reference the Safeguarding Paper with SACF submission to the Green Paper to highlight any issues of SACF concern that may not already be covered in the Green Paper submission.
-

AGENDA ITEM 4: Update on the Master Plan

Status Report from SACL

- Ken Allcott (SACL) provided an update on the Master Plan and reported that there were some differences between the preliminary draft Master Plan and the draft that was submitted to the Minister's Office for approval based on the public submissions.
 - He advised no changes to the cap on slots or curfew were proposed.
 - It was pointed out the Minister had made a clear statement that the Government believes there needs to be a new airport.
-

AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) Project

- There was positive feedback from members on the use of Mode 15 and a request was made for it to be retained post RESA as it complements other noise sharing initiatives and has had positive outcomes. The issue of whether it would require environmental clearance was raised and Airservices advised Mode 15 does add significant additional track miles for westerly bound traffic.
- Members agreed the Chair's SACF report to the Minister should include acknowledgement of the success of Mode 15 and a recommendation it continue to be used post RESA.
- The increased use of SODPROPS was also noted by members and Airservices were to be congratulated.

ACTION:

- Letter from SACF to Airservices Australia to be prepared and references included in Chair's report to the Minister on the success of Mode 15 and urging its continued application.
-

AGENDA ITEM 6: Airservices Issues

6.1 Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) – Community Representative

- Kevin Hill reported that IMC has had 2 meetings since the last SACF meeting and advised that the issues discussed included:
 - the mode change advisory tools;
 - other ways of being able to advise air traffic controllers which modes are to be used; and
 - Bundeena overflights which the IMC discussed in detail.

6.2 Update on noise issues – Airservices

- Rod Lee reported that:
 - *Bundeena*: Airservices has examined overflights of Bundeena and concluded the flights were weather related. He indicated there is no formal reporting mechanism to give reasons for the aircraft not operating in the usual flight paths.



Members agreed there had been some unusual flight path activity and discussion centred around a reporting mechanism being established which would provide the reasons why these flights are occurring.

- *Long Haul flights to the US:* 100% of long haul carriers to the US are using a direct runway heading (not the Richmond SID) because of the Bankstown corridor and associated limitations.
- *SODPROPS:* An improvement in the use of SODPROPS from 3-4% to 11% for the past 3 months.
- *Alleged low departures over Hunter's Hill:* Airservices presented the scatter plots to IMC at the April meeting. The Community Advocate undertook to do further work on the information that had been provided.

There was general discussion on the need for greater transparency in reporting the reasons why aircraft operate the way they do. In particular there is a need to explain exceptional cases so that the community can understand why planes are flying overhead. There was discussion that such reporting may not be possible as it may impose onerous requirements on pilots or Airservices Australia.

ACTION:

- **The Chair requested a one page report from IMC for the information of SACF members on improved transparency and reporting in relation to times when standard flight paths are not flown. Airservices and Kevin Hill were identified as action officers. The Chair requested the paper detail the issues and options including the pilots' ability to respond to weather.**

AGENDA ITEM 7: Aviation Community Advocate (ACA)

7.1 Report from the ACA

- It was noted that members had just been provided with a copy of the ACA's latest progress report. The ACA spoke to his report which covered the period 13 February 2009 to 12 June 2009 and summarised the contents for members. He covered progress on the ACA work program; mode use details; the use of SODPROPS, a summary of achievements, and his concerns regarding the ANEF.
- The report was acknowledged by Kevin Hill and Tony was thanked for his work in providing a very detailed report and congratulated on the usefulness of the data.

7.2 ACA Review Report and future role of the ACA – ACA Review Subcommittee

The report of the ACA Review Subcommittee was sent to Members on 1 May 2009.

- Discussion was opened by Mr Peter Fitzgerald who provided some context and reference to the ACA Review Report.
- It was generally agreed by members that SACF required ongoing access to both advocacy and technical expertise and it was acknowledged that the tasks asked of the current ACA were often too big, complex and took up a significant amount of time.
- Other issues raised in discussion included recognition that the position was most useful; the ACA had an important role to play; there would be benefit for continuity of the current occupant for knowledge and relationship reasons; some criticism of the content of the ACA Review Report particularly the suggested deficiencies; and a number of members spoke highly of the work of the current ACA (Tony Williams).
- Overall members were happy with the data collected and collated by the ACA and the analysis of the data, as it assists with explaining to constituents what is going on with the noise and flights.
- After extensive discussion Members agreed:
 - the position of a SACF aviation community advocate should be retained;
 - an expert panel should be established and available for particular tasks; and



- funding for the position should be maintained and if possible increased.
- Discussion on who should hold the ACA position and the details of a work program or how the position is administered by SACF was deferred until the next meeting when it should be known if the Minister would support (and the Department fund) an ACA position.

ACTION:

- Motion passed by members for inclusion in the Chair's report to the Minister is as follows:

"SACF has found the Aviation Community Advocate position has been invaluable in providing it, its members and the broader community with assistance, information and advocacy of the community interest on aviation issues and aircraft noise at Sydney Airport. Accordingly, based on this experience SACF reiterates its position on the Aviation Community Advocate as expressed in its response to the Government's 2009 National Aviation Policy Green Paper and resolves as follows:

- ***The position of Aviation Community Advocate should be held by a suitably qualified and independent individual;***
- ***The Aviation Community Advocate should be supplemented as necessary by independent expert advice; and***
- ***An allocation of funding should be made available by Government for the Aviation Community Advocate position and to meet the costs of advice of technical experts from a proposed panel of experts on an as required basis".***

AGENDA ITEM 8: Current Issues

8.1 Update from ANARCS subcommittee – Mr Kevin Hill

- Deferred to next meeting

AGENDA ITEM 9: Other Business

- Nil

AGENDA ITEM 10: Administrative Matters

- 10.1 Curfew Dispensation Report*
- 10.2 SACF Correspondence*
- 10.3 SACF Phone Line*
- 10.4 SACF Web Site*

Due to the time and length of preceding discussions, and acknowledging member's other commitments, the Chair brought member's attention to the inclusion of relevant documentation in the meeting papers.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Date of next meeting

- It was agreed the next meeting of SACF will be held in Friday 25 September 2009.
-