

SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM (SACF)**Meeting 02/2020, 8 May 2020****AGENDA ITEM 1 Opening Remarks, Housekeeping and Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair welcomed members and guests and acknowledged the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair noted this meeting, conducted as it was by teleconference, would not constitute a formal meeting of SACF and would not replace the meeting scheduled for Friday 12 June 2020.

The Chair requested SACF members please hold their questions until the end of each presentation, and that everyone identify themselves before speaking. The Chair then welcomed Trent Mumford, Head of Government and Public Affairs at Qantas, to the meeting.

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the draft agenda proposed for this meeting was much shorter than usual. The Chair outlined his expectation that SACF would return to its full agenda for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2 Qantas Freight Dispensation

Mr Mumford provided a brief to SACF members regarding a freight dispensation granted to Qantas by the Department. The dispensation allows for the temporary operation of Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 freighters during the curfew period, instead of the Bae-146s ordinarily permitted under the Regulations. Mr Mumford noted each of the aircraft covered by the dispensation would be noise compliant with Chapter 4 of the Regulations, and the dispensation did not permit any increase in movements.

Given the reduction in air freight capacity brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the dispensation will allow Qantas to maintain freight levels without increasing the number of out-of-curfew movements. Mr Mumford assured SACF the dispensation would have a negligible impact to the community.

Matt Thistlethwaite MP, Member for Kingsford-Smith, asked which take-off configuration these flights would be using. Mr Mumford confirmed they would be following the flightpaths prescribed in section 13 of the Act.

Kevin Hill, Community Representative for the South, asked whether the change from Bae-146s to 737s and A320s would be a permanent upgrade. Mr Mumford clarified that fleet upgrades were a separate issue from the dispensation that had been granted. The dispensation is a temporary permission to operate curfew freight movements with these aircraft – any permanent change would require legislative change. Mr Hill wondered if the noise monitor in Kurnell would show this as a benefit for the community, and committed to raise the matter at the next meeting of the Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC).

John Patterson, representing the Member for Heffron, asked Mr Mumford to confirm that the aircraft covered by the dispensation would stick to the existing flightpaths. Mr Mumford confirmed this was the case.

AGENDA ITEM 3 Sydney Airport Update

Karen Halbert, General Manager – Corporate Affairs, Sydney Airport Corporation Limited (SACL), provided a general summary on the impact of COVID-19 on airport operations. Key points included:

- Domestic movements at Sydney Airport are down 97% from this time last year, with international movements down 96% on the same time period. On the day of the meeting, this represented 400 passenger arrivals and 800 passenger departures.
- Freight flights are up to compensate for the decline in under-wing freight capacity, with freight flights now making up approximately 50% of all movements.
- Social distancing measures have been put in place at the international terminal as well as in both domestic terminals.
- Sydney Airport has temporarily closed the east-west runway for use as overflow aircraft parking. Roughly 20-30 aircraft will be parked on the runway until domestic aviation picks back up.

Ted Plummer, Special Adviser Community and Government Relations, SACL, gave a brief presentation on ongoing Sydney Airport projects unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic. Key points included:

- Stage 1 of the runway re-surfacing project is complete. More public consultation is underway, with the second stage due to commence in October this year.
 - Fewer than ten complainants were noted during Stage 1.
- The Sydney Gateway Major Development Plan (MDP) dual approval process is underway. Mr Plummer noted the MDP is expected to generate around 1,000 jobs.
- SACL are proposing a variation to the approved T2/T3 Ground Access Solution and Hotel MDP, and will consult SACF regarding the changes. Mr Plummer noted the variation is required to accommodate Sydney Gateway, as well as to move the hotel and reduce the number of car parks.

SACF members discussed the temporary closure of the east-west runway, especially as it relates to noise-sharing and the eventual re-opening of the runway. It was noted by SACL representatives that the only reason it was possible to use the runway for temporary aircraft parking was the severe reduction in aircraft movements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Aircraft parked on the runway will be moved elsewhere once parking becomes available.

SACF members also discussed the runway resurfacing project, and asked why the second stage could not be undertaken now. SACL representatives explained the second stage could not commence until warmer weather permitted the asphalt to dry.

AGENDA ITEM 4 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Report

Joseph Solomon, Director, Airports Section, advised SACF that, while the Department has undergone a restructure to prioritise the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, both he and

Adam Osborne remain the best points of contact for SACF and other Sydney Airport-related matters. Mr Solomon noted the Government is pivoting to recovery from the pandemic and progression of business-as-usual work, including the Productivity Commission's recommendations regarding the economic regulation of Sydney Airport. The Government had announced a number of measure in response to COVID-19, including:

- The Deputy Prime Minister's issuing of a direction to the Sydney Airport Slot Manager, suspending the 'use it or lose it' slot rule for the Northern Summer 2020 scheduling season. This will enable airlines to retain their historic precedence for slots at Sydney Airport without having to operate commercially unviable flights during the pandemic.
- The \$715 million aviation industry assistance package, reimbursing operators for fees and charges accrued (announced 18 March 2020);
- The \$298 million Regional Air Network Assistance Package, ensuring the operation of critical air services to regional Australia (announced 28 March 2020);
- The \$110 million International Freight Assistance Mechanism (announced 1 April 2020), funding the export of key air freight and import of vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment;
- The \$80 million Getting Australians Home package (announced 3 April 2020), underwriting flights from four key international hubs to help Australians return home; and
- The \$165 million minimum domestic network (announced 16 April 2020), providing funding to Qantas and Virgin to support domestic aviation services along the most critical metropolitan and regional routes in Australia.

SACF members requested confirmation that the sunseting of the regulatory instruments underneath the *Airports Act 1996* and the *Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997* were still progressing, which the Department confirmed. [The Department also confirmed that an update on progress will continue to be a standard item in the Department's report to SACF.](#)

Discussion then turned to the flightpath design process for the Western Sydney Airport. Mr Solomon committed to seek an update to be provided out of session to SACF members. SACF members then discussed the issue raised in previous meetings regarding SACF representation in the airspace design process for the Western Sydney Airport. Mr Solomon committed to ensuring the Department's Western Sydney Unit would regularly brief SACF regarding the process and consultation opportunities. [John Clarke reiterated the view previously promoted by SACF Community Representatives that SACF should be actively engaged in the WSA flight path development process in order to protect the integrity of LTOP and ensure integration of WSA and Sydney Airport airspace design, rather than SACF simply being briefed on progress.](#)

AGENDA ITEM 5 Airservices Australia Report

Glenn Cox and Fiona Lawton provided an update from Airservices Australia. Key topics included:

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on aircraft operations.
- The appointment of Kieran Pehm as the new Aircraft Noise Ombudsman.

- The Noise Complaint Investigation Service is working remotely and can only accept online or WebTrak submissions.
- An update on the draft Flight Path Design Principles – public consultation concluded on 9 March 2020, and a second public comment period (on the Final Principles) will be undertaken from mid-May 2020.
- The aforementioned Qantas freight dispensation (discussed at Agenda Item 2, above).
- An overview of noise complainants during the pandemic.

Members of SACF raised concerns regarding Airservices Australia’s consultation on the draft Flight Path Design Principles. Ms Lawton confirmed the draft Flight Path Design Principles would not apply to the operation of the Long-Term Operating Plan for Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport and its Associated Airspace (LTOP), which currently governs flight paths in the Sydney Basin. Ms Lawton noted SACF members’ comments that a written acknowledgement of this would be beneficial in the next version of the draft Principles.

AGENDA ITEM 6 Other Business

John Clarke, representing the Member for Bennelong, asked whether future meetings of SACF could be held over Zoom. Concerns were raised by other SACF members regarding the security of Zoom, as well as SACF’s commitment to holding open meetings. The SACF Secretariat committed to investigating video conferencing options for the next meeting of SACF.

AGENDA ITEM 10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting has been re-scheduled for Friday 10 July 2020.

ATTENDANCE

Members

J.	Alexander	Chair
J.	Ward	Assistant to the Chair
M.	Thistlethwaite	Member for Kingsford-Smith
B.	Leeson	Representing the Member for Kingsford-Smith
M.	Rohan	Representing the Member for North Sydney
J.	Stewart	Representing the Member for Bradfield
C.	Kekovich	Representing the Member for Cook
J.	Clarke	Representing the Member for Bennelong
J.	Patterson	Representing the Member for Heffron
Z.	Solomon	Representing the Member for Summer Hill
K.	Hill	Community Representative for the South
M.	Patrinos	Community Representative for the West
B.	Hayes	Community Representative for the North
K.	Welsh	Representing the Inner West Council
C.	Harley	Representing the Bayside Council
R.	Edney	Virgin Australia
T.	Plummer	Representing Sydney Airport Corporation Limited
S.	Annand	Board of Airline Representatives of Australia

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

J.	Solomon	Director, Airports Section
A.	Osborne	SACF Secretariat, Airports Section
S.	Kabaha	Airports Section

Airservices Australia

G.	Cox	A/g Director Operations Terminal Services (Sydney)
F.	Lawton	Community Engagement Manager

Observers and Presenters

K.	Halbert	Sydney Airport Corporation Limited
K.	Allcot	Sydney Airport Corporation Limited
T.	Mumford	Qantas