

SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM (SACF)**Meeting 02/2021, 11 June 2021****AGENDA ITEM 1 Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda**

The Chair welcomed members and guests and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land the Gadigal people.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SACF met in-person as well as by videoconference and teleconference. The Chair reminded everyone the meetings are recorded and the recording is deleted after the draft Summary Record has been accepted.

John Clarke, representing the Member for Bennelong, requested that in future the SACF Secretariat list all topics requested by members on the Agenda. This was agreed to by SACF, who adopted the Agenda at the Chair's request. The SACF Secretariat conducted a roll call.

Action Item 01/02 – SACF Secretariat to list all topics requested by members on the Agenda.

AGENDA ITEM 2 Confirmation of Draft Summary Record of Meeting 01/2021

Meeting 01/2021 was held in-person, by videoconference and by teleconference on 5 March 2021. The draft Summary Record for this meeting was circulated to members following Meeting 01/2021 and again on 4 June 2021.

2.1 *Incorporation of suggested changes*

John Clarke, representing the Member for Bennelong, requested a change to Agenda Item 3 in the draft Summary Record for Meeting 01/2021. This change was agreed to and has been included in the Summary Record published online.

2.2 *Action items arising from previous meetings*

There were eight Action Items arising from Meeting 01/2021.

- Action Item 01/01: SACF Secretariat to confirm the veracity of the redacted letter provided to fulfil Action Item 03/04. The letter was mentioned in SACF meeting 04/2020, but was dated for later in the year. Jon Stewart, representing the Member for Bradfield, advised that the reason for the change of date on the letter was that the letter in question was originally written by two co-authors. One of these co-authors, following SACF meeting 04/2020, withdrew their name from the letter for personal reasons. The remaining co-author, now the sole author of the letter, signed and dated the letter on this date.
- Action Item 02/01: SACF Secretariat to circulate all presentations made during Meeting 01/2021 to the SACF membership. This was done on 9 March 2021.
- Action Item 03/01: Chair to write to the Deputy Prime Minister expressing SACF's concerns over the ANEF contours as a measure for managing aircraft noise, and requesting the Commonwealth commission research equivalent to the FAA's *Neighbourhood Environmental Survey* for the Australian context. The Chair wrote to



the Deputy Prime Minister on 31 March 2021, and the Deputy Prime Minister responded on 12 May 2021. The contents of the Deputy Prime Minister's correspondence is discussed under Agenda Item 9, below.

- Action Item 04/01: SACF Secretariat to circulate meeting minutes for the 16 February 2021 IMC meeting once they have been finalised. This was done on 4 June 2021, once the IMC Secretariat had finalised the minutes.
- Action Item 05/01: SACF Secretariat to circulate the Australian Business Aviation Association's (ABAA) Issues paper to members, and to collate submissions or comments on this paper out-of-session. This was done following Meeting 01/2021.
- Action Item 06/01: SACF Secretariat to invite the ABAA to present on their paper at the next SACF meeting. This was done following Meeting 01/2021, and David Bell, Chief Executive Officer of the ABAA, presented during Agenda Item 12.
- Action Item 07/01: SACF Secretariat to circulate previous example of the Sydney Airport Operational Statistics Report produced by Airservices Australia to the SACF membership for their information. This was done following Meeting 01/2021.
- Action Item 08/01: Chair of SACF to write to the CEO of Airservices asking that resources be made available to compile, produce and publish the Sydney Airport Operational Statistics Reports and to make the *Aircraft In Your Neighbourhood* website (and guidance material) more prominent on the Airservices website's landing page. The Chair wrote to the CEO of Airservices on 31 March 2021, and received a response on 4 May 2021, confirming that the website has been made more prominent on the Airservices' webpage.

AGENDA ITEM 3 Secretariat Update

The SACF Secretariat provided an update on the correspondence received and sent since Meeting 01/2021. Some topics of note included:

- The Chair's letters to the Deputy Prime Minister and to the CEO of Airservices.
- The Deputy Prime Minister and CEO of Airservices' responses to the Chair.
- Airservices' procedure guide for how to use the operational statistics functions of its website.
- Documents relating to the IMC update at Agenda Item 10.
- Two submissions for Community Question Time, discussed at Agenda Item 4. An additional submission was received after the Agenda Papers had been circulated, and was circulated to the membership following the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 Community Question Time – Members of the Community

Since Meeting 01/2021, the SACF Secretariat received 17 questions from three members of the community. These questions, and the answers provided, are listed below.

1. Has the FAA Report on this topic been released yet, and if so, may I have a copy? If not yet released can the Department advise when this might occur?
 - a. The US Federal Aviation Administration released the Neighbourhood Environmental Survey on 14 January 2021. It can be accessed online through the FAA's website:
https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/policy_guidance/noise/survey/

2. What is the current status of the Review of International Research on Community Reaction to Aircraft Noise: Report 1: Overview of Aircraft Noise Metrics Andrew J Hede Professor Emeritus, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia Director, Hede Consulting, Sydney?

- a. Professor Hede wrote to the Chair of SACF on 25 May 2018 advising that, owing to other professional commitments, he was unable to continue with the project. SACF elected to wait for the US Federal Aviation Administration to release its Neighbourhood Environmental Survey, which was published on 14 January 2021.

The Chair of SACF wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister on 31 March 2021 to request government funding for equivalent research in Australia.

On 12 May 2021, the Deputy Prime Minister declined government funding for such research at this point in time, noting both the Australian Government's focus on supporting recovery in the aviation sector and that undertaking such a survey before air traffic has returned to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels would skew the results.

This was discussed in detail at Agenda Item 9.

3. If Professor Hede's NAL Acoustic Study review has stalled is SACF considering the proposed action advanced by Kevin Hill above i.e. 'SACF should pursue its own research on this topic'?
 - a. See the answer provided to Question 2, above.
4. Is it still the view of SACF that, "Representatives [of] 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"?
 - a. From the sentiments and concerns expressed by members during previous meetings, the Chair considers SACF's view remains that SACF should be actively engaged in the airspace and flightpath design processes for the Western Sydney International Airport.
5. What is the current status of SACF Action Item 06/03, which requested the Chair write to the Deputy Prime Minister and request membership of the Expert Steering Group? Has the deputy prime minister been written to and any response received?
 - a. The Deputy Prime Minister wrote to the Chair on 12 May 2021 declining the Chair's request for membership of the Expert Steering Group (ESG) for the Western Sydney International Airport (WSIA).

The Deputy Prime Minister understands SACF's concerns about the potential for WSIA's airspace and flight path design to impact upon the Long-Term Operating Plan for Sydney Kingsford-Smith Airport (LTOP), but had been advised that the preliminary design for WSIA will not impact either the

current implementation of LTOP or its progressive implementation as envisaged in Ministerial Direction M94/97.

Given this advice, the Deputy Prime Minister did not consider there to be a need for the Chair of SACF to be granted membership on the ESG at this time.

The Deputy Prime Minister acknowledged the efforts of SACF to preserve the integrity of LTOP and encourages SACF and its members to contribute to the environmental assessment process for the WSIA airspace design, when it is available for public consultation.

6. Can the Federal Member for Macquarie be given membership status on SACF in view of the Sydney Airport LTOP legally extending well into the Blue Mountains and SACF'S insistence that it be a formal part of the ESG for consulting on the WSA flight paths and design principles?
 - a. The Chair noted that membership of SACF is considered by the Minister in consultation with the Chair, and that any application for membership would need to be made by the Member for Macquarie to both the Minister and the Chair.
7. Can the Department provide me with the names of all individuals, their title, rank, Department/entity, who comprise the ESG and who has appointed them?
 - a. The Expert Steering Group (ESG) was established in accordance with Condition 16(3) of the Airport Plan for Western Sydney Airport, determined by the Minister for Urban Infrastructure on 5 December 2016.

Under the ESG Terms of Reference, Membership is as follows:

- i. A senior official of the Department will Chair the ESG.
 - ii. The Chair will invite nominations for senior representation from member organisations including the Department, Airservices Australia, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and the Airport Lessee Company (once appointed).
 - iii. The Chair of FOWSA, or a representative nominated by that Chair, may attend ESG meetings as an ex-officio member.
 - iv. A Sydney Airport Corporation representative is invited to attend in an observer capacity.
8. May I have a copy of the Agenda and Minutes arising from ESG meetings since 2.1.2019, please?
 - a. The proceedings of ESG meetings, including the agenda and minutes, are confidential.
 9. Does SACF envisage that the KSA LTOP flight paths or objectives of noise sharing, will be impacted by conflicts with WSA flight paths and airspace management design or will KSA LTOP, together with its legislative framework, take precedence over the location of WSA flight paths and airspace management design?



- a. From the sentiments and concerns expressed by members during previous meetings, the Chair considers that SACF remains concerned about the potential for the airspace and flightpath design processes for the Western Sydney International Airport to interact with LTOP.
10. Does SACF intend to pursue having a representative on the Expert Steering Group who are charged with the responsibility of defining WSA flight paths?
 - a. As discussed in response to Question 5, the Chair of SACF wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister on this topic on 31 March 2021. The Deputy Prime Minister, in his correspondence of 12 May 2021, wrote to decline the Chair's request for membership of the Expert Steering Group.
 11. Are there any plans by the Government for an updated NAL Acoustic Study (or equivalent) to be undertaken?
 - a. As discussed in response to Question 2, the Deputy Prime Minister's correspondence of 12 May 2021 indicated that the Australian Government does not intend to fund such research at this time.
 12. If not, what reasons are being presented?
 - a. As discussed in response to Question 2, the Deputy Prime Minister's correspondence of 12 May 2021 declined to fund such research, noting both the Australian Government's focus on supporting recovery in the aviation sector and that undertaking such a survey before air traffic has returned to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels would skew the results.
 13. Would SACF, in the public's interest, be prepared to lobby the relevant government minister for funding for the commission of an updated NAL Acoustic Study?
 - a. On 31 March 2021, the Chair of SACF wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister to request the Australian Government commission aircraft noise research. As discussed in response to Questions 11 and 12, the Deputy Prime Minister wrote on 12 May 2021 to decline to fund such research at this stage, noting both the Australian Government's focus on supporting recovery in the aviation sector and that undertaking such a survey before air traffic has returned to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels would skew the results.
 14. If SACF is not prepared to lobby, what reasons are given?
 - a. This question was addressed in response to Question 13.
 15. Has SACF been included in the process to develop flightpaths for the WSA?
 - a. SACF has been advised by the Department that it will be consulted on the WSIA airspace and flightpath design process. Under Ministerial Direction M94/97, SACF must be consulted on any flightpath design or changes which affect LTOP.
 16. If so, when did this occur and what are the guidelines?

- a. This question was addressed in response to Question 13.

17. If not, what reasons have been given by the relevant authority/Minister or other for the exclusion of SACF?

- a. This question was addressed in response to Question 13.

The Chair reminded all members of the existence of Community Question Time, and reminded members they can refer anyone wishing to ask a question at SACF to the SACF Secretariat.

Action Item 02/02 – SACF Secretariat to ensure all submissions made for Community Question Time, as well as copies of the responses back to the community member, are circulated to the SACF membership.

AGENDA ITEM 5 Transport for NSW Update

There was no update from Transport for NSW at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6 Sydney Water Update

Iain Fairbairn, Head of Wastewater and Environment, Sydney Water, provided an update on the South Western Suburbs Ocean Outfall Sewer (SWSOOS). Topics of note included:

- An overview of the Malabar Wastewater System and the SWSOOS.
- The SWSOOS environmental improvement plan.
- The authorisation conditions of the SWSOOS.
- Activity of SWSOOS overflow points and subsequent clean-up activities:
 - Three events in March, totalling 1,225 ML of discharge;
 - One event in April, totalling 16 ML of discharge; and
 - One event in May, totalling 62 ML of discharge.
- The establishment of the Mill Stream Hydraulic Improvement Leadership Team.
- Plans for flow balancing, screening and aeration.
- Preparation for a Strategic Program Business Case to NSW Treasury regarding future improvements to the Malabar Wastewater System.

Following Mr Fairbairn’s presentation, SACF members questioned whether the SWSOOS interacts with the Cook River and whether Sydney Water was considering a sewage storage system for this part of Sydney, as is used in the Northern Suburbs. Mr Fairbairn advised that the SWSOOS does not interact with the Cook River and that, while transport and treatment options are under consideration for the SWSOOS, a sewage storage system in this part of Sydney would be very expensive.

Action Item 03/02 – SACF Secretariat to circulate all presentations made during the meeting to the membership.

AGENDA ITEM 7 Sydney Airport Update

Karen Halbert and Ted Plummer, representing Sydney Airport Corporation Limited, provided an update on operations and upcoming developments at Sydney Airport. Topics of note included:

- An aviation activity update:



- In April 2021, domestic passenger traffic had returned to 65% of the corresponding period in 2019, driven by strong leisure demand, sustained period of open borders and the stimulatory effect of the Australian Government's Tourism Aviation Network Support program (TANS).
- The 30 April 2021 re-opening of the east-west runway.
- Sydney Airport's commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- The runway safety project, which will reconstruct the 9,200 square metre concrete threshold at the northern end of Sydney Airport's Runway 16R (the main north-south runway).
 - The Project is necessary for aviation safety reasons, and is targeted to commence in July. It is expected to last for around four months, subject to weather.
 - Runway 16R will be effectively shortened for the duration of the construction works, to avoid having aircraft come in low over the worksite.
 - Sydney Airport has undertaken extensive noise modelling of the temporary impacts arising from the Project.
 - Sydney Airport is conducting ongoing community engagement and is liaising with stakeholders across industry and government.

Following the presentation, Mr Plummer confirmed that the project is expected to run for four months. Questions were raised about the aircraft noise impacts of potential diversions over the West due to inclement weather, which Mr Plummer confirmed would be handled in accordance with LTOP. Ken Welsh, representing the Inner West Council, offered to assist Sydney Airport with their community consultation and public awareness aspects of the Project, which Mr Plummer accepted.

AGENDA ITEM 8 Airservices Australia Report

Terry Fulton and Timothy Gill provided an update from Airservices. Key topics included:

- Air traffic movement update, showing the trend of Sydney Airport's recovery from the aviation impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The number of aircraft noise complainants is considerably below the average, owing to the reduction in flights. The suburbs with the most complainants included Blaxland, Drummoyne, Leichardt, Maroubra and Mascot.

SACF members queried why Blaxland, a suburb which is not under flight paths for Sydney Airport, had a high number of complainants. Airservices committed to reporting back on this topic out-of-session.

Action Item 04/02 – Airservices to investigate the reason for the high number of complainants in Blaxland and to report back to SACF out-of-session.

AGENDA ITEM 9 National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL) Review Study Update

On 31 March 2021, the Chair of SACF wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister to request funding for Australian aircraft noise research, in line with the US Federal Aviation Administration's *Neighbourhood Environmental Survey* (NES).

On 12 May 2021, the Deputy Prime Minister responded, explaining that, due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on domestic and international air traffic, conducting aircraft noise research at this time would not provide an accurate gauge of the impacts of aircraft noise at normal levels of traffic.

SACF members discussed this topic, and agreed to write to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting that the Australian Government work to progress this research ahead of funding it once the aviation sector has recovered.

SACF members then discussed the differences between the NAL and NES. While the NES confirmed an increase in dose-response relating to aircraft noise annoyance (i.e., people are more annoyed by aircraft noise), the NAL underpins the weighting of considerations in the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF), which is used in land-use planning to model aircraft noise impacts. SACF maintains that any aircraft noise research conducted by the Australian Government needs to examine both the dose-response and the weighting of movement numbers and other factors underpinning the ANEF.

Action Item 05/02 – Chair to write to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting that the Australian Government prioritise establishing the necessary framework for undertaking the aircraft noise research requested in the Chair’s letter of 31 March 2021. The Chair’s letter will set out SACF’s views on what this research should consider in terms of the dose-response and ANEF.

AGENDA ITEM 10 Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) Report

The Chair advised the IMC had met on 18 May 2021, with SACF represented by John Clarke, Bob Hayes and Kevin Hill. Minutes for this meeting have not yet been issued, but will be circulated by the SACF Secretariat once they have been finalised.

Mr Clarke informed SACF that IMC had discussed a number of topics at this meeting:

- IMC continues to work on the LTOP gap analysis.
- IMC is considering proposals for the implementation of LTOP Mode 9, working on a proposal to implement a new ‘high and wide’ route over water.
- The SACF representatives on the IMC request that Airservices publish a collated version of the Sydney Airport Operational Statistics Report, for ease of access for IMC and SACF members and for the general community.

AGENDA ITEM 11 Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Report

Mr McArthur presented the Department’s update. Key topics included:

- The Review of Demand Management at Sydney Airport (the Harris Review) is still being considered by the Australian Government. SACF and its members who made submissions and met with Professor Harris were thanked for their active engagement with the process.
- The Australian Government’s Tourism Aviation Network Support program (TANS) was announced on 11 March 2021 as part of the \$1.2 billion tourism and aviation Flight Path to Recovery package. TANS has had an immediate impact and has been well received by industry and the travelling public.



- The Department continues to progress the procurement process for the position of an Aviation Community Advocate for Sydney Airport.
- The Airservices Australia *Statement of Expectations* expires on 30 June 2021. A new *Statement of Expectations* is under consideration by the Australian Government.
 - This statement will not change Airservices' requirement to implement the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to LTOP, as required by the Ministerial Direction.
- An update on the Australian Government's ongoing support for the aviation sector, including the Future of Australian Aviation Panel and the Five Year Plan (which is expected to be released later this year).
- The Australian Government's Budget commitment of \$130.5 million for undertaking per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) preliminary and detailed site investigations at 37 airports which had an Aviation Rescue and Firefighting Service presence.
- An update on the National Emerging Aviation Technology Statement, which is available through the department's website:
<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/technology/files/national-emerging-aviation-technologies-policy-statement.pdf>
- The National Airports Safeguarding Group met on 31 March 2021 and agreed a revised Forward Work Plan for 2021-24, which includes reviews of National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF) Guideline B (windshear), Guideline C (wildlife hazards) and Guideline D (wind farms). General enquiries regarding the NASF Guidelines may be directed to safeguarding@infrastructure.gov.au
- An update on the regulation sunseting process.
- A discussion of the curfew dispensation report for 1 January to 31 March 2021. Within this period, 934 permitted freight movements occurred and 10 curfew dispensations were granted. 25 business jet movements occurred during this period, and 93 movements were declared as emergencies. The dispensation reports covering the period up until March 2021 have been tabled in Parliament and are available online at
<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/curfews/CurfewDispensationReports/2021/index.aspx>

Action Item 06/02 – SACF Secretariat to circulate the National Emerging Aviation Technology Statement to SACF members.

Action Item 07/02 – SACF Secretariat to circulate Airservices Australia *Statement of Expectations* to SACF members.

Following Mr McArthur's presentation, discussion focused on the role of the Aviation Community Advocate; in particular, the timeline for the relevant procurement process and SACF's potential involvement or assistance in the process.

Mr McArthur advised that the Australian Government was still considering a number of factors associated with the procurement process, including sourcing funding for the position and determining the appropriate procurement process under the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.



Action Item 08/02 – Chair of SACF to write to the Deputy Prime Minister to request the procurement of the Aviation Community Advocate be expedited, as well as exploring options regarding SACF’s views of the role and reporting requirements of the Aviation Community Advocate. This letter will also request the Deputy Prime Minister respond well in advance of the next SACF meeting.

SACF then discussed the Airservices *Statement of Expectations* and requested the Department brief future SACF meetings on the growth in unmanned aerial systems, such as commercial drones.

Action Item 09/02 – Department to brief SACF on the growth in unmanned aerial systems as a standing Agenda Item.

AGENDA ITEM 12 Other Business

Two items of Other Business were raised:

- Australian Business Aviation Association (ABAA) Issues Paper. Following SACF Meeting 01/2021, the ABAA had prepared an updated Issues Paper to SACF regarding the ABAA’s proposal for a cap on business jet movements at Sydney Airport and a raising of the maximum take-off weight restrictions to accommodate quieter next-generation aircraft.
 - Several SACF members requested the ABAA prepare noise modelling on the impacts of these proposals before SACF could consider endorsing the ABAA’s Issues Paper. Questions were also raised about IMC’s views on the paper.

Action Item 10/02 – ABAA to prepare noise modelling on the noise footprint of business aviation for consideration by IMC and SACF.

The concerns expressed by residents living near the Western Sydney International Airport regarding the absence of avenues for their input into government decisions and processes around WSIA airspace and flightpath design. Maria Patrinos, Community Representative for the West, noted that these residents were not able to join the Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FOWSA) or the Expert Steering Group (ESG). Ms Patrinos resolved to write to the Chair of SACF to summarise her concerns ahead of the next SACF meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for October 2021, pending the finalisation of the Commonwealth parliamentary sitting calendar.



ATTENDANCE

Members

J.	Alexander	Chair
J.	Ward	Assistant to the Chair
J.	Clarke	Representing the Member for Bennelong
J.	Stewart	Representing the Member for Bradfield
J.	Adams	Representing the Member for Cook
S.	Heath	Representing the Member for Grayndler
B.	Leeson	Representing the Member for Kingsford-Smith
M.	Rohan	Representing the Member for North Sydney
M.	Patrinos	Community Representative for the West
B.	Hayes	Community Representative for the North
J.	Patterson	Representing the Member for Heffron
Z.	Solomon	Representing the Member for Summer Hill
K.	Welsh	Representing the Inner West Council
R.	Edney	Virgin Australia
T.	Plummer	Representing Sydney Airport Corporation Limited

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications

R.	McArthur	Director, South West, ACT and NSW Airports Section
P.	Inall	Assistant Director, South West, ACT and NSW Airports Section
A.	Osborne	SACF Secretariat, South West, ACT and NSW Airports Section

Airservices Australia

T.	Fulton	Director Operations – Sydney Terminal Service
T.	Gill	Community Engagement Senior Adviser

Observers and Presenters

A.	Dessanti	Transport for NSW
D.	Bell	Observer
D.	McComb	Observer
T.	Williams	Observer