

**SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM (SACF)****Meeting 04/2020, 18 September 2020****AGENDA ITEM 1      Opening Remarks and Adoption of Agenda**

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

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

The Chair introduced Russell McArthur, Director, South West, ACT and NSW Airports and Peter Inall, Assistant Director, South West, ACT and NSW Airports from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

SACF adopted the Agenda at the Chair's request. The SACF Secretariat conducted a roll call.

**AGENDA ITEM 2      Confirmation of Draft Summary Record of Meeting 03/2020**

Meeting 03/2020 was held both in-person and by teleconference on 10 July 2020. The draft Summary Record for this meeting was circulated on 16 September 2020.

**2.1      *Incorporation of suggested changes***

The draft Summary Record for Meeting 03/2020 was confirmed by the SACF membership and will be published online.

**2.2      *Action items arising from previous meetings***

All actions from Meeting 03/2020 had been completed before Meeting 04/2020 or were presented on during Meeting 04/2020.

**AGENDA ITEM 3      Secretariat Update**

The SACF Secretariat provided an update on the correspondence received and sent since Meeting 03/2020. Some topics of note included:

- Curfew dispensations which expired on 31 August 2020;
- Airservices Australia's (Airservices) presentation at Meeting 03/2020;
- Airservices' response to Action Item 03/2020; and
- The documents sent to members by the SACF Secretariat on 4 September 2020.

The SACF Secretariat advised a full copy of the Long Term Operating Plan for Sydney Airport and Associated Airspace (LTOP) could now be found on the SACF website.

**AGENDA ITEM 4      Community Question Time – Members of the Community**

Since Meeting 03/2020, the SACF Secretariat did not receive any questions from the community. 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.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 Sydney Airport Update

Karen Halbert and Ted Plummer provided an overview of recent activities for Sydney Airport. Topics of note included:

- COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts: Movements, passenger numbers and overall activity at Sydney Airport have not changed significantly since Meeting 03/2020. While there have been slight upticks in freight flights and domestic movements, the total number of movements is around 95% down from the same period in 2019. The airport has around 10 international movements per day, as well as around 21 dedicated freight flights per day during the week.
- East-West Runway: This runway is still being used for temporary aircraft parking and will continue to be used until the end of Northern Winter.
- International Retail has now reopened in accordance with government guidelines.
- Runway Resurfacing Project: Phase 1 of the project has been completed, and phase 2 is scheduled to begin 11 October 2020. An out-of-session update will be provided for SACF membership in the near future.
- Joint User Hydrant Installation (JUHI): Sydney Airport will acquire the airport's JUHI jet fuel infrastructure on 1 October 2020. Sydney Airport expects this to increase competition in the aviation fuel market.
- Sydney Gateway Project: the Sydney Gateway Project has received NSW Government approval. The Deputy Prime Minister is currently considering the project and Commonwealth approval is expected by 24 September 2020.

Discussion then ensued regarding the potential noise-sharing and safety impacts arising from the temporary aircraft parking on the east-west runway, particularly as aviation begins to recover. Ms Halbert advised that as aircraft traffic increases, demand for aircraft parking on the runway will decrease, reducing the risk of any impacts on noise-sharing or aviation safety. Ms Halbert also noted there had been zero incidents in the six months the temporary runway closure had been in effect.

A question was raised about how Sydney Airport had structured its capital works program in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms Halbert explained that Sydney Airport has reduced its capital program significantly due to the pandemic, but is continuing with essential works, as well as terminal upgrades and the runway re-sheeting program.

Discussion then turned to dedicated freighters being used during the curfew, with questions asked about what the freighters typically carry and why they cannot take off and land during the day. Mr Plummer and Mr McArthur explained that the increase in dedicated larger capacity freight aircraft (Boeing 737 or similar) was needed to replace the freight capacity normally provided by under-belly freight carried in passenger aircraft. Less than four per cent of freight is carried in dedicated freight aircraft which provides minimal capacity outside of the curfew. Both Mr Plummer and Mr McArthur explained that most of the dedicated freight aircraft carry time critical medical supplies including cancer isotopes, PPEs and other essential medical devices, with Mr Plummer committing to provide SACF with an update on the cargo of the dedicated freighters.



**Action Item 01/04** – Sydney Airport to provide additional information on the cargo carried by dedicated freight aircraft during the Sydney Airport curfew period.

A final question was raised about the perceived lack of public transport routes around and providing access to Sydney Airport. An Action Item was raised to request the Chair write to the NSW Government regarding its provision of the promised services.

**Action Item 02/04** – The Chair of SACF to write to the NSW Government regarding the current provision of public transport to Sydney Airport, and requesting additional services.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6      Airservices Australia Report**

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

- Noise Complaint and Information Service (NCIS): the NCIS returned to their offices in June and have resumed taking phone enquiries and complaints.
- Flight Path Design Principles (FPDP): Since the previous SACF meeting, the FPDP have been approved by Airservices' board and will be published on the Airservices website shortly.
- *Aircraft In My Neighbourhood*: Airservices provided information on the new functionality of the web portal, including a detailed understanding of how the 'cone of overflight' is calculated.
- An overview of COVID-safe working arrangements at Airservices' Sydney operations centre.

Discussion ensued regarding the FPDP, with SACF's community representatives unanimous in their disapproval and disappointment that the FPDP were not amended in light of the previous round of public consultation. SACF members expressed their desire to continue engaging with Airservices in future post-implementation reviews of the FPDP.

A further question was raised regarding the 'cone of overflight' calculation on the *Aircraft In My Neighbourhood* web portal. Ms Lawton explained that the 'cone of overflight' was designed to inform users of potential overflight of their residence, and not as a measure of aircraft noise. Ms Lawton committed to clearly label this on the web portal.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7      National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL) Review Study Update**

Mr McArthur advised SACF that the US Federal Aviation Noise Study, the *Neighbourhood Environmental Survey*, has a target publication date of October 2020. The SACF Secretariat will circulate the report once it is published.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8      Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) Report**

The Chair advised the IMC had met on 18 August 2020, with SACF represented by John Clarke, Bob Hayes and Kevin Hill.

Mr Clarke informed SACF that IMC had discussed three main topics at this meeting:

- The Boree Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR): Airservices is addressing deviations on this STAR, and achieved 82% compliance in February 2020 and 80% compliance in March 2020. IMC will continue to monitor compliance with the STAR.

- Implementation of Mode 9: Airservices raised the possibility that RAAF Base Williamtown airspace might impact upon the full implementation of Mode 9. Airservices is in dialogue with the relevant airspace designers to identify this risk and to protect the airspace required for Mode 9.
- LTOP Gap Analysis: IMC is currently conducting a gap analysis into LTOP, identifying whether all Modes have been fully implemented and, if not, what barriers there are to full implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of the gap analysis for SACF's role in reporting to the community on the implementation of LTOP, and how the end outcome would be a thorough understanding of how LTOP is currently implemented and what barriers exist to its full implementation.

The Chair congratulated the SACF community representatives for their work with the IMC to achieve this outcome. All SACF members were reminded of their standing invitation to attend IMC meetings.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9      Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications Report**

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

- Government Response to COVID-19: Mr McArthur updated SACF on the Government's evolving response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Information on the Government's response package can be found online at [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au).
- Freight dispensations: Freight dispensations have been granted to allow for additional flights using Boeing 737 and BAE-146s during the curfew period, to help address the air freight shortfall caused by the reduced domestic air network.
- National Airports Safeguarding Group (NASAG): NASAG's last meeting was on 21 August 2019. At this meeting, the forward work program was finalised (including commitments to review Guidelines B, C and D), and the Implementation Review of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF) commenced shortly after the meeting. Both of these bodies of work are on hold due to the reallocation of resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. General enquiries regarding the NASF can be made by email to [safeguarding@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:safeguarding@infrastructure.gov.au).
- Regulation Sunsetting: The Department is undertaking a review of the legislative instruments under the *Airports Act 1996* and the *Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997*. This work, along with implementation of the Government response to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the economic regulation of airports, was put on hold due to COVID-19. However, the Department has resumed its focus on these reforms. The Department will inform key stakeholders, including SACF, of an indicative timeline for future consultation.
- Curfew Dispensation Report: A copy of the curfew dispensation report for the period 1 April to 30 June 2020 was included in the agenda papers. Within this period, 11 curfew dispensations were granted. 14 business jet movements occurred during this period, and 152 movements were declared as emergencies.

At the request of the SACF membership, the Department agreed to inform SACF of any progress on the regulation sunsetting process, including the development of a discussion

paper, as soon as possible. It was noted that this is unlikely to be before the next SACF meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 10      Other Business**

Jon Stewart, representing the Member for Bradfield, advised SACF of correspondence the Member for Bradfield had received regarding proposals for airspace optimisation. Mr Stewart asked the SACF Secretariat to forward this correspondence to the Department and to Airservices. The Chair also requested the SACF Secretariat to circulate a de-identified copy of the correspondence to SACF.

**Action Item 03/04** – SACF Secretariat to forward correspondence from a constituent to the Member for Bradfield onto the Deputy Prime Minister and to Airservices Australia, as well as circulating a de-identified copy to the SACF membership.

**AGENDA ITEM 11      Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday 6 November 2020.



**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           |
| S. | Heath     | Representing the Member for Grayndler           |
| B. | Leeson    | Representing the Member for Kingsford-Smith     |
| M. | Rohan     | Representing the Member for North Sydney        |
| K. | Hill      | Community Representative for the South          |
| M. | Patrinos  | Community Representative for the West           |
| B. | Hayes     | Community Representative for the North          |
| J. | Patterson | Representing the Member for Heffron             |
| K. | Welsh     | Representing the Inner West Council             |
| R. | Edney     | Virgin Australia                                |
| T. | Plummer   | Representing Sydney Airport Corporation Limited |
| B. | Abrams    | Board of Airline Representatives of Australia   |

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications**

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|----|----------|--|
| 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**

|    |        |                                 |
|----|--------|---------------------------------|
| G. | Cox    | Director of Operations (Sydney) |
| F. | Lawton | Community Engagement Manager    |

**Observers and Presenters**

|    |         |                                    |
|----|---------|------------------------------------|
| K. | Halbert | Sydney Airport Corporation Limited |
| K. | Allcot  | Sydney Airport Corporation Limited |
| D. | Bell    | Observer                           |
| J. | Casey   | Observer                           |
| D. | McComb  | Observer                           |