

**COMMUNITY AVIATION CONSULTATION GROUP**  
**SUMMARY RECORD**  
**ALICE SPRINGS AIRPORT 30 MARCH 2016**  
**KILGARIFF ROOM**



<b>Attendees</b>	Tom Ganley Dave Batic Ilma Thorne Helen Gannon Rex Mooney Kay Eade Rhiannon Eddy	NT Airports - Chairman Alice Springs Airport Alice Springs Airport (Minutes) Dept of Infrastructure & Regional Development (DIRD) Community Member Community Member AirServices Australia
<b>Apologies</b>	Tony Parkyn Ken Johnson Helen Kilgariff Paul AhChee	Community Member Community Member Community Member Community Member
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>1230 - 1430 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b>	

**Introduction and Welcome**

Tom welcomed all to the meeting.

**Summary of Last Meeting**

There was no business arising from previous minutes.

**Department of Infrastructure & Transport**

- There have been some changes at ministerial level since Warren Truss retired from the department and now have 3 new ministers Fiona Nash, Darren Chester & Paul Fletcher. There have also been quite a few other changes throughout the department.
- The Aviation Access forum has been reviewing the disability access facilitation action plan which all Airports must have. They have been looking at improving disability access and carriage of assistance animals in aircraft. Travel agents have been encouraged to use the plans to help their clients.
- A review was held on the PCF and CACGs last year but is currently on hold due to the change of ministers. Most Airports hold the CACGs 3 times per year whereas smaller Airports tend to hold them twice and some still at 4 times per year.

### Member Feedback

- Kaye asked Dave if he had any feedback or comments on national news reports about Airports collecting huge revenues from car parking. Dave advised he had not but Alice Springs rates are a lot less than the major cities.

### General Business Update

- Passenger numbers through Alice Springs are up 3.5% from the same time last year. Virgin has now been operating for 1 year. Airnorth operating with small numbers on 3 return flights per week from Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) in Tennant Creek is fully automated and they are moving towards having an unmanned station in Alice Springs between 2018 and 2020.
- Solar stage 3 opened on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Long Term Car Park is now completely undercover and the price has been reduced from \$19 to \$17. As there is currently no designated area for longer vehicles arrangements can be made on request. At present the airport generates around 85% of its power requirements.
- The NT Administrator Mr John Hardy has visited Alice Springs twice recently and was very interested to look at the solar projects and also the historical buildings at 7 mile.
- The Aircraft Storage facility previously had 6 x 767's from Qantas that were sold off and flown out. Currently there are 3 x 777's and an A330. The company has undergone a CASA audit and is gaining licences from various countries which will build the business dramatically. The reputation is growing as a short to long term maintenance facility. The company has now been on site for 5 years and will be submitting a master plan to expand. To store 747's it will require larger hangars, hard stands for engine runs, larger fuel storage etc.
- Airfield Ground lighting replacement project has been completed. All lighting at our airport is from the late 1960's. There is lighting on the runway, lighting off the end of the runway (HIAL), controller regulators (CCR) and connectivity to the tower. The HIAL needs to be replaced. Will need to work closely with Airservices Australia for this project with Rhiannon Eddy to advise contact.
- A regulatory requirement of the Airport is to hold an annual Airport field emergency exercise. This will be done during operational hours on July 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Bird strikes are up from the same time last year. 4 strikes were recorded in March bringing the year to date total to 7 compared to a total of 8 for 2015.
- Upgrade of lights throughout the Terminal with LED lights.
- Trialling a new queuing system at the Security Screening point to limit congestion and the arriving passengers having to cut through the queue of the departing passengers. A redesign is being looked at for the Screening area to improve passenger flow.
- CCTV coverage has been upgraded with extra cameras.
- Customer Surveys are being done as of March 1<sup>st</sup> with 15 all new questions. Looking to add this to the airport website and also install a self-serve iPad in the terminal.
- The airport recently had a booth at the Central Australian Mining Expo. Mining companies are sometimes looking for commercial land to use and also with the proposed gas pipeline project there is possibility of FIFO to Tennant Creek.
- A brief was given on project Aquila which is a Facebook project regarding a UAV aircraft with a huge wingspan that stays airborne for 3 months at a time and provides Wi-Fi over Central Australia.
- The Air Conditioning replacement project is coming closer. There are issues with getting access to the units as they are located in the centre of the roof. A gantry will be built, units moved to the edge of the roof then using a smaller crane that can be sourced locally.
- Recently a complaint was made about the types of products in the gift shop in particular the small didgeridoos which is a top seller but made in China

- There has been an increase in Taxi drivers that leave their vehicles on the Taxi rank unattended to come inside to use facilities and get relief from the weather. This is a breach of MVR rules
- The airport is looking to reinstate the pedestrian crossings but so as not to lose kerbside parking areas. Investigations are underway to add raised crossings and traffic islands that extend out in the first lane.
- The airport is talking with the Taxi companies at present about installing an exit boom on the Taxi rank with a toll on departing passengers. The entire parking system will soon be upgraded.
- The Alice Springs Airport website is currently being reviewed.

#### **Airservices Australia**

- Airservices Australia has a new CEO as of 9<sup>th</sup> March and is going through a transformation which is called the Accelerate Program. The company will be split into 3 main business components with fewer executives and General Managers.
- The Remote Towers project is on hold.
- A submission has been sent to the senate on firefighting foam. All historic information, health effects and other information is available on the website.