

CONTEXT

It is Commonwealth Government Policy that privatised airports subject to the Airports Act 1996 have a Community Aviation Consultation Group. This is outlined in the Aviation White Paper published in December 2009.

The Draft Guidelines issued by the Department for Infrastructure and Transport highlight that the purpose of a Community Aviation Consultation Group is to:

- “enable airport operators, residents in the vicinity of the airport, local authorities, airport users, and other interested parties to exchange information and ideas;
- allow concerns to be raised and taken into account by the airport operator, with a genuine desire to resolve issues that may emerge; and
- complement and support the consultative requirements of the regulatory and planning framework within which the airport operates.”

The Draft Guidelines also outline that the Consultation Group is “not intended to be a dispute resolution forum, nor have any executive or decision making power in relation to the airport.”

CONSULTATION GROUP ROLE

The overall role of the Alice Springs Airport Community Consultation Group is to consult on community issues arising from Airport operations and developments.

Specifically, the work of the Consultation Group will include:

- Existing and proposed Airport development and operations;
- Steps being taken to implement or develop the Airport’s Master Plan;
- Noise (including aircraft noise) and environmental issues;
- Ground transport and access issues;
- Improvements or changes to airport facilities;
- Relevant reports from Department of Infrastructure and Transport, Airservices Australia and Civil Aviation Safety Authority; and
- The contribution of the airport to the local, regional and national economy.

The Consultation Group is not there to resolve airport or aircraft related complaints or resolve aviation related commercial disputes.

	Name	Representative
Independent Chair	Tom Ganley	Chairman
Committee Member	Helen Kilqariff	Aviation
Committee Member	Paul AhChee	Community Member
Committee Member	Rex Mooney	Town Council
Committee Member	Ken Johnson	Environmental

	Name	Representative
Committee Member	Kay Eade	Business
Committee Member	Colin Dawson	Community Member
Secretariat	Dave Batic	GM Alice Springs Airport

EXPECTATIONS AND MODUS OPERANDI

Modus Operandi

The following principles/practices shall govern the internal workings of the Consultation Group:

- Positions taken by the Group are arrived at by consensus. However, that does not mean every member must agree in order for the Group to arrive at a position. Any member who wants their view recorded on a Group position is entitled to do so;
- The Group will function in a collegiate atmosphere under the guidance of the Chair; and
- Group confidentiality and external solidarity will be respected in order to be conducive to the free flow of information and frank exchange of views.

Role of All Members

All members are expected to:

- actively participate in the business of the Group including being well prepared for meetings
- maintain external solidarity as far as possible
- be forthright yet courteous in expressing their views
- play a positive role in the working of the Group
- contribute their personal expertise to Group business.

Role of the Independent Chairman

The role of Independent Chair, in addition to the expectations of all members, is to:

- provide leadership to the Group, including providing guidance to members as required
- chair meetings and settle agendas
- communicate externally and with the media on Consultation Group matters, including speaking publically
- undertake stakeholder liaison on behalf of the Group between meetings as required
- be a point of reference for the Airport between Group meetings
- appoint members in consultation with the Airport
- terminate a member whose conduct is disruptive to the effective working of the Group.

SECRETARIAT

Alice Springs Airport will provide the Consultation Group secretariat plus administrative and technical support to the Independent Chair.

MEETING FREQUENCY

The Consultation Group will normally meet twice per year.

RECORD OF MEETINGS

A Summary Record of each meeting will be endorsed by Consultation Group members and published on the Airport website.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Independent Chair will approve an Annual Report of Consultation Group activities for the year ending 30 June. This Annual Report will be provided to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.