



# CACG REPORT

2020/21



**Alice Springs Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group**

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# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



I would like to express my sincere thanks to Tom Ganley for his outstanding contribution as the previous CACG Chair. Tom has steered the CACG since inception and has provided the Group with an invaluable insight into 'behind the scenes' airport operations and customer service initiatives.

I would like to thank Alana Richardson and Steve Schwer for their contribution to the CACG and wish them both all the best for the future.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our two new Committee members replacing Alana and Steve. Nicole Walsh, COO Chamber of Commerce, has joined us as Business Member from the Chamber of Commerce NT and Danial Rochford, CEO Tourism Central Australia, has joined as the Tourism Member. We look forward to your valuable contribution in the future.

COVID-19 has certainly disrupted our way of life however we can be thankful that Alice Springs, and the NT, has been very fortunate to have managed the pandemic with minimal community transmission to date. At this point I would like to declare my involvement at the airports frontline border control point and can confidently say that the NT Dept of Health and Airport staff are doing everything possible to maintain control of the pandemic.

As a consequence of the pandemic, the Dept of Infrastructure were very supportive of not conducting the scheduled Nov 2020 CACG meeting and approved a PowerPoint update be provided to CACG Members by Alice Springs Airport, Dept of Infrastructure and Airservices Australia. The presentation was uploaded to the Alice Springs Airport website for community access.

Our first face to face meeting was held in March 2021 which provided Members the opportunity to discuss issues and provide feedback.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Members for their ongoing commitment, engagement and enthusiasm. Their participation has been valuable, raising matters for the airport to consider and respond to. Our March meeting was constructive and courteous and allowed meaningful engagement.

Thank you also to Dave Batic, General Manager and the Alice Springs Airport team for providing the secretariat and importantly insights into the development of the airport, responding to feedback and demonstrating community involvement.

It was great to have the Alice Springs Airport management team at the last meeting and for community representatives to have the chance to meet them in person and for the management team to hear first-hand community feedback. Thanks to Airservices Australia for their ongoing participation in the Group by local Air Traffic Control.

The CACG noted that the Airport has a big year ahead. The 2020 Master Plan was approved and COVID-19 will continue to provide challenges to the aviation industry and the way we need to represent community expectations.

The Alice Springs Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group continues to provide the community with an effective opportunity to consult and respond to feedback. I look forward to contributing to the Airport, a critical piece of community infrastructure that needs to continue to develop and serve the future needs of the community it serves.

Rex Mooney

Chair

# ALICE SPRINGS AIRPORT

## Welcome to Alice Springs

The township of Stuart was officially gazetted Alice Springs in 1933. *Mparntwe* is the *Arrente* name of Alice Springs. The *Arrente* people are the traditional custodians of Alice Springs and the surrounding region.

Alice Springs is the heart of Australia's Red Centre with a population of approximately 27,000 people. It acts as a major regional service centre for surrounding communities.

The town has a unique pioneering history, breathtaking landscapes and a strong and diverse multicultural community with around 20% of the population being Indigenous Australians. It is serviced by a world class award winning community airport with significant solar power infrastructure taking advantage of the 300 sunny days per year.

## About Alice Springs Airport

Alice Springs Airport is the gateway to Central Australia. It is located 14 kilometres south east from the town centre with the airport and town centre separated by the majestic MacDonnell ranges. The airport's neighbours are made up of large cattle stations and vacant Crown land. The township is very well serviced in terms of air connectivity with services to all mainland state capitals.



*Aerial view of Alice Springs Airport*

Alice Springs Airport covers a total site of approximately 3,550 hectares, making it the largest Australian Airport in terms of area and in the top ten worldwide. It has considerable opportunities for future growth and expansion.



***Main Apron Alice Springs Airport***

The Airport has long served as the gateway to Central Australia, for tourists, community, business, government and international charters. It connects Territory communities providing essential facilities for aviation and defence industries. The airport hosts a sizeable general aviation sector servicing the surrounding region and remote communities.

The airport is curfew free with air traffic control operating during daylight hours (aligned with passenger aircraft schedule).

The Airport has been certified for the largest of passenger aircraft, the Airbus A380. With the rapid expansion of the Asia Pacific Aircraft Storage (APAS) facility, the airport has seen a variety of aircraft not normally operated in Central Australia. These include A380, A330, A321, A320, B787 Dreamliner, B777, B737 MAX and a variety of turboprop aircraft. COVID 19 has provided APAS with a unique opportunity to not only provide aircraft storage, but also world class aircraft maintenance for a range of airline

clients across Asia and Pacific regions. The facility has also injected a much-needed regional economic stimulus with the employment of an additional 110 staff since March 2020. The facility held up to 155 aircraft this FY.



*Aerial view of APAS*

### **About Tennant Creek Airport**

Alice Springs Airport manages Tennant Creek Airport. The township of Tennant Creek is the urban centre of *Warumungu* country and is located around 500km north of Alice Springs and 1,000km south of Darwin. Approximately 50% of the population of 3,000 identify as indigenous. Tennant Creek is near the famous Devils Marbles and borders the Barkly Tableland being one of the most important grazing areas in the Northern Territory.

The airport is available 24 hours a day, operates two runways and can accommodate most commuter aircraft. The airport services light aircraft, with approximately 6,000 passenger movements per annum (excluding general aviation).

# CACG MEMBERSHIP FY20/21

CACG membership remained reasonably constant throughout FY20/21 with two members resigning (Alana Richardson and Steven Schwer). Only one (1) onsite face to face meeting was conducted in March 2021. The scheduled November 2020 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions however a PowerPoint update presentation to the CACG members was provided by Alice Springs Airport and uploaded to the Alice Springs Airport website.

CACG Members	Name	Community Representation
Chairperson	Rex Mooney	Community
Member	Dave Batic	Aviation, Tourism and Business
Member	Colin Dawson	Public Transport and Disability
Member	Helen Kilgariff	Community and Tourism
Member	Ken Johnson	Environment and Conservation
Member	Paul Ah Chee Ngala	Community and Indigenous Culture
Member	Paul Jennings	Alice Springs Town Council
Member	Danial Rochford	Tourism Central Australia
Member	Nicole Walsh	Chamber of Commerce



# ABOUT YOUR CACG

## Background

The Federal Governments February 2011 CACG Guideline provides that the role and purpose of a CACG is:

- To enable airport operators, residents affected by airport operations, local authorities, airport users, and other interested parties to exchange information on issues relating to the airport operations and their impacts;
- To allow concerns to be raised and taken into account by the airport operator, with a genuine desire to resolve issues that may emerge; and
- To complement and support the consultative requirements already established for Master Plans, Airport Environment Strategies and Major Development Plans.

The Guideline notes the goal of the CACG is to assist in ensuring that debate on these issues is well-informed and undertaken in a spirit of collaboration. It specifies that Airport operators are expected to take serious account of recommendations made by the Group.

The Guideline acknowledges that the Group is just one avenue through which concerns can be raised and does not replace other forums and complaints handling mechanisms established by the airport operator or other authorities (such as the handling of aircraft noise complaints by Airservices Australia).

## Terms of Reference

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 includes reviewing:

- 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, Regional Development and Cities (DOIRDC), Airservices Australia and Civil Aviation Safety Authority; and
- The contribution of the airport to the local, regional and national economy.

The role of the Consultation Group does not include resolving airport or aircraft related complaints or resolving aviation related commercial disputes.

## **Operating Model**

The following principles / practices 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.

## **Member Role**

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; and
- contribute their personal expertise to Group business.

## Chair Role

The role of 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 publicly;
- 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; and
- review continued membership of a member whose conduct is disruptive to the effective working of the Group.

## Secretariat

Alice Springs Airport provides the Consultation Group secretariat plus administrative and technical support to the Chairman.

## Meeting Frequency

The Consultation Group schedules meetings twice per year and additional meetings can be called if required.

## Record of Meetings

A Summary Record of each meeting is endorsed by Consultation Group Members and published on the Alice Springs Airport website [www.alicespringsairport.com.au](http://www.alicespringsairport.com.au)

## Annual Report

The Chair must produce an Annual Report (being this report) of Consultation Group activities for the year ending 30 June each year which is provided to the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities and is also published on the Alice Springs Airport website.

## Planning Coordination Forum(PCF)

By way of background, Planning Coordination Forums are a mechanism to foster high level strategic discussions between the airport, and Commonwealth, State / Territory and Local Government representatives to improve the coordination of planning for the airport site and surrounding areas. This forum is held three times per year.

The Government requires all major capital city leased airports to establish and maintain a Planning Coordination Forum (PCF). Other airports are encouraged to adopt this model as well. As Alice Springs and Darwin Airports are part of the same ownership group, situated in the same jurisdiction, Alice Springs Airport activity is included in the Darwin PCF where relevant.

The purpose of PCF is to develop ongoing strategic partnerships between airport operators and Commonwealth, State / Territory and Local Authorities. The forums allow airport and government representatives to discuss issues and exchange information on airport planning and operations and on the implications for the airport of development in the surrounding areas. Specific issues may include:

- consistency of on airport land planning schemes with relevant urban and regional planning schemes (particularly as the leased airports have a statutory obligation to address and justify any planning inconsistencies in their master plans);
- steps being taken to develop or implement the airport's master plan;
- ground transport issues including connections of on and off airport transport networks (for which detailed planning in airport master plans is also a legislative requirement);
- environmental issues arising from airport development and operations;
- on airport commercial developments and their off airport impacts;
- measures to address the impacts of airport operations, including aircraft noise;
- land use planning and development issues in the vicinity of the airport, including planning measures to safeguard airport operations; and
- briefing Government agencies on regulatory and policy developments.

# 2020/2021 CACG

## Meetings

Meeting	Location	Date
CACG Meeting	Alice Springs	November 2020 (via PowerPoint)
CACG Meeting	Alice Springs	03 March 2021

## CACG Meeting Attendance - Guests

Guest	November 2020	03 March 2021
Dave Goodes Airservices	Cx'd	→
Callan Langlands DOIRDC - Canberra	Cx'd	→
Rachael Lynch Alice Springs Airport	Cx'd	→

## CACG Meeting Attendance - Members

Member	November 2020		13 March 2019	
	Attendee	Apology	Attendee	Apology
<b>Paul Ah Chee</b> Community Member	Cx'd			→
<b>Dave Batic</b> Alice Springs Airport	Cx'd		→	
<b>Colin Dawson</b> Community Member	Cx'd			→
<b>Rex Mooney</b> Chair	Cx'd		→	
<b>Ken Johnson</b> Environment Member	Cx'd			→
<b>Helen Kilgariff</b> Aviation Member	Cx'd			→
<b>Robert Jennings</b> Town Council	Cx'd			→
<b>Nicole Walsh</b> Business Member	Cx'd			→
<b>Danial Rochford</b> Tourism Member	Cx'd			→
<b>Ilma Thorne</b> Secretariat	Cx'd		→	

# 2020/2021 CACG ACTIVITY

## Meeting Outcomes

A summary of CACG meeting activity follows. Further information can be obtained from the detailed minutes which are published on the Alice Springs Airport website

[www.alicespringsairport.com.au](http://www.alicespringsairport.com.au)

## Meeting 2020/21

The 2020/21 scheduled CACG meeting was conducted on Wednesday 03 March 2021. The Chair welcomed all attendees to the first face to face meeting since Nov 2019. The Chair also thanked Tom Ganley as the previous Chair and welcomed Callan Langlands from DOIRDC to the meeting.

## Action Items

1. Ken Johnson - Requested PFAS update:
  - Mar 2021 on-site assessments occurred and progressed from monitoring to remediation phase - **CLOSED**
  
2. Ken Johnson - Requested Buffel Grass management update:
  - Assessment of areas cattle had been grazing on was completed Jan 2021. After recent rain and significant growth, Buffel had not returned to some areas. Native vegetation not appearing to be affected. Cattle grazing to recommence later in 2021 - **CLOSED**
  
3. Colin Dawson - Requested more security cameras be installed to cover taxi rank:
  - No reported security issues. Taxi rank CCTV coverage is in place. CCTV is now able to be monitored 24hrs from Darwin Airport - **CLOSED**
  
4. Dave Batic - Terminal signage review to be incorporated with security screening upgrades. Project deferred due Covid - **OPEN**

5. Dave Goodes - Noted that a pet toilet area, signage and water outlets may be needed near the Air Traffic Control Tower pet pick up area. Discussed Qantas no longer transports animals and done through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Will continue to monitor as a reduction in pet transport has been noted due to COVID-19 - **CLOSED**

### COVID-19 Flight Schedule Update

Alice Springs Airport is currently managing approximately 50% to 60% of pre-Covid passenger volume. The current Qantas (QF) and Virgin (VA) schedule is:

- DAR - 7 days per week (QF only)
- ADL - 7 days per week (QF and VA)
- SYD - 3 days per week (QF only)
- MLB - 3 days per week (QF only)
- BNE - 4 days per week (QF x 2 / VA x 2)
- PER - 2 days per week (QF only)
- CNS / AYQ Cancelled
- Airnorth 'Milk Run' continues 3 days per week.
- All measures relating to personnel hygiene, social distancing, self quarantine are in place.



*COVID-19 Airport Signage*



- Department of Health (DoH) and NT Police are currently managing all interstate arrivals and quarantine requirements.
- Virgin lounge area has been leased by DoH to manage and separate 'Hotspot' passengers.
- Qantas Lounge, Terra Rosa Café, Steve's Café and News Travels have reopened.
- Awarded Airports Council International Accreditation



## CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

### Alice Springs Airport

This certificate recognizes your airport's commitment to prioritizing health and safety measures in accordance with ICAO Council Aviation Restart Task Force (CART) recommendations and in alignment with the ACI Aviation Business Restart and Recovery guidelines along with industry best practices.

DATE OF ISSUANCE 23/02/2021      DATE OF EXPIRY 23/02/2022

### 2020 Master Plan Approved

The 2020 Alice Springs Airport Master Plan was approved by Deputy Prime Minister, Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Michael McCormack MP.

- 2020 Master Plan retains the fundamental concepts of the 2015 Master Plan.
- The Environment Strategy remains as an Appendix.
- Some chapters have been restructured /reordered.
- Aviation forecasts and economic contribution analysis both have broadly similar results to 2015 Master Plan.
- More discussion/emphasis on:

- National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF)
- Sustainability and climate change
- Promoting our good news stories (e.g. Solar)
- Environment Strategy
- Action Plan timeframes revised with short-, medium-, and long-term
- KPIs added to Action Plans to measure achievement
- Next Master Plan will be due in 2028.

### **Asia Pacific Aircraft Storage (APAS)**

Over 150 aircraft were placed in storage at the APAS facility. Stage 4 expansion is nearing completion with stage 5 plans underway. Over 110 employees have been engaged to maintain the aircraft which has provided a much needed economic boost to the local economy and community. In addition, tourism opportunities have emerged.



*Asia Pacific Aircraft Storage*



*First Airbus A380 to land at Alice Springs Airport to enter storage*

## No Drone Zone Program

Due to the interest in the Aircraft storage facility, Alice Springs Airport noted a significant increase in unauthorised drone activity in the area. 5 x CASA 'No Drone Zone' roadside signs have been approved by NT Government to be erected at strategic road locations at approximately 5.5km from the Alice Springs aerodrome boundary. Airservices Australia (AsA) 'drone detection heat map' detected 51 unauthorised drone movements within 5.5km of the airport between Jun and Sep 2020.



*No Drone Zone Program*

## Screening Point Upgrade

Security Screening Point Upgrade commenced in March 2021 with a planned completion date of late August 2021. The new security enhancements will include 'Full Body Scanning' technology.

To introduce and educate the community to the new screening process, a 'Trial Lane' was introduced in November 2020 for passengers to experience and learn about the new technology. The 'Trial Lane' will also provide training for the security screening staff.



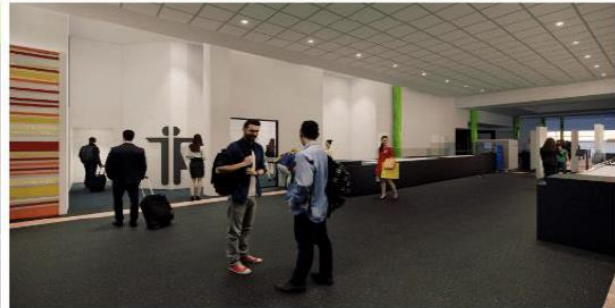
1 PERSPECTIVE 01 (DIAGRAMATIC ONLY)



2 PERSPECTIVE 02 (DIAGRAMATIC ONLY)



3 PERSPECTIVE 03 (DIAGRAMATIC ONLY)



4 PERSPECTIVE 04 (DIAGRAMATIC ONLY)

### *New Security Screening Point Upgrades*

## Terminal Passenger Seating

New terminal chairs were installed during August 2020 providing cleaning contractors an improved COVID-19 cleaning solution over the previous cloth upholstered passenger terminal seating. Existing terminal chairs were donated to various local charities and community groups such as the National Women's Pioneer Museum and Mutitjulu community.



*New Terminal Passenger Seating*

## Customer Feedback

A new customer feedback WiFi platform was introduced in Nov 2020 as the previous 'Happy or Not' customer feedback consoles were removed due to being a non-essential hygiene risk touch point.

Alice Springs Airport



February 2021

Positive feedback

**93%**

as given by 270 customers

*Touchless Customer Feedback Platform*

## Community Engagement

Alice Springs Airport are committed to being involved in a broad spectrum of community activities across Central Australia. The overarching objective is to foster community engagement. It is also about engaging with the community at a broader, grass roots level and show commitment to tourism, industry, indigenous culture, safety, social welfare, sporting endeavour and participation. Some events did not occur in 2020 however Alice Springs Airport continued to sponsor the following events in preparation for the 2021 program:

- Finke Desert Race
- Fabalice Festival
- Imparja Cup Cricket
- NT Writers Festival
- International Beanie Festival
- Parrtjima Festival of Light



*LGBTQI Fabalice Festival*

- Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Days (Alice Springs and Tennant Creek)
- Chamber of Commerce Customer Service Awards (Alice Springs and Tennant Creek)
- Red CentreNats Event
- Tourism Central Australia Awards
- Henley on Todd
- Harts Range Races
- MusiKarma

## Industry Engagement

The CACG has proved an effective forum for engagement locally with the many stakeholders including airlines, airport businesses, general aviation operators and government. Alice Springs Airport however engages with industry at many levels including local, national and international.

Alice Springs Airport General Manager, Dave Batic, is a very prominent member of the Central Australian community giving him the opportunity to engage with members of the community about airport activity, environment, economy, tourism and aviation heritage.

Mr Batic is also active in a variety of Committee, Board and Director positions such as:

- Tourism Central Australia (previous Chair)
- Board Member Chamber of Commerce Central Australia (previous Chair)
- Board Director Desert Knowledge Australia (previous FARMC Chair)
- Board Director Chamber of Commerce NT
- Chairman and Founder Alice Springs Major Business Group
- Director Australian Airports Association NT Division
- President Alice Springs RSL Sub Branch
- Vice Chairman Fabalice Festival
- Committee Member Australian National Aviation Museum Alice Springs



*Mr Dave Batic - RSL President*

Mr Batic has also conducted several meetings during the review period, including meetings with:

- The Hon Warren Snowden Member of Parliament (MP)
- Chief Minister Michael Gunner Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)
- Senator The Hon Sam McMahon
- Minister for Tourism and Culture Natasha fyles
- Member for Araluen Robyn Lambley MLA
- Member for Braitling Josh Burgoyne MLA
- Member for Gwoja Chansey Paech MLA
- Member for Namatjira Bill Yan MLA
- Member for Barkly Steve Edgington MLA
- Mayor Damien Ryan (Alice Springs)
- CEO DITT - Mr Shaun Drabsch
- Mayor Jeff McLachlan (Barkley)



## 2021/22 OUTLOOK

### Meeting Schedule

Meeting	Location	Date
CACG Meeting	Alice Springs	03 November 2021
CACG Meeting	Alice Springs	09 March 2022
CACG Chairs Forum	Canberra	TBA

### Proposed 2021/2022 Airport Community Activities and Stakeholder Engagement

Oct 2021 - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Runway Dinner to commemorate the first aircraft to land in Alice Springs on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1921.

- AAA National FOD walk with airport stakeholders.
- Fabalice Festival
- Imparja Cup Cricket
- Masters Games
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Days (Alice Springs and Tennant Creek)
- Chamber of Commerce Customer Service Awards (Alice Springs and Tennant Creek)
- Red CentreNats Event
- Harts Range Races
- International Beanie Festival
- MusiKarma
- NT Writers Festival
- Board Director Chamber of Commerce NT
- Chairman Alice Springs Major Business Group

- Director Australian Airports Association NT Division
- President Alice Springs RSL Sub Branch
- Vice Chairman Fabalice Festival
- Committee Member Australian National Aviation Museum Alice Springs

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact the CACG Secretariat:

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