



COMMUNITY AVIATION CONSULTATION GROUP

2.00pm – Thursday, 28 August 2025

Ringer Room, CAG Office, Level 4, Plaza Offices West, Canberra Airport

MEETING NOTES

The Independent Chair of the CACG is Bob Ross.

CACG Members
Independent CACG Chair and representing: Pialligo Residents Association (PRA) North Canberra Community Council (NCCC)
Canberra Airport Michael Thomson, Head of Aviation Andrew Connor, Planning and Environment Manager Susan Mulligan, Planning Co-ordinator Michael Lee, Planning and Environment Officer
Fernleigh Park Community Association (FPCA)
Tuggeranong Community Council (TCC)
Jerrabomberra Residents Association (JRA)
Gungahlin Community Council (GCC)
Weston Creek Community Council (WCCC)
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC)
Airservices Australia (ASA)
ACT Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)
City and Environment Directorate – Roads ACT (CED)

Summary of Attendees

Community Groups Note: Chair represents 2	7	Canberra Airport	4
ACT Government	2	Commonwealth Government Airservices Australia	1
		Total	14

1. MEETING FORMALITIES

1.1 Welcome and Notation of Apologies

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm.

The Independent Chair introduced himself and undertook a roll call of attendees.

The following apologies were noted:

- Canberra Airport
- Ridgeway Community Group
- QPRC
- Qantas Airways
- Swissport
- Aircraft Noise Ombudsman
- Airservices Australia
- ACT City and Environment Directorate – Planning and Urban Policy

1.2 Declaration of Impartiality by the Chair

As the representative of the Pialligo Residents Association as well as representing the North Canberra Community Council, the Chair declared that should any issues of impartiality be raised during the meeting, he would address them in an appropriate manner.

1.3 2025 CACG Representation

Persons nominated to represent their community groups were noted.

1.4 2025 Meetings/Consultations

The list of Meetings/Consultations attended by Canberra Airport to date in 2025 was noted.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING NOTES OF CACG MEETING HELD ON 9 APRIL 2025

The Meeting Notes of the CACG Meeting held on 9 April 2025 were accepted.

3. AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA (ASA)

3.1 General Briefing

ASA spoke to a Powerpoint presentation.

JRA asked if ASA could provide some information about the Jerrabomberra complainant as she was surprised to see Jerrabomberra listed.

ASA advised he would take that question on notice to consult the ASA Team.

TCC asked if the Emergency Services aircraft that fly out of Hume were managed by Canberra Airport ASA Air Traffic Control. They fly over my house two or three times a day and I am surprised you have not received any complaints. I am not complaining as I understand they are just doing their job.

ASA advised ASA does facilitate these flights, however sometimes they do not show up on WebTrack (i.e. the police will turn off their broadcasting for obvious reasons). Generally, we have found that post-Covid there is a bit less tolerance for Emergency Services aircraft operations across Australia and this is evidenced by a substantial increase in complaints. Canberra has a low number of complaints compared to 100s at other airports.

TCC enquired about the new Digital Aerodrome System (DAS) tower and expressed an interest in having a closer look at the tower.

Michael advised the Airport has been working closely with ASA on the DAS Project. The cameras are now mounted, and they are starting to take images. Some work needs to be done in terms of co-ordinating systems. Canberra Airport will continue with a manned tower until the DAS becomes fully operational post-Western Sydney Airport commencing operations. The tower is located on the airside eastern corner of Hangar 48 and is approximately 35m tall with panoramic views across the full airport site. We believe that Canberra will be the first airport in the world with a cross-runway to have a DAS which presents more complexity.

ASA added the DAS capability, once controllers get used to it, is fantastic. Canberra is going to be the first Airport that is not greenfield to secure a DAS. It is understandable that there is a lot of desire from other airports to get one. It is exciting to see Australia at the forefront of this technology.

3.2 Feedback from Ridgeway Community Group (RCG) on Airservices' Weetalabah (2022) presentations provided to RCG on 16 April to inform the following Action Item from the last CACG meeting (9 April):

- ***RCG to provide questions through the CACG Chair (via Susan Mulligan) for consideration by Airservices***

ASA advised he is happy to take more questions, however it is an existing flight path that has been in place for fifty years and it only gets used during the day as there are restrictions on night use. ASA is not going to move the flight path and restrict the use of the runway.

The Chair asked about the Campbell enquiry and whether ASA had made contact?

ASA advised he has had no contact, however advised that the person had complained about the same issue in 2022. ASA is happy to touch base, but there is no new information to provide. ASA undertook to contact the Campbell resident directly.

JRA advised that the JRA had requested that the Bushfire helicopter operation at Hume use the Monaro Highway as part of their SOP. The general rule is that if they are not under an emergency situation (training etc) they should use those two entry points and that seems to have worked.

ASA agreed that these operators are quite receptive to suggestions.

4. CANBERRA AIRPORT

4.1 Aviation Update by Michael Thomson

a) General Aviation Update

Michael spoke to the Meeting Brief as follows:

- Canberra Airport is still operating between 85% and 95% of pre-Covid passengers.
- In June/July we saw significant cancellations on the Canberra Sydney route; with cancellation rates in excess of 10%. People in our region deserve certainty on the operation of this service. Canberra Airport has been in discussions with the airline involved on how to achieve lower cancellations and more certainty of service and those discussions are ongoing.
- Canberra to Coffs Harbour seasonal service operated by Link Airways will recommence on 18 September and continue through until the end of January 2025. This service has not yet been announced publicly.
- The first ever service to Avalon operated by Fly Pelican will commence on 26 October.
- Canberra-Melbourne-Doha operated by Qatar Airways will recommence on 2 December. The service will operate 7 days per week and will transit via Melbourne, arriving between 8am-8.30am and leaving Canberra between 1pm-1.30pm.

4.2 Airport Infrastructure and Current Development, including update on Status of Major Development Plan (MDP) Investment Projects

a) Northern Road

- Canberra Airport has been planning for the Northern Road for 26 years and is pleased to report that we received approval to construct the last stage of the Northern Road from the Department of the Environment on 30 July and that work has now commenced. Construction is expected to be completed by March 2026. It provides a crucial second exit and access point for Fairbairn.
- We went through an extensive consultation process with DCCEEW.
- We are contributing \$1m over four years to a captive breeding and research program for the Canberra Grassland Earless Dragon (CGED) which is about 30% of what the ACT Government has funded over the past four years. The ACT Government has stated it will increase its contribution.
- The Airport has approximately 2% of the total CGED habitat in the ACT.
- We are confident that the Northern Road Project will deliver an environmentally positive outcome.

JRA asked if fauna pathways are being constructed under the road?

Michael advised three passageways are included in the design for the Northern Road. These passageways have been successfully used for other reptiles and amphibians. We have also offered the Airport site as a research facility.

Andrew spoke briefly to the following agenda items. Refer to the Canberra Airport Meeting Brief for items 4.2b)-f).

- b) 27 Brindabella Circuit, BBP**
- c) 1 George Tyson Drive, BBP**
- d) 32 Nomad Drive, Pialligo**
- e) 19-21 Scherger Drive, Fairbairn**
- f) 3 Wellington Place, Majura Park, MDP – Variation Overview**

4.3 Other News / Events

4.4 Communications

Refer to the Canberra Airport Meeting Brief for items 4.3 and 4.4.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Community Groups

Jerrabomberra Residents Association

JRA spoke to the following issues:

- The Vikings Club DA has been rejected by the Southern Regional Planning Panel.
- The Data Centre and Samsara Eco (recycling R&D facility) at the Poplars Innovation Precinct in Jerrabomberra are progressing.
- The EIS for the Monaro Rock quarry has been released for community consultation which closes on 24 September. It is a very contentious subject in the Royalla area, particularly the potential for a substantial increase in the number of heavy laden trucks that may use the Monaro Highway.

Tuggeranong Community Council

TCC informed the meeting that the TCC SouthFest festival would be held on 15 November 2025.

Weston Creek Community Council

WCCC spoke to the following issues:

- Traffic going west to east in the morning is a big problem. The Cotter Road is a hot topic at the moment.
- Amberfield LDK has opened up interesting conversations around that whole precinct.
- Equestrian activity is important to Weston Creek and we are discussing new projects. If we are going to start the conversations about that space, noting the legacy of Terry, I would like to offer an invitation to Canberra Airport to enter the conversation.
- We are looking at ways of connecting those new residents into our community and the Amberfield Residents Group will be attending tonight's public meeting.
- We have an Emergency Services Centre (which is in Duffy) and they have badged it as "Molonglo". I am curious to see if they have helicopter facilities at the Centre.
- In the bushfire season they could facilitate that western side.

Fernleigh Park Community Association

FPCA advised the community has the same concerns as previously reported about the Spotlight roundabout and the proposed upgrade by QPRC to install traffic lights which he believed would lead to even longer queues and delays.

5.2 Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

QPRC spoke to the QPRC Meeting Brief.

a) Bulk Water Pipeline Queanbeyan to Bungendore

QPRC advised that QPRC was still in negotiations with the ACT and NSW Governments regarding:

- Water entitlements with the ACT;
- The alignment of the pipeline;
- The design of the pipeline;
- Funding to support construction of the pipeline;

The 'sleeper' issue that we have is the actual price of water and how much we are going to charge developers to recoup the money to construct the pipeline. We are aiming to have negotiated Heads of Agreement finalised by early 2025.

b) Urban Expansion of Bungendore – population target

QPRC advised the NSW population predictions provide some indicative numbers to inform the population growth of Bungendore. We are in the process of reviewing the Bungendore Structure Plan. It is a bit of a “watch this space” in this area because we do not know ourselves until more things align.

c) South Jerrabomberra Regional Jobs Precinct Final Master Plan

QPRC offered to arrange for a representative from Regional NSW to provide a briefing on the Master Plan and Canberra Airport undertook to consult with the Chair and let QPRC know ahead of the next meeting.

d) South Jerrabomberra Regional Sports Ground

Refer to QPRC Meeting Brief.

e) Residential development expansion proposals into recent land purchases adjoining Googong

Refer to QPRC Meeting Brief.

f) North Tralee Industrial Precinct DA's in across Poplars, Tralee and South Jerrabomberra

QPRC undertook to update the table with “industrial” buildings.

g) Monaro Rock Quarry (Mates Drive, Royalla)

Refer to QPRC Meeting Brief.

h) Queanbeyan Sewer Farm upgrade

QPRC advised the DA was still being assessed by the ACT.

Michael advised QPRC to make sure the Airspace Protection Team at the Airport is kept fully informed about this project.

i) Infill Housing Strategy

QPRC advised we are well underway and will be completing our technical reports by the end of the year. Early next year we will engage with the community and more broadly with business, including Canberra Airport.

5.3 ACT Government – City and Environment Directorate / Infrastructure Canberra

CED advised:

- The new City and Environment Directorate (CED) commenced operating on 1 July 2025.
- David Pepper is the Director-General of the CED.
- Bruce Fitzgerald is the Deputy Director-General, CED (formerly TCCS).
- Sam Engele is the Deputy Director-General, CED (formerly EPSDD).
- We are currently working at bringing across the corporate side of the new Directorate.
- Now we have the one Directorate, we believe the ACT Government can better serve the Canberra community.

CED, although an apology for the meeting, provided the following written progress reports:

a) Eastern Broadacre and Industrial Employment Land

The City and Environment Directorate is continuing to undertake the necessary remaining environmental/habitat studies to inform the strategic assessment report. There is no further detail to report currently.

b) Territory Plan – implementation of NASF

NASF principles are actively considered in planning decisions. The Territory Planning Authority continues to apply NASF advice to relevant development and rezoning proposals to ensure alignment with national safeguarding objectives.

c) East Lake – Causeway amendment to the Territory Plan

The Eastlake place plan was implemented through changes made to the Territory Plan in September 2024.

CMTEDD confirmed that the Causeway Eastlake rezoning has been approved. John Gorton Drive adjacent to the Town Centre will not be a high-speed arterial road and that has been a good outcome for the City.

d) ACT Roads Projects Update

CED spoke to the Meeting Brief.

Andrew advised the meeting that Canberra Airport had a joint venture project with the ACT Government to upgrade the intersection of Majura Avenue and Fairbairn Avenue to two right-hand lanes with works are due to commence soon.

The Chair asked if the ACT Government proposed to undertake research on the impact of the disruption to businesses in the City caused by the light rail project?

WCCC said the ACT does have the City Renewal Authority which should look into that. It is the same in Dickson; it is not good for businesses. Seeing that whole corridor which was once lined with gum trees now littered with graffiti is not very good.

6. OTHER BUSINESS AS RAISED AT THE MEETING

In relation to PFAS, WCCC advised she has a friend at the University of Sydney who has informed her that they are doing trials around Western Sydney Airport with Industrial Hemp to remediate PFAS. They are looking for trial sites.

Michael asked that WCCC provide the contact details which would then be passed on to ASA.

7. NEXT MEETING

Following subsequent consultation with the Chair, the next meeting of the CACG was scheduled for Tuesday, 25 November 2025.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting at 3.25pm.