



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Camden Airport CACG

Camden – Thursday 29 September 2022



Overview

1. Departmental executive update
2. Aviation White Paper
3. Aviation sustainability
4. Women in aviation and workforce skills
5. Jobs + Skills Summit
6. Airports Regulations sunseting and reform
7. Airports safeguarding
8. Emerging aviation technologies
9. PFAS pilot

Department executive

- Jim Betts, Secretary
- Marisa Purvis-Smith, Deputy Secretary, Transport
- Julia Pickworth, First Assistant Secretary, Domestic Aviation and Reform
- Richard Wood, First Assistant Secretary, International Aviation, Technology and Services
- Phil McClure, Assistant Secretary, Airports Branch, Domestic Aviation and Reform

Aviation White Paper

Setting the scene for the future growth and development of the Australia's Aviation sector

The Aviation White Paper

Four main focus areas:

- the economic reforms needed to improve productivity across the sector, including addressing skills shortages, competition between airports and airlines, and charting a course out of the pandemic;
- how to maximise the aviation sector's contribution to achieving net zero carbon emissions, including through sustainable aviation fuel and emerging technologies;
- how to support and regenerate Australia's general aviation sector; and
- better mechanisms for consultation on and management of issues like aircraft noise, airport development planning and changing security requirements.

Next steps:

- The Department is working with Government to develop a detailed project plan and would welcome involvement in the White Paper process.

Aviation Sustainability

Next Steps

Aviation Sustainability

The White Paper will consider as a priority, how to maximise the aviation sector's contribution to achieving net zero carbon emissions, including through sustainable aviation fuel and emerging technologies.

The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government has committed to work with industry stakeholders to cut emissions across the transport sector:

- **Jet Zero Council** - New body along the lines of the Jet Zero Council seen in the UK or the Council for Sustainable Aviation Fuels in Canada
- **A Climate Change Unit** within the Department to work across government and industry partners to identify how best the government can work with the transport sector to play our part in achieving net zero

Women in Aviation and Workforce Skills

A focus on promoting aviation as a diverse and rewarding career option for young women and girls and building a sustainable workforce.

The Women in the Aviation Industry Initiative

The first four years

- The first four years of the Initiative ended on 30 June 2022.
- Since 2020, despite numerous COVID-19 disruptions, the Initiative still operated.
- For example, in 2021 the Initiative reached out to more than 100,000 people, and directly engaged with 18,000 female students, parents and career advisors.
- Initiative provided support for Aviation/ Aerospace Australia's *Barriers to the Pipeline Research Project*, which was released on 21 July 2022.

The next 12 months

- Extended until 2025-26 and allocated an additional \$4 million.
- A formal evaluation of the first four years is underway to examine effectiveness of the Initiative.
- A strategic action plan is being developed and will inform the next four years of the Initiative.

The future

- The strategic action plan will enable us to:
 - Build on what the Initiative has achieved to date;
 - respond to any findings from the formal evaluation;
 - engage with existing and new stakeholders in this space; and
 - provide a transparent approach to priorities and objectives for the Initiative.

Projects funded by the Initiative

In 2022, the Initiative provided funding for the following events:

- Swinburne Space Industry Virtual Conference Series;
- HSC Career Expo;
- Women in Aviation/Aerospace Australia Summit; and
- Careers Expo in Western Sydney.

For the next few months the Initiative will provide funding for more events, including:

- Career expo in Townsville;
- Youth and Career Expo in Cairns;
- Mentoring programs for female mid-level managers working in aviation;
- Mentoring young women in aviation;
- Girls in Aviation Day; and
- School and Careers Open Day at Wings Over the Illawarra.

Building a sustainable pipeline of workforce skills

COVID-19 impacts

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, significant shortages of pilots and aircraft maintenance engineers were forecast.
- The skills shortage has been less of a problem during the pandemic, but the underlying issues need to be addressed for the medium and long term.
- Skilled workers are leaving the aviation sector for more attractive industries, while border closures and associated restrictions impacted course completion rates for students.

The future

- The Expert Panel on Aviation Skills and Training has recommended streamlining and aligning regulatory pathways to build a reliable supply of fit-for-purpose workforce skills.
- The Department is working across other Government portfolios, such as Education, and with industry to address these issues, recognising the key importance of aviation skills in Australia.

Jobs + Skills Summit

Bringing Australians together to work constructively on the challenges and opportunities facing the Australian labour market and economy.

Aviation Roundtable

Key themes

- Need to address the shortage of engineers
- Expedite ASIC clearance for employees returning to the aviation industry
- Marketing initiatives to attract people to our workplaces
- Opportunities to align accreditation and training systems with industry need
- Investment in regional livability
- Changes to migration settings and incentives for returning workers
- Training, investment, subsidies or grants to assist new entrants
- Reform of education funding and the VET loan scheme
- Improving employment conditions and workplace culture
- Net-zero transition and the digital economy
- Government tender reform

Airports Sunsetting and Reform

Airport regulations due to sunset in April 2024, which are in scope of this review:

Airports Regulations 1997.

Airports (Ownership – Interests in Shares) Regulations 1996.

Airports (Control of On-Airport Activities) Regulations 1997.

Airports (Environment Protection) Regulations 1997.

Airports (Building Control) Regulations 1996.

Airports (Protections of Airspace) Regulations 1996.

Other sunsetting regulations administered by the Department (e.g. under the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997 and the Sydney Airport Curfew Act 1995) are being progressed through a separate process.

Topic areas within scope

- Airport ownership.
- Leasing and subleasing.
- Enforcement schemes such as infringement notices.
- Control of on-airport activities, such as liquor supply, parking infringements, smoking, gambling, commercial trading.
- Building controls.
- Environmental controls.
- Protection of airspace.
- Major development proposals thresholds.

Consultations – A staged approach

Stage 1a: *Cutting red tape, duplication, inconsistencies and reporting.*

- Focus on the quick wins that will lessen the regulatory burden on airports and provide flexibility to enhance their response to COVID-19 impacts.
- Affected regulations: *Airports* and *Airports (Ownership – Interests in Shares) Regulations*.

Stage 1b: *Early amendments to the Airports Act.*

- Updating and modernising infringement notice schemes and the declaring of airport sites.

Staged approach continued

Stage 2: Streamlining Commonwealth Responsibilities

- Streamlining our responsibilities for on-airport activities such as smoking, gambling and commercial trading controls.
- Affected regulations: *Control of On-Airport Activities Regulations*

Stage 3: Increasing flexibility and modernising

- Modernising and reforming our regulatory processes in relation to the protection of airspace, environmental management, and building controls.
- Affected regulations: *Airports (Environment Protection), Airports (Building Control), Airports (Protections of Airspace) Regulations.*

Stage 4: Airports Act reforms

- Limited amendments to the *Airports Act* to support and facilitate outcomes from the other regulation reforms

National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG)

safeguarding@infrastructure.gov.au



NATIONAL AIRPORTS SAFEGUARDING FRAMEWORK – IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW - RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Commonwealth/State/Territory Ministers endorse an intergovernmental agreement to standardise a national approach to airport safeguarding.
2	National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) continue to oversee implementation of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF).
3	NASAG to implement a schedule for ongoing review of all NASF Guidelines - to ensure the currency and functionality of the framework.
4	Australian Government to include provisions relating to consideration of the NASF in legislation for the 22 leased federal airports (by 2027).
5	State/Territory governments to implement the Principles and Guidelines of NASF in their planning regimes (by 2027).
6	State/Territory governments to develop and disseminate clear policy/guidance on the status of the NASF (for that individual jurisdiction) and how it should be applied to large and small airports.
7	Airports to initiate a process for regular consultation/engagement with local government on NASF issues.
8	Australian/State/Territory governments, peak aviation industry bodies, peak planning bodies to contribute to the development of NASF educational materials for use by planning practitioners, local government, tertiary institutions, and the building/development industry.



- The NASF Implementation Review and Recommendations were endorsed by Planning and Infrastructure Ministers in October 2021
- NASAG is continuing to discuss future work associated with implementing the Recommendations
 - The group agreed Recommendations 3, 7 and 8 were work for NASAG to lead and would therefore be added to the NASAG Forward Work Plan as resourcing becomes available.
- The current 2021-24 NASAG Forward Work Plan includes reviews of Guideline B (windshear), Guideline C (wildlife hazard management) and Guideline D (windfarms).
- NASAG is continuing to pursue opportunities to increase the uptake of the NASF through industry networking, legislative/policy approaches, and educational activities for practitioners and industry.
- General inquiries: safeguarding@infrastructure.gov.au.

Emerging Aviation Technologies

drones@infrastructure.gov.au

Australian Aviation: Staying at the Forefront of Innovation

- The Australian Government is progressing a suite of policy, programs and systems to position business and industry to safely and efficiently adopt and integrate emerging aviation technologies.
- The Government is looking to support individuals, businesses and industry to adopt new and emerging digital aviation technology through a coordinated and cooperative whole-of-government approach.
- The Government's policy approach is focused on strengthening Australia's leadership in aviation, supporting the safe integration of innovative and emerging aviation technologies into Australia's airspace.
- Key initiatives include the National Drone Detection Network, the Uncrewed Traffic Management System, and the Infrastructure Planning Framework, and the recently released RPAS and AAM Strategic Regulatory Roadmap.

Safely integrating NEAT into Australia's safe skies

- The Department is progressing broad drone security policy initiatives, such as the National Drone Detection Network, for improved safety and security outcomes around airports and aerodromes, and in the community.
- The Uncrewed Traffic Management system will support the safe integration of multiple operations in busy airspace, particularly with remotely piloted aircraft systems.
- The Infrastructure Planning Framework will provide guidance for planning authorities to make informed decisions regarding emerging aviation technology operations, complementing the National Airport Safeguarding Framework and CASA regulations.
- The RPAS and AAM Strategic Regulatory Roadmap provides a plan, long-term vision for oversight and aviation safety regulation for drones and Advanced Air Mobility.

Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships Program

- The Government is administering \$32.6 million over two years as part of the Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships (EATP) Program.
- Through the Program, the Department will partner with industry to deliver emerging aviation technology through a series of research and trial projects.
- The assessment of applications for Round One of the Program is close to being finalised.
- A number of key themes emerged throughout the applications including green technology, health logistics, agriculture, Indigenous outcomes and manufacturing.
- The second funding round of the Program will likely open in 2023.

Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS)

PFAS Investigation Program

- \$130.5 million over three years to investigate PFAS contamination due to historic Commonwealth firefighting activities.
- The program includes up to 37 airports across Australia.
- The Department has developed an investigation framework and is currently testing this through a pilot program with eight airports (Tas (2), VIC (1), QLD (1), SA (2), ACT (1) and NSW (1)).
- It is expected the full program roll out will commence in late 2022.



Thank you