

Camden Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group Meeting
Minutes – 26 March 2024

Date: 26 March 2024
Starting Time: 10am
Location: Camden Valley Inn and via Teams link

1. Attendees & Apologies

The Acting Chair opened the meeting at 10am, noting that the Chair was unable to attend due to a personal matter. The Acting Chair gave an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed those present.

Present	Company/Organisation
Peter Munro – Acting Chair	Aeria Management Group (AMG)
Daniel Jarosch	AMG
Tom Smith	AMG
Justin Marr	AMG
Brett McCartney	AMG
Glenn Seage	AMG
Kelli Bennett-Smith	Office of Angus Taylor, Federal MP for Hume
Sally Quinnell MP	NSW MP for Camden
Melinda Hall	Office of Sally Quinnell, NSW MP for Camden
Scott Small	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Department)
Alexis Bocking	Department
Rafae Jafri	Department
Timothy Gill	Airservices Australia
Stefan Smerdon	Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO)
Charmaine Cooper	Camden Council
Heath James	Camden Council
Anne Parnham	Greater Narellan Business Chamber
Stephen Grabowski	Bounty Business Referral Group
Fazila Farhad	South West Sydney Tourism Taskforce
Christine Wang	South West Sydney Tourism Taskforce
Elizabeth Grech	United Aero Helicopters
Dave Boulter	Southern Cross Gliding Club
Bruce Simpson	GB Aviation

John Anderson	Air Combat Australia
Jeffrey Remington	Australian Air League
Rachael Atkinson	Resident
Robert Eaglesham	Community member
Richard Leemen	Camden Residents Action Group
Jill Leemen	Camden Residents Action Group
Peter Cuneo	Camden Residents Action Group
Maeve Platt	Camden Residents Action Group

Apologies

Brenton Burman (Chair)	AECOM
Iain Bailey	CASA
Rob Walker	Regional Aviation Association of Australia
Andrew Andersen	General Aviation Advisory Network
Chris Evans	Camden Rotary Club
Councillor Lara Symkowiak	Camden Council
Hayley Neville	Camden Council
Mike Scarce	Camden Hire
Mark Perich	Leppington Pastoral
Greg Davie	Altocap Flight School
Glenda Davis	Camden Residents Action Group

2. CACG Terms of Reference

The Draft Terms of Reference were distributed to members ahead of the meeting. Attendees were asked for their feedback:

- Rachael Atkinson (Resident) requested that the draft Terms be revised to acknowledge residents at the airport. AMG agreed to revise the draft accordingly.
- Sally Quinell MP requested the inclusion of the local Aboriginal Land Council on the list of preferred members. AMG agreed to revise the draft accordingly.

AMG to distribute the revised draft to CACG members for review and approval ahead of next meeting.

3. AMG update

AMG provided an overview of matters relating to operations and developments at Camden Airport. Presentation to be published in full on AMG website. Details include:

- AMG advocacy meetings with NSW Treasurer Daniel Mookhey, Camden MP Sally Quinell and NSW Minister for Industry, Trade and Innovation Anoulack Chanthivong. Additional meetings with Department, CASA and Airservices Australia to discuss opportunity to expand and enhance Camden Airport and proposed South East Corridor VFR route from Bankstown Airport.

- AMG submission to Western Sydney International Airport Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), highlighting economic and operational impacts on General Aviation (GA) in Greater Sydney.
- AMG submission recommends measures to mitigate such costs, including government funding or investment incentives to expand GA operations, facilities and infrastructure at Camden Airport.
- AMG personnel changes, including resignation of CEO Daniel Jarosch and appointment of new General Manager Aviation Justin Marr. AMG Airport Operations team strengthened by two new roles: Aviation Operations Manager (Brett McCartney) and Airport Reporting Officer/Property Coordinator (Glenn Seage).
- Recent community initiatives at Camden Airport, including Australian Air League Training Camp and Royal Aero Club of NSW Training Camp.
- Ongoing major upgrade to Camden Airport carpark and stormwater infrastructure, including recent reopening of Taxiway Delta and Taxiway Charlie.
- Installation of 3km of perimeter fencing at Camden Airport to improve security and wildlife barriers
- Camden Airport Emergency Training Exercise conducted with emergency services agencies in November 2023 to enhance safety preparedness and crisis management.

Daniel Jarosch (AMG) noted AMG's objective of highlighting the importance of Metro GA airports to the local economy and community and NSW more broadly. Such advocacy was designed to help grow Camden Airport – in line with growing demand for GA services – as an aviation destination, employment generator and offering to the community more broadly.

Mr Jarosch also noted that AMG was seeing increased demand from Camden Airport operators to expand operations and from Bankstown Airport operators to relocate to Camden Airport.

In response to a question from Bruce Simpson (GB Aviation), Mr Jarosch confirmed that the ability to expand operations at Camden Airport was constrained by current infrastructure. Mr Jarosch noted that AMG was already investing in GA facilities and infrastructure at Camden Airport.

Dave Boulter (Southern Cross Gliding Club) noted recent investments by Southern Cross Gliding Club in facilities at Camden Airport, in line with growing demand.

4. Airservices Australia update

Timothy Gill (Airservices Australia) provided an update on air traffic movements and noise complaints at Camden Airport. Presentation to be published in full on AMG website.

Airservices recorded five individual complainants from December 2023 – February 2024; below the three-year average.

Mr Gill applauded the large number of community representatives attending the Camden Airport CACG. He also noted the proactive role of AMG in responding to noise complaints.

Mr Gill also noted two Airservices Australia resources:

- Aircraft in your Neighbourhood (AIYN) resource about flight paths and aircraft movements in specific areas: <https://aircraftnoise.airservicesaustralia.com/>
- Fact sheet about emergency services aircraft operations – to be distributed to CACG members.

Mr Jarosch (AMG) noted recent engagement with Airservices Australia regarding metrics and KPIs for aircraft noise for GA airports, amid the expected increase in noise complaints due to the commencement of Western Sydney International Airport.

5. Department update

Scott Small (Department) provided an update on:

- Aviation White Paper: Department representatives currently reviewing c. 2000 submissions to the Aviation Green Paper. Aviation White Paper on schedule to be released in mid-2024.

- Ongoing updating of aviation and airport regulation. First updated regulation to be released on 1 April. Revised regulations will include removal of the requirement for the Department to approve every sublease on an airport.
- Senate inquiry into impacts and mitigation of aircraft noise. Written submissions close on 30 April. Department will provide a submission to the inquiry.

In response to a question about the lease period for Camden Airport, Mr Small said the Head Lease for the airport would not change.

6. Updates from Camden Council and elected NSW and Federal representatives

Kelli Bennett-Smith (Angus Taylor MP) noted that Mr Taylor had lodged a submission to the Western Sydney International Draft EIS and to Transport for Western Sydney.

Sally Quinnell MP noted the importance of providing Camden businesses with the best opportunity to thrive, including businesses and organisations at Camden Airport. Ms Quinnell noted that she had arranged for the NSW Treasurer to visit Camden Airport to highlight the impact of the airport and related education needs – including the need for new pilots and aircraft engineers.

Heath James (Camden Council) noted that the Council had endorsed a submission to the Western Sydney International Airport Draft EIS, which was available on the Council website. Mr James also noted that the Unlock Camden community event would be held on 28 September 2024 and that there was an opportunity for Camden Airport to play a role in celebrating the area's heritage.

7. Special presentation: Aircraft Noise Ombudsman

Stefan Smerdon (ANO) gave a presentation on the role of the ANO in the aircraft noise complaint process and trends in complaints received by the ANO. The presentation also detailed recent investigations concerning noise complaints about Brisbane Airport and Hobart Airport. Presentation to be published in full on the AMG website.

Peter Munro (AMG) noted that AMG worked with the community and its customers to respond to and mitigate noise queries and complaints, including its Fly Neighbourly program.

8. Other updates and general business

- Glenda Davis (Camden Residents Action Group) submitted a query regarding take-off directions and noise generated by gliders at Camden Airport. Dave Boulter (Southern Cross Gliding Club) responded by noting the multiple factors behind take-off directions and movements, including safety considerations. He also noted that the club had seen an increase in memberships, which had meant more aircraft movements. Other CACG members noted that Camden residents love having gliders in the area. Peter Munro (AMG) noted the forecasts for growth in electric and hydrogen-powered aircraft, which are quieter than current aircraft.
- Maeve Platt (Camden Residents Action Group) queried whether glider pilots can see into residents' backyards while in the air. CACG members responded that pilots were too high and too focused on flying to see into backyards.
- Fazila Farhad (South West Tourism Taskforce) discussed the inaugural Western Sydney Tourism Awards on 24 October 2024, to honour achievements and celebrate attractions in the region. She encouraged businesses to help sponsor the event and to submit award nominations, via <https://www.westernsydneytourismawards.com.au/>.
- Anne Parnham (Greater Narellan Business Chamber) noted that the Chamber has a monthly meeting with Council to help support businesses in the area, including a meeting on 10 April regarding developments and growth over the next decade.

- Stephen Grabowski (Bounty Business Referral Group) noted that the Group was excited by business opportunities in the region.
- Ms Parnham (Greater Narellan Business Chamber) asked whether hot-air balloons launch from Camden Airport. Mr Simpson (GB Aviation) said balloons launched from different areas depending on conditions and were designed to land at the airport.
- Richard Leemen (Camden Residents Action Group) asked whether there were any plans to revive an aviation museum at Camden Airport. Mr Simpson (GB Aviation) said that such historic items had been moved out of the airport under a previous airport lessee.
- Mr Simpson (GB Aviation) said there was interest in growing aircraft charter trade at Camden Airport but that there were insufficient facilities (hangarage) and jet fuel to enable such growth. Tom Smith (AMG) responded by noting that AMG was looking to relocate the fuel farm at Camden Airport and introduce jet aviation fuels, subject to feasibility and development approvals. He also noted that there were realistic opportunities to expand hangarage at the airport but that high barriers to substantial expansion included stormwater, sewer and power connections. It was difficult to see a scenario where AMG alone could unlock those opportunities, he added. Mr Jarosch (AMG) noted that longer term scenarios included Advanced Air Mobility aircraft, requiring less infrastructure than current aircraft.
- Jill Leemen (Camden Residents Action Group) asked whether growth at the airport would push out current operators, such as hot-air balloons and gliders. Mr Jarosch (AMG) said AMG's mandate was to grow the airport and deliver facilities for all operators.
- Rachael Atkinson (Resident) said there was a need for continued protection or acknowledgement of heritage items and heritage management at the airport. Ms Quinnell MP noted that she had spoken with AMG about opportunities to celebrate and showcase the heritage of the airport. Mr Jarosch (AMG) said AMG's recent focus had been restoring Bellman hangars at the airport, which was the most significant aviation investment at the airport since privatisation. He added that there was scope to do more to celebrate the heritage of the airport – including plaques or similar – which would be considered by AMG.
- Mr Simpson (GB Aviation) queried the need for additional fencing at the airport. Mr Jarosch (AMG) responded by saying that airside-landside barriers needed to be protected for safety and security reasons.

9. Meeting Close and Lunch

Meeting closed at 12.30pm, followed by lunch for attendees.

10. Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Camden Airport CACG will be on 29 October 2024. Location to be advised.

ACTION ITEMS

Item	Meeting arising	Action	Responsibility	Status
Terms of Reference	March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMG to revise Terms of Reference to include acknowledgement of airport residents and local Aboriginal Land Council • AMG to share revised Terms of Reference to CACG members for review and approval 	AMG	Completed April 2024.
Heritage protection and acknowledgement	March 2024	AMG to consider ways to enhance protection and/or acknowledgement of Camden Airport's heritage and history	AMG	