

Bankstown Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group Meeting
Minutes – 27 March 2024

Date: 27 March 2024

Starting Time: 10am

Location: Bankstown Airport Passenger Terminal 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
Kylie Wilkinson MP	NSW MP for East Hills
Scott Small	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Department)
Alexis Bocking	Department
Rafae Jafri	Department
Timothy Gill	Airservices Australia
Annette Dittmar	Airservices Australia
Stefan Smerdon	Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO)
Jenny Noble	City of Canterbury Bankstown
Camille Lattouf	City of Canterbury Bankstown
Vi Girgis	University of Sydney
Rob Walker	Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA)
Fazila Farhad	South West Sydney Tourism Taskforce
David Orszaczky	AMSL Aero
Danial Martin	PolAir
Robert Bentley-Johnston	Heliflite
Dave Warton	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Tim Dugan	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Laura Younes	FalconAir

John Papantoniou	Entertainment Park
Tony Luck	Padstow Rotary

Apologies

Brenton Burman (Chair)	AECOM
Andrew Andersen	General Aviation Advisory Network (GAAN)
Daniel Jackson	Airservices Australia
Anthony Lawler	CASA
Chris Zogopoulos	Office of The Hon. Jason Clare MP for Blaxland
Siobhan Jordan	City of Canterbury Bankstown
Elizabeth Paparo	Beijer Ref
Brett Hedge	Beijer Ref
Michael Lee	ASL Airlines
Cedric Jochum	Safran Helicopter Engines
Aaron Shaw	Sydney Seaplanes
Nathan Soster	Coulson Aviation
John Camerron	John Cameron Aviation
David Newton	Basair
Diane Tremain	ACE Training Centre
Wally Mehanna	Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce

2. CACG Terms of Reference

The Draft Terms of Reference were distributed to members ahead of the meeting. Members voted to approve the Terms of Reference with no changes. The Terms will be published on the AMG website.

3. AMG update

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

- AMG advocacy meetings with East Hills MP Sally Quinnett and NSW Minister for Industry, Trade and Innovation Anouack Chanthivong. Additional meetings with Department, CASA and Airservices Australia to discuss opportunity to expand and enhance Camden Airport and proposed Southeast Corridor VFR route (formerly referred to as the Engadine Corridor).
 - Daniel Jarosch (AMG) noted the importance of Bankstown Airport harnessing and promoting its importance as an innovation hub, including for the purpose of attracting government support. Peter Munro (AMG) noted AMG's attendance at the recent RPAS conference in Canberra, with a focus on Advanced Air Mobility, and the work underway on emerging aviation technologies at Bankstown Airport, including by AMSL Aero.
- AMG submission to Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) 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 compensation for GA businesses, delivery of the Southeast Corridor, provision of efficient and fit-for-purpose ATC services and delivery of a whole-of-airspace review of the Sydney Basin.
- AMG has secured verbal commitment from CASA and Airservices Australia to deliver Southeast Corridor in mid-2025, with CASA to be the lead proponent of the proposal and Airservices Australia to lead the community engagement and consultation process.
- AMG personnel changes: Resignation of CEO Daniel Jarosch and appointment of 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 Bankstown Airport, including AMG's sponsorship of Padstow Rotary Awards Night celebrating emergency services personnel and hosting of the General Aviation Advisory Network's (GAAN) SouthPAN seminar.
- Recent sustainability initiatives, including the installation of more than 8000 solar panels across Aeria Precinct and awarding of Five Star Green Star ratings for two buildings at Aeria in recognition of Australian excellence in environmentally sustainable building practices.
- AMG's development of a Reconciliation Action Plan and invitation to customers to attend upcoming training sessions and workshops.
- Identification of a small amount of bonded asbestos at Aeria Precinct. AMG is working with NSW Environment Protection Authority on safe remediation of the site.
- Ongoing major upgrade of airside pavements at Bankstown Airport, which is nearing completion.
- Ongoing major upgrade of Tower/Link Road. Mr Jarosch (AMG) noted that separate upgrades to nearby major intersections were taking longer than expected to commence, largely due to the process required for agreements with State and Commonwealth Governments. Expected start in 2024.
- Ongoing substantial upgrades to the Aeria Utilities embedded network system.
- Building H (361 Milperra Road) demolition works nearing completion. Lots 5A and 5B (Southwest Precinct) development underway.
- Opportunities over short- to long-term for Aviation Microsites facilities and infrastructure.
- Commencement of Merit Assessment process for development application by Urbis Pty Ltd to change the use of 125 Nancy Ellis Leebold Drive, from an air freight facility to a last-mile distribution centre and warehouse.

Mr Jarosch (AMG) noted the introduction of hydrogen at Bankstown Airport for future use as aviation fuel by AMSL Aero, which aligned with AMG's transition to net zero Scope 3 emissions by 2050. David Orszaczk (AMSL Aero) noted the support of AMG in enabling this process.

Major Development Plan (MDP) – Aviation Precinct

AMG provided an update on the proposed MDP for a new Aviation Hangar Project at Aeria, which was also discussed at several recent Bankstown Airport CACG meetings. The MDP will support growth in GA operations and meet increased demand at Bankstown Airport. The project is planned to feature:

- Flexible/adaptable hangars
- Support for emerging aviation technologies and fuels to support the transition to net zero
- Opportunities for current customers to relocate to new facilities and the upgrade or repurposing of existing hangars
- Opportunity to integrate the new facilities with emergency services.

Other details included:

- MDP is within the Aviation Zone as detailed in the Bankstown Airport Master Plan
- MDP to involve construction of two hangars comprising up to 10 tenancies and related offices, new landside road access and car parking and hangar aprons and open aircraft parking area.
- Anticipated aircraft mix is consistent with current aircraft mix under the existing endorsed Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF).
- MDP will have minor windshear and turbulence impacts that may require further assessment and mitigation strategies.

- Small section of the MDP is within the northeast Public Safety Area.

Extensive consultation and engagement process for the MDP is to be undertaken through 2024.

Mr Jarosch (AMG) noted the challenges of refurbishing older aviation facilities, as opposed to building new facilities. He said Bankstown Airport is close to fully occupied and that it was challenging to meet the growing needs of customers. AMG has identified multiple vacant sites that might deliver new facilities. The MDP would help ensure the future of GA at Bankstown Airport, Mr Jarosch said.

Mr Munro (AMG) noted that the development and design plans for the MDP were being finalised. He noted that AMG was conscious of the need to minimise the impacts of any works on customers and the community.

Major Development Plan – Mixed-use Precinct

AMG provided an update on the proposed retail, community and commercial project MDP at Aeria, which was also discussed at several recent meetings of the Bankstown Airport CACG. The MDP will support South West Sydney's growing population and business needs, including through a new childcare centre.

Extensive consultation and engagement process for the MDP to be undertaken through 2024.

Tom Smith (AMG) noted that attendees could contact AMG for further details about either MDP.

Mr Jarosch (AMG) noted AMG had brought the IGA retail site on Birdwood Road back into the fold, to integrate this facility with the proposed MDP – enabling a coordinated presentation for the community on Birdwood Road. The time was now right to bring those components together, he added.

He also noted that AMG was working closely with Georges River Grammar School regarding traffic implications on Link Road, with the MDP in mind. He added that the MDPs would optimise the potential of the airport precinct offering for the community and that the benefits of such developments included the capacity to reinvest back into aviation facilities and infrastructure.

Ms Wilkinson MP asked about the likely timeline for the two MDPs. Mr Jarosch (AMG) said the Aviation Precinct MDP would be delivered first and that it was expected that the final MDP would be ready for approval by late 2024 / early 2025.

Mr Munro (AMG) said the MDPs would help secure the long-term sustainability of Aeria Precinct, across aviation and non-aviation, while catering for the growing needs of customers, the aviation sector and broader community.

4. 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.
- Emerging aviation technologies being looked at by the White Paper and more broadly, including drone security and uncrewed traffic management. This is a big emerging area for the Department.
- Ongoing updating of aviation and airport regulations as they expire.
- Mr Small also highlighted the importance of engagement with the industry and operators to identify opportunities and challenges.

5. Airservices Australia update

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

Airservices recorded 22 individual complainants from December 2023 – February 2024; below the three-year average and “significantly lower” than expected.

Mr Gill 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 that there was likely to be an increase in noise complaints for Bankstown Airport and across Greater Sydney due to the commencement of WSI in 2026. Mr Gill (Airservices) agreed.

Annette Dittmar (Airservices) said the proposed Southeast Corridor was not related to the commencement of WSI only. The corridor would alleviate congestion and improve airspace operations more generally.

Mr Munro (AMG) noted that AMG had raised concerns in its submission to the WSI Draft EIS about aircraft noise impacts for airports across Greater Sydney. He added that AMG had proposed the need for governments to be more proactive in educating and informing the community about aircraft noise, including the benefits of aviation in providing essential services.

He also noted that the City of Canterbury Bankstown had raised concerns about aircraft noise impacts in its submission to the WSI Draft EIS and called for the expansion of noise abatement measures to residents in its LGA. Mr Munro said AMG had raised this issue at a recent meeting of the Forum on Western Sydney Airport (FoWSA) and that the Department said it was considering all proposals made in submissions.

6. Updates from City of Canterbury Bankstown and elected NSW representative

Ms Wilkinson MP said her role included promoting business activity and opportunities within her electorate, including at Aeria Precinct, and encouraged businesses to contact her office in this regard.

City of Canterbury Bankstown noted the strong public attendance at the Ramadan Nights Festival. Jenny Noble (City of Canterbury Bankstown) said the Council had recently released a draft CB City Advocacy Strategic Plan and Strategic Priorities, which were on exhibition and open for feedback. She added that the Council had partnered with the Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce to deliver a night-time economy event and invited people to attend.

Camille Lattouf (City of Canterbury Bankstown) said the NSW Government was reviewing the Bankstown Master Plan as part of its housing reforms and looking at ways to fast-track the implementation of the plan. He noted the prospect of changes to building heights in some areas and said that the Council was in ongoing discussions with Aware Super over its development application for the Compass Centre, in the Bankstown CBD.

Mr Munro (AMG) noted a recent newspaper report that Western Sydney was driving growth across Greater Sydney, including the night-time economy, and thanked the City of Canterbury Bankstown for its contribution in that regard.

7. Special presentation: Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO)

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 relating to Brisbane Airport and Hobart Airport. Presentation to be published in full on the AMG website.

Mr 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

- Fazila Farhad (South West Sydney 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/>.
- Vi Girgis (University of Sydney) noted her new role in developing partnerships for the university with the community and businesses in Western Sydney, in recognition of the importance of the region.

- Rob Walker (RAAA) noted the importance of Bankstown Airport for its members and the RAAA's support for AMG. He also noted the importance of progress in a timely and effective manner of the Southeast Corridor and the mitigation of economic impacts on GA operators due to the commencement of WSI, particularly given the importance of flight training schools.
- Danial Martin (PolAir) noted that PolAir movements had increased from about 3000 movements a year (about three years ago) to about 5000 movements (last year) and that movements were forecast to increase further to about 7000 movements. He also noted the increasing role in police operations of technologies such as night vision, which could increase lower altitude movements at night time. He added that PolAir was working to minimise any related noise impacts but noted that such work was related to community safety.
 - o When asked about the reasons for the increase in movements, Mr Martin said the utilisation of aircraft was higher due to a greater number of casual pilots. He also pointed to rising crime rates and noted that search-and-rescue activity had increased.
- Grant Simpson (NPWS) said its service was also getting busier and resulting in more aircraft movements.
- Tony Luck (Rotary) thanked AMG for supporting its recent awards night to recognise emergency services personnel, including those working at Bankstown Airport.
- Mr Munro (AMG) asked CACG members to suggest additional community members for future meetings, to ensure the community has strong representation.

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

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Bankstown Airport CACG will be on 17 July 2024 at the Bankstown Airport Passenger Terminal.