

Bankstown Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group Meeting  
Minutes – 6 Nov 2024

1. Attendees & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 10am and gave an Acknowledgement of Country to the traditional owners of the land on which Bankstown Airport is located, the Darug people, and paid tribute to their ongoing connection to land, sea and sky.

Present	Company/Organisation
Brenton Burman	Chair
Tom Smith	Aeria Management Group (AMG) CEO
Amanda Majarres	AMG COO
Justin Marr	AMG General Manager Aviation
Peter Munro	AMG Senior Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Manager
Neermala Cash	Department Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications & the Arts (Department), Acting Director South, West, ACT and NSW Airports and Noise Section
Rafae Jafri	Department, Regulatory Officer
Timothy Gill	Airservices Australia, Senior Adviser Community Engagement
Annette Dittmar	Airservices Australia, Senior Adviser Community Engagement
Jenny Noble	City of Canterbury Bankstown (Council), Business Events and Partnerships Officer
Camille Lattouf	Council, Manager City Strategy and Design
Barbara Grant	Council, First Nations Community Development Officer
Kyou Won Rhee	Council, Strategic Planner
Bronwyn Partell	Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council
Kevin Wood	Toll Group, Operations Officer and Facilities Manager
John Papantoniou	Entertainment Park
Matthew Cwyk	Quickstep, Operational Excellence Manager
Joshua Quinn	Royal Flying Doctor Service, Safety & Quality Administrator
Sarah Wills	Royal Flying Doctor Service, Head of Risk and Assurance

Jamie Murray	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Air Crew
Andy Klaus	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Pilot
Julie Dean	John Cameron Aviation, Office Manager
Tony Luck	Padstow Rotary
Andrew Andersen	Former Chair General Aviation Advisory Network (GAAN)
Rob Walker	CEO Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA)
Vi Girgis	University of Sydney, Industry Theme Lead – Western Sydney
Anna Lin	Western Sydney University (WSU), Senior Manager Partnerships and Precinct Activation
Dr Anders Hallgren	WSU, Industry Innovation Lead – Advanced Manufacturing

Apologies

Hon Tony Burke MP	MP for Watson, Minister for Home Affairs, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Cyber Security, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
Kylie Wilkinson MP	MP for East Hills
Scott Small	Department
Kylie Hayes	Department
Anthony Lawler	CASA
Siobhan Jordan	City of Canterbury Bankstown
Davin Magee	World Fuel Services
Rick Wong	AMSL Aero
Mark Davey	Royal Flying Doctor Service
Peter Broschofsky	CareFlight
Malcolm Good	UNSW

2. AMG update

AMG representatives detailed news, information and updates for Aeria Precinct/Bankstown Airport, including:

- Recent appointments of AMG CEO Tom Smith and AMG COO Amanda Majarres
- Mr Smith also took the opportunity to thank outgoing GAAN Chair Andrew Andersen for his contribution to the Bankstown Airport CACG and his support and hard work for general aviation and Bankstown Airport and Camden Airport

- AMG's participation in Aviation Safety Week, RUOK? Day and an Aviation Careers Forum for Women
- Aircraft movements at Bankstown Airport
- Upcoming emergency exercise with emergency services to test airport readiness for an aircraft incident
- Imminent completion of major upgrade to Tower/Link Road, to enhance safety, accessibility and amenity – including completion of nightworks
- Developments:
  - Proposed Aviation Hangar Project Major Development Plan (MDP) for two new aircraft hangar buildings for up to 10 separate general aviation operations. MDP is on public exhibition to 3 February 2025
  - Altitude Gateway mixed-use development within Altitude industrial estate, which includes a new childcare centre
  - Site 606 (part of Aviation Microsites Development Program) to deliver new prime hangar space in 2025
- Proposed demolition of Building 62 – former RAAF headquarters assessed as derelict and not suitable for refurbishment or relocation, partly due to high content of hazardous materials, such as asbestos. Proposal subject to Merit Assessment process, commencing in November 2024
- Release of the Commonwealth Government's Aviation White Paper in August 2024, which affirmed the Government's commitment to a "strong and diverse general aviation sector" and the essential role of general aviation as an "ideal testing ground" for emerging aircraft
- AMG's submission in support of CASA's proposed Bankstown Airport Southeast VFR Corridor, to improve safety and accessibility for general aviation operators.

AMG also provided a detailed briefing on its Birdwood/Link Road Mixed-Use Project Major Development Plan (MDP), including:

- AMG's commitment to the long-term sustainability of general aviation and the critical role of non-aviation developments in helping to fund airport maintenance and enhancements
- New mixed-use project will support community and aviation needs and generate economic and employment growth for Canterbury Bankstown and Western Sydney
- Project includes large childcare centre, retail shops, offices and small warehouse units, including for aviation-related services
- Project site on vacant land in northwest of airport precinct, between Birdwood Road and Link Road – designated in Bankstown Airport Master Plan 2019 for commercial development
- Project design aligns with AMG Sustainability Framework and commitment to decarbonisation and climate resilience, including the provision of on-site solar power
- Project aligns with detailed traffic modelling in Bankstown Airport Master Plan 2019
- Project will not compromise aviation safety or operations
- AMG is working with the community to minimise noise, construction works and visual impacts
- MDP expected to go on public exhibition in early 2025 – exhibition period will feature multiple community engagement and feedback events and opportunities.

AMG's presentation will be published on the AMG website Community section.

In response to AMG's presentation:

- Anna Lin (WSU) noted that the university's Bankstown campus focussed on early childcare education, which offered a potential opportunity for collaboration in relation to AMG's proposed new childcare centres.

- Camille Lattouf (Council) noted that the Council had received recently many applications for large childcare centres in the LGA.
- Mr Lattouf asked whether the proposed retail offerings within the Mixed-Use Project MDP would complement or detract from other shops in Georges Hall and Milperra. AMG responded that the project would complement and enhance existing local retail offerings.
- John Papantoniou (Entertainment Park) asked whether AMG had discussed with the Council the prospect of connecting Marion Street to Link Road. AMG responded by noting that the road connection was previously in place and that AMG had held initial discussions with Council about the potential reconnection of the two roads.
- Julie Dean (John Cameron Aviation) raised concern about increased road traffic in the area. AMG responded by noting that its proposed MDPs include traffic impact assessments. AMG also noted its contribution of substantial funds to the upgrade of major public intersections around Aeria Precinct.
- Mr Lattouf (Council) asked whether vehicles would be able to access the Mixed-Use Project MDP retail and office facilities via Link Road. AMG responded:
  - Advised there would be pedestrian access from Link Road to the retail shops, offices and childcare centre facing Birdwood Road
  - Ground Transport Strategy, which informed the Bankstown Airport Master Plan 2019, did not identify any need for a through road
  - Noted importance of ensuring trucks were restricted to accessing the site via Link Road, to minimise traffic impacts on Birdwood Road
  - Introduction of a new road could create a greater conflict point between pedestrians and vehicles
  - Implementation of the proposed road thoroughfare would have a significant impact on the commercial viability of the development through loss of land, construction works and fragmentation of the project site
  - Proposed road would promote “rat running” commuters through the airport precinct and create additional traffic and maintenance issues
  - While not tested, a new road would likely require additional noise attenuation barriers closer to homes
  - Also noted that if a road connection was deemed necessary in the future, the extension of Marion St to Link Rd provides a more logical solution, with fewer associated issues.

### 3. Department update – Aviation White Paper

The Department gave a presentation on the Commonwealth Government’s Aviation White Paper, released in August 2024, including the following policy initiatives related to regional and remote and general aviation:

- Support general aviation recognising its role in delivery of emergency services; eg. Aero-medical, firefighting, disaster relief, agricultural and other industry air services and for pilot and other aviation industry training
- Support general aviation to facilitate design and manufacture of new technology in Australia.

The Department’s presentation will be published on the AMG website Community section.

In response to the presentation:

- Department was asked about the next steps for delivering on the initiatives in the Aviation White Paper. The Department said consultation on some of the initiatives in the Aviation White Paper would commence within the next few months.

- Department was asked about the status of the Department's consideration of recommendations for further action to the implementation of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework (NASF). The Department took the question on notice.

#### 4. Airservices Australia update

Timothy Gill of Airservices Australia presented information on Bankstown Airport air traffic movements and aircraft noise complaints, including:

- Total of 32 individual noise complainants across July-September 2024, relating to matters such as general aviation traffic, helicopters and flight training
- Number of noise complaints per month remains well below the three-year average

Airservices Australia's presentation will be published on the AMG website Community section.

In response to the presentation:

- Airservices Australia was asked when aircraft noise was within the scope of its consideration. Mr Gill responded that, as a general rule, airports are responsible for aircraft noise when an aircraft is on the ground. Airservices is responsible as soon as the aircraft receives taxi clearance and starts to move.

#### 5. CASA update – Bankstown Southeast VFR Corridor

CASA provided the following statement regarding the proposed Bankstown Airport Southeast VFR Corridor:

*"This consultation has now closed. Thank you to those who submitted feedback on the proposed Bankstown Airport Southeast VFR corridor. We received 100 submissions from a range of stakeholders including recreational, private and commercial pilots, as well as flight instructors and representatives of industry associations.*

*"We are working with Airservices Australia to consider all feedback received from both industry and the community consultation and what changes should be incorporated into the preferred design. We will publish a summary of the feedback once finalised. All responses will be made publicly available on the Consultation Hub, unless respondents have requested that their submission remain confidential."*

- AMG noted that it had lodged a submission in support of the proposed corridor, to:
  - Reduce airspace risks association with the constrained nature of the Bankstown control zone and sustained growth in air traffic in the region;
  - Provide better access to Sydney flight training areas; and
  - Provide equitable and efficient access for airspace users.
- AMG's submission is available on its website: <https://aeria.co/advocacy/>

#### 6. City of Canterbury Bankstown update

- Council noted the launch of its brand "Where Interesting Happens" (<https://whereinterestinghappens.com.au/>), which highlights various attractions and things to do in Canterbury Bankstown, including mini golf at the Entertainment Park within Aeria Precinct. Council encouraged other operators at the precinct to advise it of any upcoming attractions or events to potentially promote via Where Interesting Happens.

- Council noted that its development control plan for the Bankstown CBD had been exhibited and would go to Council for approval in November 2024.
- Council noted planning was underway along the corridor of the new Metro rail line to Bankstown.
- AMG noted the ongoing need for the further extension of the Metro to Liverpool via Bankstown Airport.

7. Other updates and general business

- UWS spoke about innovation programs and initiatives at its Bankstown campus, including the upcoming Factory of the Future (due to open mid 2025). The Factory represents a \$12m investment by UWS in advanced manufacturing. UWS also noted that it would resubmit a bid for the Advanced Air Mobility Cooperative Research Centre and discussed the value of adding Bankstown Airport to that bid.
- AMG noted the attendance at the meeting of representatives of the Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council and Canterbury Bankstown First Peoples Advisory Committee. AMG thanked them for their attendance and discussed its intention to build closer relationships with local First Nations groups.
- Tony Luck of Padstow Rotary asked whether Bankstown Airport had its own firefighting service on site or instead worked with local Fire & Rescue services. AMG said it worked with local Fire & Rescue as required.
- On behalf of the Bankstown Airport CACG, Brenton Burman (Chair) thanked Andrew Andersen for his time as Chair of the GAAN and his contribution to and support for general aviation and for Bankstown Airport and Camden Airport.

8. Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Bankstown Airport CACG to be held in or around March 2025. Members will be advised of the specific date early in 2025.

9. Meeting close and lunch.

ACTION ITEMS

Item	Meeting arising	Action	Responsibility	Status
National Airports Safeguarding Framework	November 2024	Department to update the CACG about recommendations for further action to the implementation of the NASF	Department	