

# Minutes – Essendon Fields Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG)

Meeting held Friday 15 March 2024, at 11:00am by Videoconference / Board Room

## Members:

Rod Gurry (Office of Bill Shorten MP), Bill Shorten MP, Danny Pearson MP, Frank Manti (Community Representative), Brendan Pihan (EAPL), Kathy Craig (EAPL), Matt Marais (EAPL), Brad Evans (EAPL) Cr.Narelle Sharpe (Moonee Valley Council), Frank Manti (Community Representative) Ben King – Airservices Tim Gill (Airservices Australia), May Li Foong (Airservices) Braden Hartcher (Dept of Infrastructure), Malgy Coman (Dept of Infrastructure), Neermala Cash (Dept of Infrastructure).

## Invited Guests:

Kiefer Lim (Dept of Infrastructure) and Silvia Leso (Dept of Infrastructure), Stefan Smerdon (Aircraft Noise Ombudsman Office)

## Apologies:

Rod Gurry (Representing Bill Shorten and Danny Pearson MP), Bill Shorten, MP, Danny Pearson, MP), Frank Manti (Community Representative), Braden Hartcher (Dept of Infrastructure), Neermala Cash (Dept of Infrastructure), Christine Campbell (Airservices Australia), Cr.Narelle Sharpe (Moonee Valley Council)

## 1. Welcome

Brad Evans welcomed the committee and attendees to the first CACG meeting for 2024. We welcome Ben King, Tower, Check and Standards Supervisor Airservices replacing Christine Campbell as Unit Tower Supervisor.

Apologies for the meeting included are noted above.

## 2. Items arising from previous CACG minutes (8<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

The minutes from the previous meeting held 8 December 2023 were discussed and Neermala Cash of the Department had requested one minor change to notes in relation to M3R. EF to issue updated minutes.

## 3. Noise

Tim Gill and May Li Foong from Airservices provided an update in relation to noise-based complaints. Refer **attached** report.

- Aircraft movements steadily rising over the 6 months
- A single outage was reported.
- Complaints 54 people in touch with Airservices 74 times, 44 new complaints, the most concerns from Elwood, East Melb, Glenroy and Moonee Ponds. 35 suburbs recorded a single complaint (down from 40 in last CACG).  
Aircraft in your Neighbourhood – Provides a tool to review movements etc/ assess complainants by suburb etc.

- New Emergency Services Operation Factsheet developed to be shared with CACG members. Refer attached.
- Aircraft Noise over East Melbourne remains an issue.
- A task force for East Melbourne Group established run by the Dept.

#### 4. Aircraft Noise Ombudsman Overview

Guest to the CACG Stefan Smerdon – Snr Advisor from the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman Office provided an overview of the role and services provided by the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman Office and provided statistics to the group in relation to instances where the Ombudsman gets involved.

#### 5. Community Feedback/Concerns

BE noted that EAPL had received some dust based complaints in relation to the civil works underway in the Hart Precinct. EAPL have worked with the contract to implement a dust management plan and no recent complaints have been received likely a consequence of works now being largely complete.

#### 6. Jet Curfew (Infrastructure)

##### ***Current movements (October - December 2023)***

The DITRDCA provided curfew movement data. No permitted helicopter (not including emergency aircraft) movements reported. Other stats consistent with previous reporting period.

#### 7. Aviation operations (EAPL)

##### ***EF aviation update***

Matt Marais outlined a detailed operations update.

- **Investment**
  - \$2.5 million in last three financial years on airfield pavement and drainage works.
  - Crack sealing to 17/35 and RWY 08/26 completed since November 2023.
  - The drainage program continues over the site with in ground repairs of cracked pipes and clearing of blocked drains.
- **Regulatory**
  - CASA Surveillance Result – Excellent outcome no findings.
- **Other**
  - Link Airways have relocated their operation to Melbourne Airport as part of a code share agreement with Virgin Australia.
  - Aviation activity below forecast levels. Combination of factors including, general aviation resourcing limitations for flight crew and aircraft components, unseasonal weather and reduction in leisure spend.

- Fire Fighting season with Air Crane and Super Puma based at EF and been assisting bushfires in Ballarat.

## **8. Development Update (EAPL)**

BE provided a detailed update of planned new development across the airport which included the civil works underway in the Hart Precinct to facilitate the development of a future 20,000m<sup>2</sup> warehouse which will develop modular buildings with completion expected April/ May 2024.

Development of 274 Lionel Street is largely complete and due for final building approval any day.

Audi/Cupra dealership is about to commence construction with site shed and fencing erected on the site. Given the interface with residential properties to the east communications with adjacent homeowners will be carefully managed.

New Warehouse proposed in the Hart Precinct design underway to manufacture acoustic panels.

## **9. EF Master Plan (Planning Matters)**

Extension of time to lodge the Masterplan with the Department of Infrastructure has been lodged and under consideration by the Department.

## **10. Departmental Update**

- Malgy Coman noted that the Melb Airport M3R MDP remains under consideration with determination date yet unknown. RFI issued to Melb Airport.

**Meeting Closed 12:17am**

**Next meeting will be held 14 June 2024 @ 11:00am by videoconference / in EF Office (Chair – Brad Evans) – (Please confirm if you will attend in the office or via Teams)**