

## Minutes – Essendon Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group

Special Meeting held 11am, Friday October 20, 2017 @ Essendon Fields House

**Members:** Cr Narelle Sharpe (MVCC), Frank Manti (Community Representative), Kevin Walsh (Community Representative), Chris Cowan (EAPL), Phil Gregory (EAPL).

**Invited Guests:** Russell McArthur (Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development), Simon Godsmark (Airservices Australia), Chris Jervis (Office of Peter Khalil MP), Rory Kennedy (EAPL).

- 1. Welcome – Chris Cowan (Chair)** it was agreed that Chris Cowan would chair this special meeting of the CACG.

Apologies were received from Peter Khalil MP, Danny Pearson MP and Ben King (Airservices Australia).

The purpose of the special meeting is to consider the responses received by the community to date regarding the proposed amendments to the Regulations. The discussion will help inform EAPL in making its submission to DIRD.

It was agreed to isolate community issues specifically relating to the proposed amendments (Refer Item 2). A number of more general issues regarding aviation operations have arisen during the consultation, which will be considered separately (Refer Item 4).

- 2. Proposed changes to the *Air Navigation (Essendon Airport) Regulations 2001***

Russell McArthur advised 290 submissions have been received to date and gave an overview of the responses:

Proposal	Agree	Disagree	Not stated
1. Increase MTOW to 55,000kg	10	256	24
2. Ban non-emergency curfew flights	60	164	66
3. Allow jet flights in curfew	10	270	10

Issues Raised	Main Issue	Total Mentions
Noise (total - includes Night Noise – during curfew)	129	171
(Night Noise)	(31)	(47)
Safety	27	134
Health	38	63
Pollution	3	50
Increased air traffic	18	56
Property Values	2	28
Disruption (including education issues)	3	22
Consultation issues	7	19

<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Submissions received</b>
Strathmore	72
Gowanbrae	36
Essendon	20
Essendon North	20
Airport West	12
Pascoe Vale	11
Strathmore Heights	10
Oak Park	10
Gladstone Park	3
Glenroy	2
Aberfeldie; Brunswick West; Edgewater Estate; Essendon West; Keilor; Keilor East; Keilor Park; Maribyrnong; Moonee Ponds; Moonee Valley; Niddrie.	1

Discussion regarding the apparent widespread misunderstanding amongst the community regarding permitted aircraft operations under the current curfew.

Frank Manti advised that of the residents he has spoken with, jets are perceived to be noisier than propeller-driven aircraft on landing. Residents are also concerned that jet aircraft are a larger mass in the air.

[Action: EAPL will have regard to community feedback in its submission to DIRD.](#)

One of the reasons why some residents oppose the maximum take-off weight (MTOW) increasing to 55,000kgs is concern that older aircraft such as the Boeing 717 could operate at Essendon. Also a community perception that Essendon will become a secondary RPT airport servicing larger cargo and passenger aircraft.

[Action: EAPL to consider.](#)

Regarding concerns raised regarding decreased air quality, more specific information is needed to understand where and when this issue occurs.

[Action: Peter Khalil's office will contact residents who raised air quality concerns and ask if their specific issue can be brought to the CACG.](#)

### **3. Consider further community meeting as requested by Moonee Valley City Council**

Chris Cowan advised that MVCC is not proceeding with a further community forum due to timing constraints. EAPL's offer to participate in a Council forum still stands.

**4. Various other matters raised by the community in respect to the airport related issues but not related to the proposed changes.**

- Perception that the current curfew is not adhered to
- Adherence to the Fly Neighbourly flight path by emergency services
- Effectiveness of the Fly Neighbourly procedures
- Public safety zones
- Air quality
- Community access to CACG members
- Concerns over helicopters flying low
- Ground-based noise barrier in proximity to the emergency services apron

Action: These matters to be taken on by the CACG for further consideration.

Russell McArthur advised that a temporary noise monitoring project was undertaken by Airservices around Parafield Airport. In order to get more accurate data for Essendon Airport, consideration could be given to a short term noise monitoring program subject to resources from Airservices to conduct such a program.

Action: Airservices to provide further information and advise the CACG on temporary noise monitoring options for Essendon Airport.

**Meeting Closed 12:00pm**  
**Next Meeting will be held Friday November 17, 2017 @ 10.30am**  
**(Chair – EAPL GM Aviation)**