

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

Meeting held Friday June 14, 2019 at 10.30am @ Essendon Fields House

Members: Brendan Pihan (EAPL), Colin Fort (EAPL), Frank Manti (Community Representative).

Invited Guests: Cris Cano (Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities) (Infrastructure), Holly Ainslie (Infrastructure), Kathryn Kominek (Infrastructure), Chris Bren-Clarke (Airservices Australia), Rory Kennedy (EAPL).

- 1. Welcome – Rory Kennedy (Chair standing in for Mayor Cr Narelle Sharpe)** welcomed the committee and attendees.

Apologies were received from:

- Danny Pearson MP
- Mayor Cr Narelle Sharpe
- Kevin Walsh (community representative)

The office of Peter Khalil MP has advised that as the Airport is no longer in the Wills electorate, Mr Bill Shorten MP, the Member for Maribyrnong will be the Federal Member representative at the meetings.

Under the Terms of Reference for the CACG, the Federal Members for Wills and Maribyrnong each nominate a community representative. There is no change to this arrangement.

- 2. Items arising from previous CACG minutes (March 8, 2019)**

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Update regarding actions arising from previous meeting:

(3a) [Ben King to advise whether time of noise event can be added to the complaint data]

Airservices has responded- see item 3b below.

(4a) [EAPL to invite Melbourne Airport to give another update to the EF CACG, when the Runway Major Development Plan is available for public comment]

Melbourne Airport's preliminary draft Major Development Plan has not yet been released.

- 3. Noise**

a) Airservices Reports

Chris Bren-Clarke (CBC) provided updates from Airservices (attached).

The link to the online reporting is

<http://www.airservicesaustralia.com/aircraftnoise/airports/>

Airservices is creating a video series on air traffic control. Episode 1 – *What are the three types of air traffic control?* is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKa10rx6qo&feature=youtu.be>

Noise data for Q1, January – March 2019

Seasonal fluctuations in flight training students at Moorabbin Airport has an impact on aircraft activity at EF.

The Noise Complaints and Information Service received contact from 40 complainants in Q1 2019, an increase from 24 complainants in the previous quarter. However this is a decrease from the Q1 2018 figure of 45 complainants.

Issues:

- Helicopters (emergency services and standard operations): 23 complainants
- General aviation traffic: 7 complainants
- Curfew operations and night movements: 7 complainants
- Standard flight path movements: 3 complainants

Essendon recorded 5 complainants, 4 of these concerned curfew or night movements and 1 concerned standard flight path movements.

Pascoe Vale recorded 3 complainants who were affected by emergency services and standard operations to and from the airport.

b) Response from Airservices – can the time of the noise event be added to the complaint data?

The CACG noted the response received from Airservices (attached).

c) Response from Airservices – temporary noise monitoring

The CACG noted the response from Airservices regarding the CACG's request for temporary noise monitoring in Strathmore/Strathmore Heights to see what has changed since the previous monitoring in 2013 (attached).

An unexpected opportunity has arisen that would allow Airservices to conduct temporary noise monitoring in the second half of this year.

[Action: Airservices will advise when further information about timing is available.](#)

4. Jet Curfew (Infrastructure)

a) Current movements (January to April 2019)

See attached summary.

- 1102 emergency and search/rescue movements
- 4 permitted helicopter movements (that is, helicopter movements allowed under the *Air Navigation (Essendon Fields Airport) Regulations 2018*)
- 28 exempt propeller driven aircraft (allowed under the Regulations)

5. Aviation operations update (EAPL)

Passenger numbers are declining due to seasonal factors and the recent announcement by Sharp Airlines that the Warrnambool/Portland services will cease from the close of business on Sunday 30 June 2019. (see attached media release).

Pavement overlay (re-surfacing) is an upcoming project which is currently being priced and programmed.

The aviation team is working on creating an online enquiry form for crane operators to obtain an assessment of the Airport's prescribed airspace.

6. Development Update (EAPL)

a) Terminal redevelopment

Refurbishment of the Terminal exterior and passenger areas is complete.

b) Holden – Wirraway North

On track to be occupied by the end of June.

c) Suncorp – Hart Precinct

On track to be complete within the next two months.

7. Master Plan and Major Development Plan (MDP) matters (EAPL)

a) Master Plan 2019

The preliminary draft Master Plan 2019 is currently available for public consultation (60 business days). The last day for written comments to be received by EAPL is 2 July 2019.

10,000 postcards have been hand delivered to local homes. Advertising has appeared in the Moonee Valley Leader, Moreland Leader and Northern Leader local newspapers.

Submissions from the community and CACG members are encouraged.

b) ARC Office Major Development Plan

A preliminary draft Major Development Plan (MDP) for an office development at 2 Larkin Boulevard Essendon Fields is currently available for public consultation. The last day for written comments to be received is 22 August 2019.

Further information and the preliminary draft MDP document are available at:

<https://ef.com.au/community/master-plan/#major-developments>

8. Other business

a) Stakeholder Engagement Activities Annual Report 2018-19

Infrastructure asks Airport-Lessee Companies to provide information to summarise the nature and outcomes of their stakeholder engagement activities in 2018-19, as well as plans for stakeholder engagement in 2019-20.

Draft stakeholder engagement information has been circulated to CACG members.

Action: CACG members to provide comments on any additional matters that they would like the CACG to focus on during FY2019-20. Comments should be provided to EAPL by 15 July 2019.

Meeting Closed 11:08am

Next meeting will be held Friday September 6, 2019 @ 10.30am

(Chair – EAPL GM Aviation, Colin Fort)

Complaints

Airservices manages enquiries and complaints about aircraft noise and operations through the [Noise Complaints and Information Service \(NCIS\)](#). The information below is collected by the NCIS for the purpose of complaint management, analysis of issues and identification of causal factors. For this reason we refer to 'complainants' and 'issues'. Complainants are people who contacted the NCIS. While some people submitted enquiries or comments rather than complaints, all are referred to as "complainants". Issues are the primary concern they raised.

Overview

At Essendon Airport most complainants raise one of two issues:

- ★ helicopter activities
- ★ general aviation traffic

In the majority of complaints about helicopter activities, the nominated flight was an emergency services operation. For example, [Air Ambulance Victoria](#) has helicopters based at Essendon Airport. Because they are equipped for retrieval and patient care, these helicopters are large twin engine aircraft and can be quite loud. In addition, patient care requirements sometimes mean that these helicopters need to fly relatively low. All emergency services may operate during the curfew. Information about [emergency services based at Essendon Airport](#) is available from the Airport's website.

Complainants concerned about general aviation activities often reside in suburbs further away from the airport and are disturbed by aircraft flying outside controlled airspace.

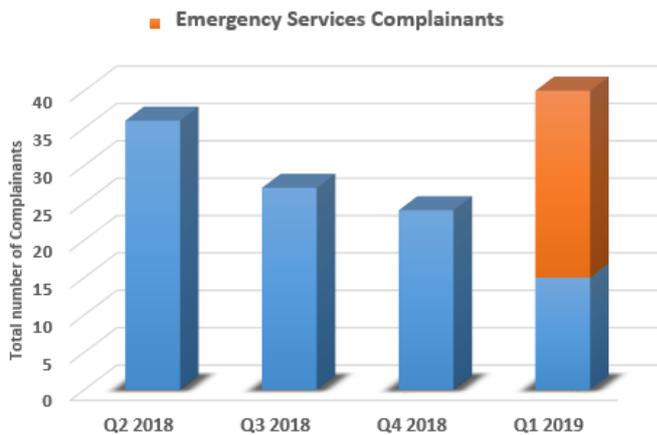
— January - March 2019

Complainants

There were 40 complainants in quarter one 2019 which is an increase from 24 in quarter four 2018. However this is a decrease from the quarter one 2018 figure of 45 complainants.

The increase in complainants was due largely to concerns with helicopter operations. The number of complainants for this issue was nearly double the number in quarter four 2018, with increased concerns over emergency services and standard operations. Standard operations include regular operations by traffic-reporting helicopters.

Chart 1: Number of complainants' comparison



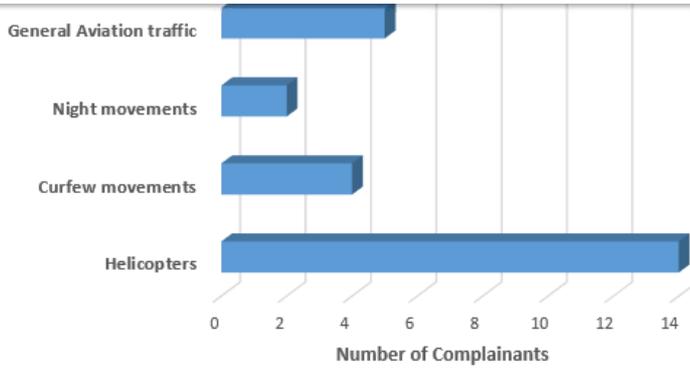
Issues

The main issue in quarter one was Helicopters, raised by 23 complainants with the main concerns being Emergency services operations, and Standard operations.

Other issues raised were; General aviation traffic, seven complainants, Curfew operations and Night movements, a total of seven complainants, and standard flight path movements, three complainants.

Emergency services were of concern to 25 complainants, under a variety of issues as seen in Chart 2.

Chart 2: Emergency services issues

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Suburbs

Twenty-eight individual suburbs recorded complainants in quarter one. Twenty-one suburbs recorded a single complainant.

Essendon, located to the south of the airport, recorded five complainants with four complainants affected by either curfew or night movements. The other complainant was concerned with standard flight path movements.

Pascoe Vale, located to the east of the airport, recorded three complainants who were affected by emergency services operations and standard operations to and from the airport.

Ascot Vale, Brunswick West, Bundoora, Carlton North and Strathmore Heights all recorded two complainants each. The majority of residents in these suburbs were affected by Helicopter operations, both emergency services and standard operations to and from the airport.

[+ 2018 Overview](#)

[+ October - December 2018](#)

[+ July - September 2018](#)

[+ April - June 2018](#)

[+ January - March 2018](#)

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[+ October - December 2017](#)

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Essendon Airport

[Intro](#) [Movements](#) [Flight Paths](#) [Runways](#) [Noise Monitoring](#) [Complaints](#) [Investigations & Community Consultation](#)

Movements

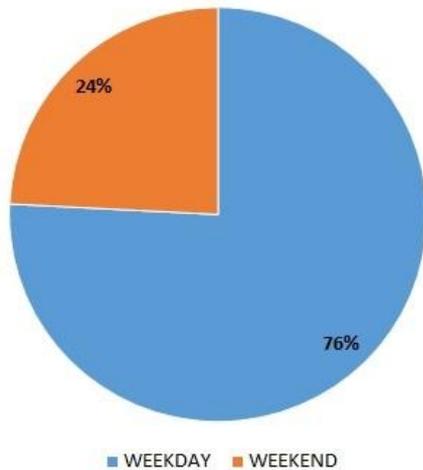
Essendon Airport's [Master Plan 2013](#), which was approved by the federal government in 2014, forecasts that over the next twenty years movements will be within the range of 53 000 to 57 000 per year.

Movement figures for all airports, including Essendon, are published monthly in the [Movements at Australian Airports](#) reports. The movement data used in this report is collected during the hours when the control tower is open. Flights outside these hours are not included in the report. Essendon Airport tower is open from 6am to 10 pm Mondays to Fridays and 7am to 10pm on weekends.

Select a quarter below to see charts illustrating the breakdown of movements for each quarter. These charts include arrivals and departures as well as flights that both begin and end at Essendon Airport, including circuits and training flights. The breakdowns are shown as percentages rather than total counts. This is because the source radar data for Essendon Airport has gaps due to the location of the radar at Melbourne Airport. As these gaps occur randomly throughout the day, the data, while incomplete, provides a representative picture of the weekly, hourly and day/night distribution of operations.

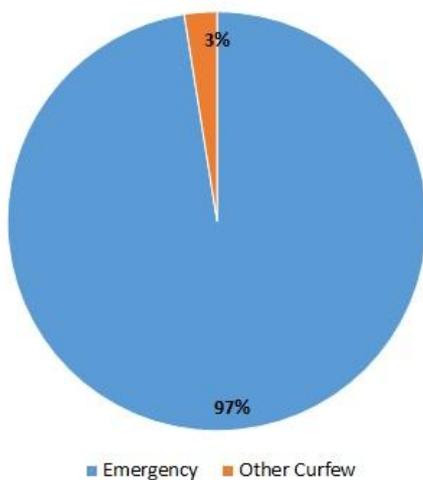
— January - March 2019

Total movements – percentage by weekday / weekend



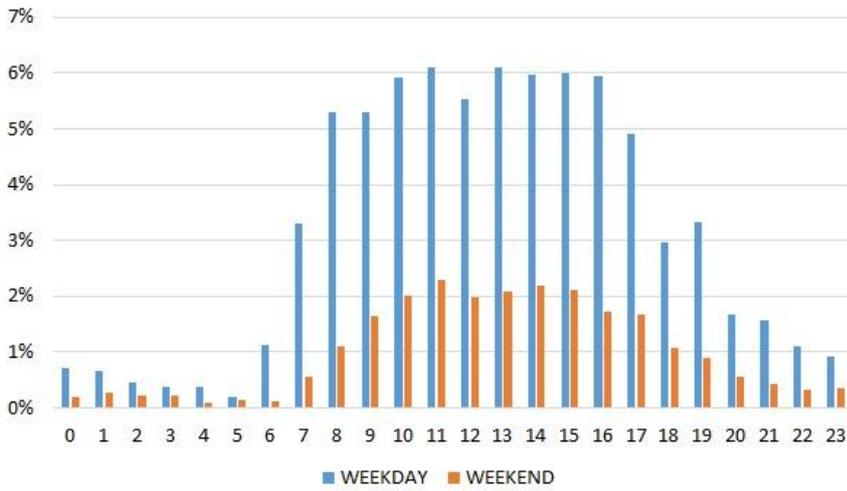
Total movements – day / curfew

The curfew is from 11pm to 6am.



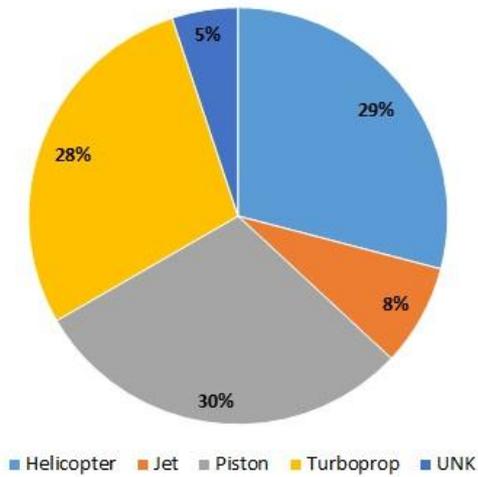
Total movements – percentage per hour by weekday/ weekend

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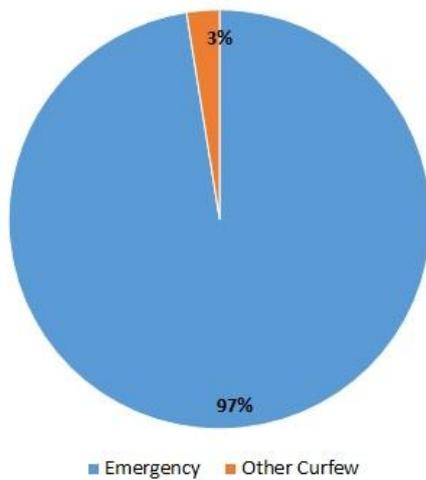
Total movements – by aircraft type (percentage)

The aircraft types for some movements are unknown ("UNK") due to data limitations.



Curfew movements – emergency services and other movements (percentage)

Emergency services movements and certain other movements are permitted during the curfew. More detail on curfew restrictions and dispensations is available at the [Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development](#).



+ October - December 2018

+ July - September 2018

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+ January - March 2018

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Airservices Australia Response to Essendon CACG action item meeting 8 March 2019

Dear Councillor Sharpe

Action item: Can the time of the noise event be added to the complaint data?

Airservices Noise Complaint and Information Service (NCIS), can only provide information that is supplied by the complainant. In many instances a time of concern is not submitted by the complainant and/or if it is, it does not correlate to an aircraft event. As Airservices reports on the number of complainants and issues, rather than on individual contacts with the NCIS, we are unable to provide this information.

However, if the CACG is concerned with particular events or issues within the Melbourne basin, and they advise us of their interest, we can note these and include in our reports commentary providing additional information wherever possible.

The NCIS Manager, Ms Ruth Jost, is available to provide a comprehensive presentation on Airservices reporting and complaint handling to the Essendon CACG if required.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Welsh

National Noise Complaints and Information Service Senior Investigator

Airservices Australia

Disclaimer

the information contained in this document is for information purposes and is indicative only. Aircraft movements and flight paths are affected by variable factors such as weather, separation requirements and congestion at relevant airports, and can therefore change without notice. While Airservices Australia has taken reasonable steps to ensure the accuracy of this information, Airservices Australia makes no warranty or representation that it is current, accurate or complete. Information required for operational purposes must be checked against original sources. Contact the relevant section of Airservices Australia for more information, or obtain the appropriate Airservices publication.

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Noise Complaints and Information Service

Mr R Kennedy
Manager – Planning and Government Relations
Essendon Fields

PO Box 211, Mascot NSW 1460

t 1800 802 584

www.airservicesaustralia.com

ABN 59 698 720 886

28 May 2019

Dear Mr Kennedy

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 March 2019 regarding the request from the Essendon Fields Airport's Community Aviation Consultation Group for temporary noise monitoring in the Strathmore area.

I am pleased to report that an unexpected opportunity has arisen that would allow us to conduct temporary monitoring in the second half of this year. We are discussing potential timelines with our service provider and will advise you when we have more information about timing.

Our aim in conducting short-term monitoring would be to gather information that will enhance the community's understanding of current noise levels. Data collected would be used to expand the information about noise levels that is already available in our quarterly online reporting (at <http://aircraftnoiseinfo.bksv.com/essendon/noise-monitoring/>).

We seek your assistance in ensuring that the community understands the purpose of this monitoring and is clear that it will be undertaken to provide information only. We would not wish to raise the community's expectations that this monitoring could result in flight path change or a reduction in noise levels. These are not outcomes that can flow from monitoring of noise levels. This is because:

- the measured noise levels would apply wherever the flight path was located, and we do not consider that moving noise from one part of the community to another is an overall noise improvement
- noise monitoring is not conducted in order to "police" compliance with a specific noise standard because there is no legislated maximum noise level for aircraft in flight that could be policed by Airservices or any other agency.

Thank you for making your request. Airservices will contact you again when we have further information to provide.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Jost".

Ruth Jost
National Noise Complaints and Information Service Manager
Airservices Australia



AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS DURING ESSENDON FIELDS AIRPORT CURFEW

January to April 2019

SUMMARY

Dispensations approved	Pre-curfew Taxi Clearance	Emergency & Search/Rescue Movements	Permitted Helicopter Movements	Exempt Propeller Driven Aircraft
0	0	1102	4	28

Movements

- There were a total of 1134 movements at Essendon Fields Airport between 1 January to 30 April 2019.

Dispensations Approved by the Department

- There were no dispensations requested during the above period.

Pre-curfew Taxi Clearance

- One aircraft received pre-curfew taxi clearance on 22 January 2019 and departed at 11:05pm.

Emergencies/Search and Rescue

- There were 1074 emergency movements conducted by the Victorian Police and the Victorian Air Ambulance using helicopters and propeller driven aircraft.
- There were also 28 movements declared as emergencies conducted by small jet aircraft (17 arrivals and 11 departures).

Other Approved Aircraft Movements

- There were 28 approved propeller driven aircraft movements. These aircraft included:
 - 11 x Beech 200's; 6 x Piper Navajo's; 3 x Fairchild Swearingen Metroliner's; 3 x Pilatus PC-12's; 1 x Beechcraft Travel Air; 1 x Cirrus SR22; 1 x Cessna 310; 1 x Cessna Conquest and 1 x Cessna 404.

cessation of warrnambool/portland airline services



Media Release - 20th May 2019

Cessation of Warrnambool/Portland Airline Service

Today, Sharp Airlines Directors have made the difficult decision to cease operating the Essendon - Warrnambool - Portland Airline Services effective from the close of business on Sunday 30th June 2019.

Sharp Airlines has been associated with Air Services in Western Victoria for some 28 years and it's a decision that has not been taken lightly.

Over the last 12-18 months, the Airline has worked on a number of initiatives to increase patronage and stimulate the market. However, despite our best efforts, the service is not economically viable.

I would personally like to thank our many loyal customers who have supported us over the years. I take a lot of pride in the fact we have delivered you safely to your destinations over some 20,000 flights in sometimes adverse conditions.

We appreciate the relationship over the years and everything that the Victorian Government, Glenelg Shire and Warrnambool City Council have done to make the service work to date and we really could not have wished for more supportive stakeholders.

None of the full-time staff employed by Sharp Airlines will be affected by this change.

Sharp Airlines operates 15 aircraft, servicing 5 states in the Airline and FIFO market and carries over 100,000 passengers and 1.5 million kilograms of freight per annum. With bases in Adelaide, Melbourne (Essendon), Sydney (Bankstown), Launceston and Hobart, our network continues to expand.

Sharp Airlines is continuously growing and looking for opportunities both in the Regular Public Transport, Charter and FIFO markets.

Customers with bookings after the 30th June 2019 can contact our reservations team on 1300 556 694 for a full refund.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm Sharp

Managing Director/Chief Pilot - Sharp Airlines

Photo credit: Robert Blackburn

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