

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

Meeting held 26 November 2021 at 10:30am by videoconference

Members: Danny Pearson MP, Rod Gurry (Representing Bill Shorten MP), Frank Manti (Community Representative), Brendan Pihan (EAPL), Colin Fort (EAPL).

Invited Guests: Cr.Narelle Shap (MVCC), Kim Wickramariyatne (Infrastructure), Tim Gill (Airservices Australia), Darren Walker (Infrastructure), Christine Campbell (Airservices Australia), Colin Fort (EAPL), Rory Kennedy (EAPL), Brad Evans (EAPL).

1. **Welcome – Colin Fort (Chair)** welcomed the committee and attendees.
 - Apologies - Danny Pearson MP, Bill Shorten MP.
2. **Items arising from previous CACG minutes (3 September 2021)**
The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.
3. **Noise**
 - a) ***Airservices Update (attached)***
 - b) ***Complaint Reports (attached)***
 - c) ***CACG Representation***

The CACG discussed membership of the Group in light of the recommendation by the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman.

The CACG members agreed that current membership mis appropriate but that a representative from the East Melbourne Group could be invited to the March 2022 meeting as a guest to present their views.

4. Community Feedback/Concerns

Cr. Sharpe noted she has received some general emails in relation to aircraft noise. The CACG discussed that the community are likely seeing and hearing aircraft more frequently given a high portion of the community are working from home and noise is likely more evident. Airservices discussed the potential for a national campaign around return of planes to the sky post the pandemic.

EAPL advised that Helipad West, located on the northern apron, will be re-opened to accommodate a new tenant. Although the long term plan is to The location accords with the current ANEF and masterplan and any noise impacts are expected to be contained to the Airport West Industrial area.

5. Jet Curfew (Infrastructure)

a) *Current movements (July to September 2021)*

Refer attached summary.

Action - EF to circulate data in graphical format to the CACG with the finalised meeting minutes.

6. Aviation operations (EAPL)

a) *EF aviation update*

EF provided an update regarding aircraft movements which are slowly recovering. Flight training operators have been steadily returning with increases evident.

b) *Melbourne Airport Third Runway*

EAPL continues to engage with the Melbourne Airport working group in relation to the proposed new runways to understand impacts to EAP. 5 workshops are planned with the first of the series to commence 2nd December 2021.

c) *Essendon Airport Centenary 1921 to 2021*

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Open Day has been postponed to 20th March 2022. Placeholder invitation to be issued shortly.

7. Development Update (EAPL)

a) *Bombardier Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul Facility – Hangar 82*

Construction is underway and well advanced and forecast to be completed in March 2022.

b) *Terminal Refurbishment Stage 2 and 3 “Bell Business Centre”*

Stage 2 works are underway, forecast to be complete by 31 January 2022.

Pre-leasing for Stage 3 is underway.

c) *New Office Project – 9 English Street*

A new 5 storey office building is being designed and marketed for the corner of English Street and Nomad Road which will be below the construction cost threshold for a Major Development Plan.

d) *Laboratory, Global Avenue, Hart Precinct*

Following a bid process, EF has been named preferred developer for a 10,000 sqm food testing laboratory to be constructed in the Hart Precinct. A Heads of Agreement is being negotiated and the current program is to commence construction 27 May 2022.

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

Under the Airports Act 1996, one of the triggers for a Major Development Plan is a development with a construction cost exceeding \$25 million. The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP recently considered increasing the threshold to \$35 million for all federally-leased airports regulated under the Act. However, the Minister decided to leave the threshold unchanged at \$25 million. As a result, EF's latest project at 9 English Street will be modified and reduced in scale to ensure it is below the threshold.

Infrastructure anticipates that further review of the MDP threshold will be considered as part of a more wide-ranging review of the Airports Act.

9. Other business

Benevolent Program

EF has launched the Friends of the Fields Community Grant Program. \$40,000 is available for non-for-profit groups to apply for. To date (3) submissions have been received. Applications close 13 December 2021. CACG members are encouraged to inform interested community groups of the program.

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2021

- 11 March 2022, 10:30am (Chair: Bill Shorten MP)
- 10 June 2022, 10:30am (Chair: Cr Narelle Sharpe)
- 9 September 2022, 10:30am (Chair: Danny Pearson MP)
- 25 November 2022, 10:30am (Chair: Colin Fort)

Meeting Closed 11.21am

Next meeting: Friday 11 March 2022 at 10.30am

Chair: Bill Shorten MP