AIR QUALITY

Canberra Airport recognises that air quality is important for the health and well being of Airport passengers and staff as well as the surrounding community.

Sources of air emissions from Airport operations include:

- Aircraft Auxiliary Power Units (APU) and Ground Power Units (GPU);
- Ground transport, including buses and motor vehicles;
- Dark Smoke from regular fire training;
- Dust from construction activities; and
- On site electricity production (tri-generation)

MONITORING

Air quality has been monitored in and around the Airport in 2005, 2007 and 2009.

The results of the air quality monitoring shows results well below the National Environmental Protection Measures (NEPM) Ambient Air Quality Guidelines and are consistent with local ACT air quality results.

AIRCRAFT RELATED EMISSIONS

Aircraft related emissions can be reduced in a number of ways, such as:

- Constant Descent Approach (CDA);
- Standard Instrument Departures (SIDS);
- Standard Terminal Arrival Routes (STARS); and
- Required Navigation Performance (RNP)

These initiatives have been introduced by Airservices Australia at Canberra Airport over the past nine years.

Airlines have also introduced electric and solar powered ground service equipment to reduce ground transport emissions.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Emissions from motor vehicles are the major source of pollution in the ACT. Canberra Airport has invested in improving local roads, including the duplication of Pialligo Avenue, which has significantly reduced traffic congestions and therefore local air emissions.

The Airport also provides bicycle storage and change facilities to encourage staff on Airport and passengers to use sustainable transport options.

The layout of the Airport precincts are designed to encourage staff to walk around in a safe environment.

DARK SMOKE EMISSIONS

The Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Services have a Dark Smoke Agreement with the Commonwealth Government to conduct "hot fire training" to ensure ARFF staff are prepared for any Airport emergency.

DUST EMISSIONS

A number of dust suppressant techniques are used on Airport including:

- Placing recycled material on construction site entrances; and
- Dust suppressant application using non-potable water on stockpiles or exposed soil.

The ACT has been blanketed by a number of dust storms from dry farm land in western and southern parts of NSW and eastern South Australia in the past few years. This has been manly due to the drought in southern and western NSW.

TRI-GENERATION EMISSIONS

Canberra Airport produces electricity using natural gas fired generators. The waste heat, otherwise known as fugitive emissions, is captured and used to heat buildings in winter and cool them in summer, by using an absorption chiller.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Want to learn more about aviation emissions? Go to the Airservices Australia website www.airservicesaustralia.com