
CHAPTER 3
CONSULTATION PROCESS





“From start to finish, it was evident you and your team were focused on maintaining the safety and continuity of airport operations, maintaining safety for the substantial number of visitors, and providing a first-class entertainment and educational experience.”

GREG HOOD, CHIEF COMMISSIONER
AUSTRALIAN TRANSPORT SAFETY BUREAU



3 Consultation process

Canberra Airport is a local family-owned business with a strong commitment to the people of Canberra and the region.

The Airport is a critical driver in the local and regional economy of about 950,000 people and local ownership provides a unique opportunity among major Australian airports to better integrate the Airport's development and operation with local and regional priorities and community aspirations.

The Airport will progress discussions with the ACT Government to refresh the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) once this Master Plan is approved.

This 2020 Master Plan confirms the strategic direction for Canberra Airport for domestic and international aviation growth that is informed by, and consistent with, the needs of Airport users, governments, and regional priorities. This 2020 Master Plan reflects a comprehensive pre-consultation process which commenced in November 2018 with key stakeholder groups to gather local and regional views, including surrounding landowners and users. Further consultation to gauge reaction and opinion, specific to the Preliminary Draft 2020 Master Plan, was undertaken during the required 60 business days consultation period.

The consultation process, although required under *the Airports Act*, is ultimately to ensure options for this 2020 Master Plan are fully explored, concerns and impacts identified, and alternatives considered before the final 2020 Master Plan is lodged with the Minister.

3.1 ONGOING CONSULTATION

Specific consultation with respect to this 2020 Master Plan is only a small component of Canberra Airport's consultation program. Canberra Airport has an extensive ongoing consultation program with major stakeholders, including governments, politicians, community groups and business groups, in order to communicate the Airport's plans and their progress to stakeholders and to gain a better understanding of stakeholders' viewpoints and perspectives. This consultation has been ongoing since 1998.

Targeted consultation is also undertaken for major development projects, including those required by the Airports Act, as well as key initiatives, such as the Airport's 2012-2018 contributions on HSR, light rail, the second Sydney airport public debates and the development of Canberra Airport's *Practical Ultimate Capacity Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF)*, endorsed in August 2019. The new ANEF for Canberra Airport is included in this Master Plan at Chapter 12: Aircraft Noise at Figure 12.10 in compliance with the regulatory amendments to the *Airports Act* passed in September 2018.

3.1.1 CONSULTATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Canberra Airport consults regularly with various Australian Government departments and agencies with respect to ongoing and future development and operations at and in the vicinity of Canberra Airport.

Consultation comprises specific meetings between Canberra Airport, Australian, ACT and NSW Government politicians and departmental representatives on key issues as well as regular ongoing meetings. These include, but are not limited to:

- Planning Co-ordination Forum with representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Department of Defence, National Capital Authority, ACT Government, NSW Government, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, Canberra Business Chamber and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation;
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment;
- Canberra Airport Safety Committee dealing with on airport safety issues, with representatives from Airservices Australia, Australian Federal Police, Australian Border Force, Department of Defence, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, airlines and AIPs;
- Canberra Airport Bird and Wildlife Management Committee dealing with bird and wildlife management, on and in the vicinity of Canberra Airport, with representatives from Airservices Australia, CASA, airlines, AIPs and Department of Defence;
- Canberra Airport Emergency Committee dealing with planning for, and response to, all types of emergency situations on or in the vicinity of Canberra Airport, with representatives from Airservices Australia, Australian Federal Police, Australian Border Force, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Department of Defence, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, ACT Emergency Services Agency, airlines, Australian Red Cross, fuel suppliers and St John's Ambulance;
- Canberra Airport Security Consultative Group dealing with security issues, on and in the vicinity of the Airport, as well as in the community more generally, with representatives from Airservices Australia, Australian Federal Police, Australian Border Force, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Department of Defence, Attorney-General's Department, airlines and AIPs;

- Canberra Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group dealing with Airport aviation development, regional planning issues and aircraft noise impacts with representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Airservices Australia, Department of Defence, ACT Government, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council, airlines, AIPs, business and peak community groups;
- Canberra Airport Integration Committee with senior ACT Government representatives; and
- Canberra Airport is also represented on the Regional Airspace and Procedures Advisory Committee (RAPAC), dealing with airspace and aviation issues at and in the vicinity of Canberra Airport, chaired by CASA.

3.1.2 CONSULTATION WITH THE ACT GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT AGENCIES

Canberra Airport recognises its key role to the ACT and region economy and the need to integrate into the local and regional development and infrastructure framework. The ACT and NSW Governments equally recognise the Airport's key role as an economic and transport hub for the region.

Canberra Airport and the ACT Government have a 2015 MoU which recognises the Airport's key role in the ACT and the need to safeguard the ongoing development and operation of the Airport.

As outlined in Chapter Four, Canberra Airport is recognised by, and operates within, the context of the Australian Government administered National Capital Plan and the ACT Territory Plan.

3.1.3 CONSULTATION WITH THE NSW GOVERNMENT AND RELEVANT AGENCIES

Whilst Canberra Airport is wholly located within the ACT, flight paths to and from Canberra Airport pass over NSW, including at low altitude. The issues of aircraft noise, airspace protection, and maintaining a residential-free corridor to and from Canberra Airport within NSW, are of critical importance to the ongoing unconstrained operations of Canberra Airport and its ability to fulfil its role in the national network of curfew-free airports. Furthermore, surrounding areas of NSW are also critical for the provision of regional infrastructure including roads and public transport.

Canberra Airport services over 520,000 NSW residents (55 percent of the Airport's catchment population) and is NSW's only curfew-free international gateway airport. Gold Coast, Newcastle and Sydney Airports have overnight curfews.

Consultation with the NSW Government includes regular meetings with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Premiers Office. Officials from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment also attend Canberra Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group meetings and the Planning Co-ordination Forum. NSW Police and Queanbeyan SES also attend the Airport Emergency Committee meetings.

3.1.4 CONSULTATION WITH THE QUEANBEYAN-PALERANG REGIONAL COUNCIL AND OTHER REGIONAL COUNCILS

Queanbeyan-Palerang and Yass Valley Councils (in NSW) are important Airport stakeholders, as is the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) – the regional wide group of councils. Canberra Airport will continue to consult with the Councils and CRJO on a range of planning issues with particular emphasis on separating residential development from aircraft noise, in the context of protecting the Airport’s regulated airspace and more broadly on economic development opportunities for the region that will arise from the future growth and diversity of aviation in terms of freight and international passenger airline operations at Canberra Airport.

Representatives from Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council regularly attend Canberra Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group meetings and the Planning Co-ordination Forum. Representatives from the Yass Valley Council are also invited to attend Community Aviation Consultation Group meetings and are included in all correspondence and meeting notes. Representatives of the CRJO attend the Planning Co-ordination Forum.

3.1.5 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Aside from consulting with the various levels of Government, Canberra Airport regularly meets with other key Airport stakeholders, including but not limited to, airlines and aircraft operators, tenants both on-Airport and in the surrounding area, and business, transport and tourism groups.

Regular consultative forums involving Airport stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Canberra Airport Safety Committee, dealing with on-airport safety issues;
- Canberra Airport Bird and Wildlife Management Committee, dealing with bird and wildlife management on and in the vicinity of Canberra Airport;
- Canberra Airport Emergency Committee, dealing with planning for and response to all types of emergency situations on or in the vicinity of Canberra Airport;

- Canberra Airport Security Consultative Group, dealing with security issues on and in the vicinity of the Airport, as well as in the community more generally; and
- Canberra Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group, dealing with Aircraft noise, aviation development and regional planning issues.

Canberra Airport regularly consults with, and presents to, key business and industry organisations such as the Canberra Business Chamber, CRJO, Australian Hotels Association (ACT) and the South Eastern Australian Transport Strategy Inc (SEATS).

3.1.6 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Aside from the formal master planning public consultation process, Canberra Airport is committed to regularly consulting with the ACT and region community. This is manifested through regular presentations by Airport management to meetings of peak community organisations (such as the North Canberra Community Council and Tuggeranong Community Council) and other community and professional groups such as local Rotary and Lions Clubs and the Institute of Engineers.

Major airport developments are also subject to a formal public consultation process under the *Airports Act* provisions, as well as any minor variations to this 2020 Master Plan or any major development plan.

Ongoing consultation with the community on all relevant Airport related issues (not simply aircraft noise) is conducted through the Canberra Community Aviation Consultation Group, with meetings held three times a year. All peak community groups are represented, as well as a residents' representative from neighbouring Pialligo. Community organisations invited to meetings include:

- Belconnen Community Council;
- Fernleigh Park Community Association;
- Gungahlin Community Council;
- Inner South Canberra Community Council;
- Jerrabomberra Residents Association;
- North Canberra Community Council;
- Pialligo Residents Association;
- Ridgeway Community Group;

- Tuggeranong Community Council;
- Weston Creek Community Council; and
- Woden Valley Community Council.

3.2 DRAFT MASTER PLAN CONSULTATION

3.2.1 2020 DRAFT MASTER PLAN PRE-CONSULTATION

Specific pre-consultation meetings were undertaken with the Australian, ACT and NSW Governments, the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and CRJO as well as key community and industry groups in the preparation of the Preliminary Draft 2020 Master Plan. The consultations covered the broad regional focus of Canberra Airport (a population of about 950,000).

Canberra Airport engaged with stakeholder groups and individuals between November 2018 and July 2019 within Canberra and the broader region, including consultations at Wagga Wagga. Stakeholders included:

- Airport tenants and the airlines;
- Australian Government aviation and environment agencies;
- Peak community groups;
- ACT and NSW Governments, including environmental agencies;
- Regional councils, including CRJO;
- Business groups;
- Local, Australian Government, NSW and ACT Members of Parliament;
- Queanbeyan developers of greenfield land; and
- Greening Australia, National Botanical Gardens and Friends of the Grasslands (ACT).

Major stakeholders and public meetings were undertaken on the Preliminary Draft 2020 Master Plan during August to October 2019. Consultations included, but were not limited to:

- Community Aviation Consultation Group;
- Canberra Airport Integration Committee;

- Planning Co-ordination Forum;
- Australian Government, NSW and ACT politicians;
- Peak business and community organisations;
- NSW Local Government; and
- The public.

3.3 CIRCULATION OF THE APPROVED MASTER PLAN

The preferred method of circulation for the approved Canberra Airport 2020 Master Plan will be via electronic copies provided to Airport staff, tenants, relevant external stakeholders, including Planning Co-ordination Forum members, the Community Aviation Consultation Group and Government agencies.

Canberra Airport's website will provide for download in full and in part.