

MELBOURNE AIRPORT

Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG)

Tuesday 21 January 2025, 9:30am-11am

Melbourne Airport/Teams Meeting

INVITEES

Name	Representing	From or Role
Kim Jordan		Independent Chair
Fred Ackerman	Community	Taylors Lakes
Maggie Baron		Kensington
David Cleland		Greenvale
Matt Faubel		East Melbourne
Margaret Giudice		Keilor Downs
Victor Ng		South Gippsland
Jane Waldock		Montmorency
Fonda Zahopoulos		Moonee Ponds
Emma Langoulant		Keilor
Liz Beattie	Victorian Trades Hall Council	Project Officer
Justin Burgess	Brimbank City Council	Strategic Planning Coordinator
James McNulty	Hume City Council	Manager Planning & Development
Stephen Pykett	Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Manager Economic Development and Visitor Economy
Ashley Minniti	Maribyrnong City Council	Manager City Places
Steve Finlay	Melton City Council	Statutory Planning Coordinator
Petrus Barry	Moonee Valley City Council	Manager Planning and Building
May Li Foong	Airservices Australia	Senior Advisor Community Engagement
Joanna Kormas	Department of Transport & Planning	Manager Statutory (Planning) Policy
Braden Hartcher	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	Director
Gary Walker		Assistant Director
Sharaf Khan	Melbourne Airport	Policy & Industry Affairs Manager
Justin Barbour		Manager Government Relations
Edward Martin		Head of Public Affairs
Dr Monika Schott		Manager Community Engagement
Shantelle O'Riordan		Advisor Community Engagement

1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of Country and paid our respects to Elders past, and present.

Apologies:

- Justin Barbour
- Justin Burgess

Non-attendance:

- Stephen Pykett
- Margaret Giudice
- Victor Ng
- Jane Waldock
- Ashley Minniti
- Braden Hartcher

2. Melbourne Airport updates

2.1 Appeal of third runway decision, Edward Martin

- Brimbank Council lodged an application to the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) for a merits review of the Federal Government's recent decision to approve the third runway Major Development Plan. We understand from the public statement made by Council that they have taken this action due their concerns about the approval conditions. Melbourne Airport is a party to that review and will keep CACG updated as appropriate.
- The Minister has required Melbourne Airport to develop a Noise Sharing Plan and a Noise Amelioration Plan. These programs will be developed in consultation with the community, and we will also continue to develop a long-term Community Health Study.

Q: Do we know what the Council's issues are?

A: We don't have further information other than their concern regarding the approval conditions.

Q: Is there timelines on that and is there a countdown clock on Brimbank to present their case?

A: Ed to take on notice and come back regarding legal process.

Q: Are you steaming ahead with planning anyway?

A: There is no requirement based on review process to down tools, so our planning continues. This includes consultation on everything we do, including the health study, and we will continue to consult with Brimbank Council.

Q: Is there a second party appealing as well? Flight Free?

A: Ed will take this on notice. We aren't aware of Flight Free being another party.

- The DITRDCA representative advised Flight Free is not the second party to appeal. The second appeal was made by two individuals, although it's not clear if they are part of Flight Free. DITRDCA has provided documentation that was requested, and awaits advice from the lawyers on the timeline and process. The ART process can be quite lengthy.

2.2 Community Health Study, Monika Schott

- We had five submissions, and we developed an assessment tool to assess them. Half a dozen people reviewed the submissions, and we interviewed three of the five.
- We came out with Deakin University and Ben Cave from Liverpool University as the best mix to undertake the health study.
- There were several reasons why they were chosen. Catherine Bennett was the face of Covid lockdowns in Melbourne and spoke regularly about the social and health impacts.
- Deakin University also proposed a strong community consultation plan.
- Ben brings lots of experience of health assessments around the world along with aviation experience.
- Ben will come to Australia on at least one but likely two occasions. Ben Caves network and breadth of work with other airports is international best practice and expertise. In Ben's network there is someone who can speak to us about aviation noise impacts.
- Catherine's network includes lots of experts we can bring in as we start to develop the Terms of Reference. The breadth of their experience is really quite impressive.

Q: Liz noted the CVs are quite intimidating. She knows of Ben Cave's reputation internationally and thinks he will be great asset to the team. Liz congratulated the Melbourne Airport team for securing such a great team.

Q: Was it a close contest or was it a standout team?

A: There was quite a bit of discussion. Monash University's clinical health experience was outstanding, but their engagement and health impact experience was not so strong. As we progress, we want to keep them close as they will have experience to assist.

Q: Have the team worked together in the past and have they produced Terms of Reference for other airports? Are there any learnings we can take from this to improve our output?

A: A study like this has never been done here before so there will be a lot of learnings. The academics and Ben haven't worked together before, but Catherine is impressed with Ben's experience as well as him as a person. Monika plans to meet Ben when she is in London soon.

2.3 Terms of Reference, Monika Schott

- Kim asked if the group wanted to go through it or just raise any questions. Kim apologised for having omitted Emma from the mailing list and will send information to her at the end of today's meeting.
- David noted Kim's dot points summarising the changes were very helpful.

Q: The Chair's term is four years and obviously there is a possibility of renewal. How does that sit in with the terms for other members? Liz noted concern with losing members and the Chair at the same time.

A: Kim noted the intent is not to lose that body of knowledge. We might advertise in a way that means we don't lose it. It would be very unfortunate to lose anybody particularly at this stage. Kim asked if Monika and Edward had different views on this and they both said no.

Fred asked about the term of community members. Was there any consideration given to half retired members, a bit like a Senate. It could help overcome people going at one time. Kim noted we did talk about this as we didn't want to get into a position that anyone had to go if we didn't have people with as much experience apply.

Q: Matt noted the new Terms of Reference are better. He queried:

- Whether there may be times when four meetings a year were not required, in which case should we be bound to that by the Terms of Reference?
- He also noted the clause regarding substitute members and suggested giving five days' notice may be onerous – perhaps we should be more flexible on that?
- Should we put something in about the Chair's responsibility to interact with other CACGs around Australia?

A: Kim noted:

- Four meetings are a requirement in original guidelines from 2016.
- The reason for five days' notice for substitute members is reflective of how the group works together. Five days' notice gives Kim the opportunity to speak to the person and understand why the stand in is required. The substitution usually doesn't have background on what CACG is dealing with and things need to be explained again. She noted we have the 'interchange' arrangement with James and Rachel so we have consistency.
- The Department used to organise a yearly meeting between CACGs. Kim said after speaking with other Chairs it is certainly something people would be interested in.

Further discussion ensued on the points above:

- Maggie noted there is some merit at looking at the group with a Senate turnaround. This would help ensure there are good candidates cycling through overtime. Maggie noted it could become a bit stale if we didn't have such a good Chair like Kim. Maggie said it was good to see Joanna here today, and she thinks it's important there is a representative from DTP. Perhaps if a substitute from DTP is the only way, they could be briefed so they aren't coming in cold.
- Maggie thinks a minimum of four meetings a year is reasonable. There is always an opportunity for people to attend electronically if there is no alternative. She senses we are gearing up to more meetings as there is a significant body of works coming forward. We have a role as specified in the conditions and it's something we would need to maintain.
- Liz added that with substitute members it can take half the meeting to get them up to speed. If a member is unavailable at very short notice the Chair can do a debrief afterwards or take any questions the member might have.
- Fred wanted to clarify that it's not that half of the members need to retire but rather they would be up for renewal. That was confirmed.
- Kim noted Monika and herself would work offline on this, to put together how we advertise so we get the best candidates. The Terms of Reference will make it clear we are trying to keep the expertise and stagger any new appointments.
- Fred noted it takes at least a year to come up to speed with the terminology and legality around the airport. Fred thinks four years would be more a sensible period of time for community members.
- Joanna commented that hybrid is the way of the State. Kim noted in person is preferred as online meetings can be difficult for conversational exchange, and less personal as people frequently have their cameras off. Kim noted we don't want observers we want participants. Kim recommended Monika and Joanna talk about this offline. Kim said most of the community members find it much more satisfactory to have everyone in the room together.
- Gary noted Braden, our usual representative, is relocating to Melbourne and hopefully we will see a lot more of him in person.

Q: Emma asked if there is a minimum number of members we are aiming for in the group?

A: Kim said we haven't set a number but are mindful of the group becoming too large. Over time the airport has widened the number of members and their interest and/or skills.

Kim noted one of the additions to the Terms of Reference is an attendance requirement and the means of managing non-attendance to keep the group functioning at its best.

Overall, CACG members agreed the size of the group at the moment is about right, while recognising that if there were suddenly flight paths that took in a range of places, we would be remiss to not allow people to attend.

- Kim noted we will tidy up the ToR description of the appointment process.
- The question of advertising in local papers used to be the way to do it. Kim asked how useful this is now. Advertising in neighbourhood houses may be helpful in some areas and less helpful in others.
- David said Facebook community pages are a good way to advertise. The airports website is also good, and we need to think about many other places we can advertise. We have talked about having a fact sheet for people to register interest.

Q: Steve Finlay added to the discussion of other local governments not attending. Steve goes to the Planning Coordination Forum (PCF) Melbourne Airport meetings. Is there thought about writing to other members about getting Council representatives?

A: Kim noted Hobsons Bay Council reached out to us and then went into elections.

- Steve suggested Whittlesea Council and Merribek Council. Steve said he would have thought Whittlesea in particular would be useful given the runway goes over Thomastown and other areas.

Q: What is the focus of the PCF meeting and why is that so attractive?

A: PCF almost replicates what is discussed at CACG. Steve said it's almost like a double up and doesn't have community representatives on it.

- Liz added we should cast the net fairly wide for new CACG members. With the third runway and growth of Melbourne Airport there are areas which will be affected in the future.
- Kim agreed, adding there is a group represented in a committee she chairs in Brisbane that are 35km from the airport and they are significantly impacted. Kim said Melbourne Airport has learnt from this and provides information very widely, although some people wonder why they've been contacted when they are located far from the airport.
- Kim noted having a regional member is an important voice to have in CACG as well.
- Kim said environment groups sometimes get missed.
- Monika noted when the time comes to advertise, she will talk to Andrew about the best ways to advertise.
- Fred said the newsletter is the best way to advertise upcoming vacancies on CACG. Monika noted it goes to a million mailboxes.

Kim reminded community members that she shared a link to the survey. If they have any questions, they can contact her. She will be doing a report for the end of last year and include a section on survey results.

- Maggie flagged forward agenda items. For example, we have been hoping for some time to get insight into housing growth strategy from the State, and whether impacts from the airport have been considered for proposed growth areas.

Q: Maggie asked about the Senate Inquiry recommendations. Does the ART review mean the airport may have to take the recommendations on?

A: Gary responded saying he would find some detail on this.

- David noted we talked about how busy this year will be and wondered if we should plan for five meetings this year. Monika noted there will be two extra meetings this year to

develop the Terms of Reference for the Community Health Study. David said we need more time together. Kim said giving as much notice as possible for extra meetings would be the best course of action.

3. Close

Kim thanked everyone for attending and their contributions to the discussion and closed the meeting at 10:29 am.

Next meeting is scheduled for 18 February 2025, 10am-1pm, Novotel Melbourne Airport, 1 Grants Road.

Summary of new actions

Action item no.	Date	Action requested	Responsible person	Deadline	Closed, or action taken if different to the request
1.	21/01/25	Timeline and legal process for Brimbank appeal to the third runway decision	Edward	February CACG	
2.	21/01/25	Finalise ToR on the basis of feedback	Kim	Before February CACG	
3.	21/01/25	Monika & Joanna discussion	Monika	Late Feb early March	
4.	21/01/25	Update on Whittlesea Council and Merribek Council joining CACG	Edward	February CACG	
5.	21/01/25	Information on where the 800,000 additional houses are to be built-new housing statement	Joanna	February CACG	
6.	21/01/25	Senate Inquiry and recommendations impact on the airport	Gary/Braden	February CACG	