

Cairns Airport
Airport Environmental Consultative Committee (AECC)
TERMS OF REFERENCE
22 May 2013

Purpose

The purpose of the Cairns Airport Environmental Consultative Committee (AECC) is to serve as a forum for its members to raise and discuss airport related environmental and community issues, share information and provide feedback on the matters raised.

In regards to aircraft noise, the focus of the AECC is on effectively managing noise issues to minimise aircraft noise impacts on surrounding communities while maintaining sustainable airport operations and economic contribution.

Background

Cairns Airport (CNS) is a vital transport infrastructure facility providing economic and social benefits to the Tropical North Queensland region where the economy depends largely on tourism facilitated by strong aviation services.

Cairns Airport recognises its corporate responsibilities and the importance of communication with our airport neighbours and other stakeholders who have an interest in or are affected by airport activities.

Specific consultative mechanisms, in addition to the AECC, may be required from time to time in relation to major planning and development issues. Cairns Airport may liaise directly with the Residents and Ratepayers Association where it is required to assist the associations.

Function of the AECC is to:

- Assist in the implementation of the CNS Noise Management Strategy.
- Consider matters related to the sustainable operations of CNS, focusing on environmental, planning and community issues.
- Review aircraft noise trends and emerging technologies and identify opportunities for continual improvement in noise management.
- Consider land use planning issues and seek to protect the airport from inappropriate development of lands adjoining the airport.
- Consider issues related to Cairns Airport's Environmental Management System.
- Assist as a reference group for consultation on amendments to Noise Abatement Procedures, flight paths, airspace management, Smart Tracking, and NFPMS.

Membership

Membership of the AECC comprises Cairns Airport Pty Ltd, Airservices, airline and other aviation operators, Community Group Representatives and Cairns Regional Council planning staff. The following summarises the role of the AECC members in fulfilling the AECC's functions:

- *Airline and other aviation operator representatives* provide advice on airline/aviation operations related issues; general environmental and technical and operations issues.
- *Cairns Airport Pty Ltd* provides information and considers the member's views regarding airport operational, environmental and community interest issues, including aircraft noise. Cairns Airport provides secretariat support and meeting facilities and appoints the Chairperson.

Airservices provides ongoing technical and strategic input to assist the aviation industry to minimise the impacts of aircraft noise by:

- ensuring that flight departures and arrivals are designed to minimise noise impacts on communities around airports
 - providing information about aircraft noise
 - monitoring aircraft noise around major airports and providing NFPMS reports
 - providing a national Noise Complaints and Information Service.
- **Community Representatives:**
 - Represent the broad interests of the community group they are nominated by, including providing community feedback on matters of airport environment and community interest
 - Report non-confidential information to their associations or communities on issues addressed at the AECC.
 - Provide community perspective regarding CAPL's Noise Management Strategy and Environmental Management System as well as other issues impacting aircraft noise abatement.
 - *Cairns Regional Council* considers land use planning issues and implementation of the State Planning Policy 1/02 Development in the Vicinity of Certain Airport and Aviation Facilities (SPP 1/02).
 - Other parties may be invited to attend meetings to provide information on specific issues. Meetings are not open to the general public however provision will be made for individuals to make representations to the AECC.

Nominations

- Agency/company representatives are nominated by their respective organisations or companies.
- Community representatives are nominated by the active community representative group in their area. If a community group is inactive or non-existent in an area the AECC may agree by consensus to accept community representation from interested parties.
- Community representatives may nominate a proxy to attend AECC meetings on their behalf if and when required.

Chairperson

- The Chairperson is appointed by CAPL after consultation with, and the consensus of, the AECC.
- The appointed Chairperson will serve for a period of three (3) years.
- The Chairperson facilitates/coordinates the meetings in a timely manner.
- The Chairperson undertakes or oversees follow up on actions as identified in the meetings to be carried out by CAPL or others.
- The Chairperson undertakes or oversees liaison and research by CAPL or others as required between meetings.
- The position of Chairperson will become vacant at the end of each three (3) year period when CAPL will either reappoint the incumbent or appoint a replacement as prescribed above.

How the AECC operates

- The AECC is an airport stakeholder consultative forum on matters related to airport environmental and community interest issues.
- The AECC is not an arbitration or decision making body.
- The AECC meets on a quarterly basis or more frequently as required.
- At least 3 community group representatives, 1 Airservices representative and 1 CAPL representative and the Chairperson must be present for an official AECC meeting to proceed.
- The AECC formally endorses minutes as records of meetings.
- Consensus must be achieved for actions determined by the AECC to be implemented.
- The Chairperson may address the media or make representation to external parties on behalf of the AECC.
- Other AECC members may only make representations to external parties on behalf of the AECC if prior approval has been given by consensus of the AECC.
- Information about the AECC including the Terms of Reference will be posted on the Cairns Airport website.