

**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL BIRD AND ANIMAL  
HAZARD WORKING GROUP**

**BRINDABELLA ROOM – CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**3 DECEMBER 2003**

## Meeting opened at 12.45 by Anthony Rohead, Acting Chairperson

### In attendance

Anthony Rohead	Civil Aviation Safety Authority – Acting Chairperson
Mark Farrar	Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council
Mike Peisley	Airservices Australia
John Delaat	Virgin Blue
Alex Ananian-Cooper	Canberra Airport (Observer)
Richard Allen	Civil Aviation Safety Authority (until 2pm)
Bob Wickbold	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
Peter Woods	Directorate of Flying Safety – Defence Department
Peter Pallot	Australian Airports Association (telephone hook up)
Mike Jamieson	Australian Transport Safety Bureau – Acting Secretary

### Apologies

Greg Madden	Australian Transport Safety Bureau
Mike Burgess	Qantas
Melissa Giese	Department of the Environment and Heritage
Mike Weston	Birds Australia

The meeting agreed to proceed in the order provided in the agenda.

### 1. Confirm the Charter

The Draft Terms of Reference circulated prior to the meeting were tabled. The words originated in the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) report “The Hazards Posed to Aircraft by Birds” and were endorsed by the group as being an appropriate Terms of Reference.

The group agreed that the main aim is to build relationships to facilitate the free exchange of information.

Discussion touched on the scope of work to be undertaken and it was agreed to limit group consideration to Australian issues but to invite an observer from a counterpart group in New Zealand.

- Action items.*
- i. Peter Pallot to provide contact details for the NZ group.*
  - ii. Chair to contact NZ group.*

## **2. Discuss and Agree on the Chairman and Secretary**

The group considered that decisions on the permanent Chair and Secretary should be deferred until the next meeting at which time and expanded group could vote on the positions.

The group agreed for the Acting Chair and Acting Secretary to continue.

***Action item. Positions of Chairperson and Secretary to be discussed and elected at the next meeting.***

## **3. Membership**

Issues arising:

- Department of Transport and Regional Services Airports Regulatory Group need to be represented, as much of the bird and animal hazards occur on core-regulated airports.
- Department of the Environment and Heritage need to be represented to cover JAMBA and CAMBA issues. Noted that the Department of the Environment and Heritage will attend the next meeting.
- Aircraft engine and airframe manufacturers should be invited to provide a representative on the group.
- Birds Australia will send a representative to the next meeting.
- Local Government Association of Australia should be invited to have representation on the group.
- AOPA should be invited.

- Action items.***
- i. Mike Jamieson to invite DOTARS representative.***
  - ii. John Delaat to approach aircraft manufacturers for representation.***
  - iii. Peter Pallot to invite Local Government Association representative.***
  - iv. Anthony Rohead to invite AOPA.***

## **4. Define the role of members**

The group agreed that to be an effective working group there was a need for open exchange of information on a confidential basis, similar to “Chatham House Rules”. In this regard the Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council would be used as a model for our information sharing practices.

***Action item. Mark Farrar to provide AAGSC statement on information sharing.***

## **5. Define the aim of the group**

Peter Pallot tabled a written statement on draft aims of the group (copy attached). The group adopted the aims as presented by Peter with following amendments.

- Aim 2 was amended with the words “at all levels of Government” after “legislation” and the inclusion of the word “hazards” at the end of the sentence.
- Aim 6 was amended to include the words “in the form of a model bird and animal hazard management program” after “guidance” and replace the word “in” with the word “for”.
- Aim 7 was considered to be too ambitious for inclusion at this stage.

*Action item. Revised Charter to be distributed with the Minutes.*

## **6. Define a communications strategy**

The group defined the preferred communications strategy as being a process modelled on co-operation, encouragement of information sharing and protection of confidentiality. The preferred mechanism would be to have our own domain within an established website.

Information dissemination could also be achieved through articles in industry publications, such as Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Airservices newsletters, Australian Airports Association (AAA) newsletters and Australian Transport Safety Bureau and possibly Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) publications.

*Action item. Anthony Rohead to investigate the possibility of obtaining our own domain within the CASA website.*

## **7. Define an information sharing protocol**

In discussing this item it emerged that the model used by the Australian Aviation Ground Safety Council could be appropriate for our purposes.

*Action item. Mark Farrar to provide information on AAGSC guidelines. See also Action Item 4 above.*

## **8. ATSB Report**

The four issues identified in the ATSB Research Paper “The Hazard Posed to Aircraft by Birds”, were discussed during the meeting. These were:

- Develop an Australian Birdstrike Working Group
- Enhance awareness of the safety issues surrounding birdstrikes

- Provide an opportunity for birdstrike information, knowledge and advice to be shared
- Determine directions for future research, regulations and procedures to mitigate the risk posed to aircraft by birds

The Working Group is to write to the Minister, to formally respond to the ATSB report, advising that the Working Group has been established and has accepted responsibility to progress the matters at the above dot points. The letter is to note that the Working Group represents those segments of the aviation industry represented now and those invited to future working group meetings.

***Action item. Anthony Rohead to write to the Minister, outlining the response of the Working Group to the ATSB report.***

## **9. National and local bird strike rates**

Discussion under this agenda item was covered earlier in the meeting. The widespread use of different data sets and rates was noted. The use of different definitions of an “airport” for classifying whether a birdstrike had occurred “on” or “off” airport was also noted. The need for standard definitions for recording, collection, analysis and reporting of bird strikes was agreed.

- Action items.***
- i. Anthony Rohead to develop a Discussion Paper for defining the terms used to describe bird and animal strikes.***
  - ii. Anthony Rohead to develop a Discussion Paper outlining the preferred alternative for bird and animal strike rates.***
  - iii. Bob Wickbold to collect and distribute different report forms.***

## **10. General Business**

Nil raised.

## **11. Next meeting**

It was agreed the next meeting would be held in April 2004 in Canberra. It was noted video conference facilities are available at the ATSB that can be used to facilitate participation by interstate members of the group, if needed.