

# **Australian Aviation Bird and Animal Hazard Working Group**

Minutes of Australian Aviation Bird and Animal Hazard Working Group  
Meeting

Tuesday 21 November 2006

Brindabella Centre – Canberra International Airport

## Meeting opened at 12:00 by Anthony Rohead, Chairperson

### In attendance

Anthony Rohead	Civil Aviation Safety Authority - Chairperson
Dianne Coyne	Australian Transport Safety Bureau – Secretary
Stephanie Bolt	Adelaide Airport
Darren Olsson	Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety
David Drynan	Department of the Environment and Heritage
Adam Martens	Airservices Australia Safety Management
David Balchin	Qantas Engineering & Maintenance
Rosanna Martinelli	Qantas Group Safety
Kym Foster	Department of Transport and Regional Services

### Apologies

Eric B Root	Boeing Field SVC – Sydney
Glen Lang	Airservices Australia Safety Management
Alex Ananian-Cooper	Canberra International Airport
Walter Boles	Australian Museum
David White	Virgin Blue
Pierre Blais	Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety
Bob Wickbold	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
Terry Wesley-Smith	Regional Aviation Association of Australia
Mark Farrar	Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council/Sydney Airport
Peter Pallot	Australian Airports Association
Bill Galler	National Jet Systems
John Delaat	Virgin Blue

## 1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been accepted by the members via email. Items for follow up from the last meeting have been included in the Agenda.

## 2. Membership

Anthony raised the issue of membership and opened a discussion on the current membership policy. While Anthony stated he thought a smaller group was preferable, he asked for comments on the current policy and the merits of expanding membership. The opinions discussed included:

- restricting the group to those committed to issues rather than a larger group of persons with a more general interest;

- using the Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council as a model (larger group with an executive committee);
- inviting observers to contribute to the agenda and attend meetings;
- having a panel reporting to a larger membership group;
- developing a theme for each meeting and inviting associated experts;
- convening roving meetings and invite local industry representatives; and
- holding meetings at industry events to provide an opportunity for more people to attend.

It was decided that further discussion on the issue should be delayed until a later meeting so members from the AAA and the AAGSC could be involved in decision on membership policy and so Mark Farrar could explain how the AAGSC operates.

### **3. Correspondence**

Anthony distributed copies of letters that he had sent to Alf Duczek and Michael Doherty thanking them for their contributions to the Working Group.

Anthony also distributed a copy of an email from Rebecca Johnson resigning from the Working Group,

**Action item 1:** Anthony to write a letter of thanks to Rebecca.

### **4. Statement of Purpose and Charter**

Anthony advised that he had amended the 'Statement of Purpose and Charter' in light of advice received from CASA Office of Legal Counsel and re-submitted the statement to legal to review the changes. Specifically, the changes made include:

- ◆ the removal of specific references to individuals to avoid personal liability issues,
- ◆ the addition of a general disclaimer,
- ◆ the addition of a section stating the positions of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Secretary will rotate on a biennial basis,
- ◆ all references to voting majorities have been standardised (now consistently 2/3 majority) across the document; and
- ◆ extending the history of the Working Group.

Anthony also suggested that the dates for the three working group meetings be locked in and added to the Statement of Purpose and Charter. Anthony proposed the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of October, February and June could be reserved. Kym Foster suggested that the national school holiday periods be considered before setting the meeting dates.

**Action item 2:** Anthony and Dianne to determine suitable dates for Working Group meetings.

## **5. ATSB Bird and Animal Hazard Report Jul - Oct 2006**

Dianne presented preliminary data on bird and animal occurrences reported to the ATSB from 01 July to 31 Oct 2006. The data showed that there were 363 bird strikes and 8 animal strikes in this period with the majority of occurrences reported by high capacity air transport operations. Damage occurred in 26 occurrences with aircraft wings and engines damaged most often. A list of bird/animal strikes by aerodrome location was also included.

David Balchin raised the issue damage severity and whether the cost of a strike influences the damage level. The ICAO definition of damage was discussed. This definition doesn't take cost of damage into account and specifically states that engine damage alone doesn't constitute 'substantial' damage to the aircraft.

**Action item 3:** Dianne to send out the ICAO damage and ATSB investigation categories with the minutes.

**Action item 4:** Anthony to find out the name of the CASA representative on the ICAO panel.

David also asked if any organisation in Australia was examining new technology, such as AHAS, QinetiQ Tarsier, Next RAD, Chris Pannell's research into grasses, or lasers, to mitigate the increasing risk of birdstrikes and who should really be driving the pursuit of new technologies.

Adam Martens advised that identifying/testing new technologies takes time especially if ICAO involvement is necessary.

It was agreed that a sub-group should be formed to identify and assess the use of new technologies in wildlife strike protection including: Airservices Australia, CASA, AAA and RAAF and Qantas.

**Action item 5:** Anthony to convene a sub-group to look at how this could be managed.

Kym also raised land use planning as a major issue affecting birdstrike risk and said he would raise this at the Airport Metropolis group meeting.

## **6. Update on the Annual ATSB Bird and Animal Hazard Report**

Dianne advised the group that the proposed annual report would be produced later in the 2006/07 financial year.

David Balchin asked if it was possible to benchmark Australia's reported bird/animal strike rate against other countries. The difficulties with benchmarking in this area were discussed, but it was agreed that an attempt should be made to benchmark with other similar countries.

**Action item 6:** Dianne to benchmark Australia's reported bird/animal strike rate with other countries.

## **7. Defence Bird/Wildlife reports**

Darren Olsson presented birdstrike data recorded by Defence between 1 July and 31 October 2006. Seven of the reported strikes resulted in aircraft damage.

Darren also spoke about the difficulties that Defence has in managing wildlife hazards at its airports.

## **8. Update of the Development of an Australian Bird/Animal Strike Risk Model**

Anthony said he had spoken to William Steele about the risk model. The current model is included in the Bird and Animal Hazard Framework. Stephanie suggested that the model should include future risk not just present.

## **9. Education and Information Sharing Forum Debrief**

Anthony briefed the Working Group on the Education and Information Sharing Forum held in September. Anthony congratulated those involved in the planning and conduct of the forum. The attendance was good and the feedback has been very positive.

Anthony said that he had sent out a questionnaire to all attendees about the forum and would collate and circulate the responses. Anthony said the plan is to have another forum in June/July next year in either Melbourne or Brisbane. Some points for next year's forum were discussed.

**Action item 7:** Anthony to send data from questionnaire to the Working Group.

It was agreed that the planning group had worked well and it would be good to have the same people involved again.

**Action item 8:** Anthony to send email to the planning group asking them to be involved in next year's event.

The working group agreed that a single day forum had been successful and Stephanie suggested that if more sessions were necessary they could be run in parallel rather than extend the forum to two days. Rosanna suggested that the forums could have a theme and suppliers could attend to demonstrate bird/animal management devices. David Balchin suggested inviting a representative from the USAF to brief the group of the use of AHAS and any other issues/items that would be of value to the group.

**Action item 9:** Darren to speak with USAF to see whether they would be able to attend next year.

## **10. AAA Conference – Cairns Debrief**

Anthony spoke about the presentation that he and Peter Pallot made at the AAA Conference in Cairns recently. Anthony said that this was a good chance to talk to over 200 aerodrome people about the Working Group and the recent Forum.

## **11. Funding of Research Projects (including DNA database)**

Discussion at previous meetings had confirmed support for the Working Group to pursue funding for research (but not to administer the funding). This agenda item, however, hasn't really progressed very far so it was agreed that the formation of a small working group would be the best way to progress the item.

David Drynan and Rosanna volunteered to be part of a group to look into the ARC funding process. David White had previously expressed an interest in being involved in this group.

**Action item 10:** David, Rosanna and David White to convene a meeting to discuss the funding of research projects.

## **12. Logo and Group Name**

Michael Doherty had sent Anthony some suggestions for a new name for the working group which Anthony distributed to members along with some of his suggestions. Anthony also distributed some logos for consideration.

**Action item 11:** Anthony to send out the name and logo suggestions to all Working Group members.

**Action item 12:** Members to email their preferences to Anthony.

### **13. Improving communication within the industry**

David White advised Anthony that he hadn't yet progressed this idea.

### **14. Press Articles**

Anthony distributed press articles he had obtained since the last meeting.

### **15. General Business**

Michael Doherty sent Anthony a document with comments on the group's 'Working Policy on Definitions of Bird and Animal Strikes for Australian Airports' for consideration.

**Action item 13:** Anthony to send out Michael's suggestions on the definitions to the group for comment.

Dianne distributed the new ICAO Bird and Animal Strike form for information. Some variables previously collected by ICAO are no longer on the new form.

Anthony also distributed:

- ◆ Minutes from the New Zealand National Wildlife Hazard Committee Meeting (June 2006);
- ◆ IBSC Chairman's newsletter;
- ◆ A letter from the ICAO Aerodromes Panel Wildlife Group about draft changes to Annex 14; and
- ◆ Email from Phil Shaw (Ecosure) regarding the humane destruction of birds at airports including a link to a pdf on the Department of Environment and Heritage's on shooting of pest birds.

**Action item 14:** Anthony to send request to David Drynan about putting a link on the Working Group's Website to access the DEH pdf on the destruction of pest birds.

David Balchin discussed some incidents involving wasp hazards and it was agreed that this type of hazard should be included in the National Framework to alert airport operations to the hazard.

**Action item 15:** Next update of the National Framework to include reference to Wasps, Bee's and other insect hazards.

**Meeting closed 3.50 pm.**

**Next Meeting – to be confirmed.**