



Minutes of

Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group Meeting

Tuesday 13 March 2007

Brindabella Centre – Canberra International Airport

Meeting opened at 12:00 by Anthony Rohead, Chairperson

In attendance:

Anthony Rohead	Civil Aviation Safety Authority – Chairperson
Bob Wickbold	Civil Aviation Safety Authority – A/Secretary
Darren Olsson	Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety
John-John Rozells	Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety
David Drynan	Department of Environment and Water Resources
Wesley Martin	Department of Environment and Water Resources
Chris Murphy	Department of Environment and Water Resources
Melissa Masters	Department of Environment and Water Resources
Alex Ananian-Cooper	Canberra Airport
Joe Hain	Sydney Airport
David White	Virgin Blue
Matt Wicks	Qantaslink
Bill Galler	Cobham
Rosanna Martinelli	Qantas
Laurie Taylor	Qantas
Charles Robinson	Airservices Australia
Stephanie Bolt	Australian Airports Association/Adelaide Airport
Kym Foster	Department of Transport and Regional Services

Apologies:

Dianne Coyne	Australian Transport Safety Bureau
Mark Farrer	Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council/Sydney Airport
Terry Wesley-Smith	Regional Aviation Association of Australia
Walter Bowles	Australian Museum

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

2. Membership

New members welcomed to the Group, they were:

- John-John Rozells replacing Darren Olsson
- Matt Wicks from Qantaslink
- Wilhelm Galler from Cobham
- Laurie Taylor from Qantas
- Charles Robinson from Airservices

Anthony let everyone know that Dianne Coyne had notified her resignation as Secretary for the Group, as she is leaving ATSB. Rosanna Martinelli volunteered to approach Qantas to take on the Secretarial role.

Action item 1: Rosanna to seek Qantas assistance with a minute secretary for future meetings.

3. Implications of EPBC Act for culling wildlife at airports

Anthony introduced Chris Murphy, Melissa Masters and Wesley Martin, from the Department of Environment and Water Resources who were attending the meeting to explain the requirements of the Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act.

Chris and Wesley spoke about the culling of certain bird species for aviation safety purposes. They said that there are different reporting requirements for State versus Commonwealth Agencies, and the matter is complex. Wesley said that he will provide some written advice in respect of which bird species come under their jurisdiction for reporting purposes.

Action item 2: Wesley to provide advice in respect of reporting of culled birds.

4. Correspondence

Anthony advised that he has sent a letter of thanks to Rebecca Johnson for her contribution to the Group as a representative of the Australian Museum, in particular for her efforts in the DNA research project for bird identification.

Anthony also advised that he will write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Group to Dianne Coyne.

Action item 3: Anthony to write to Dianne and thank her for her valuable contribution over the past few years.

5. Communications strategy

The Group agreed to continue with the current method of having a link on the CASA website until a dedicated website is set up.

6. Statement of Purpose and Charter/Structure of the Group for next 3 years

Anthony tabled a revised "Statement of Purpose and Charter" for discussion, which had also been emailed to members prior to the meeting for review.

The Group generally agreed that it would be advantageous to restructure to a similar organisation as the Australasian Ground Safety Council, with an Executive Committee to facilitate decision making, and a broader membership to facilitate information sharing.

It was determined that the Executive Committee membership include a representative from CASA, ATSB, Qantas, Virgin Blue, Defence, AAA, Airservices Australia and DOTARS.

Action item 4: Anthony to organise first meeting of the Executive Committee.

It was also suggested by Rosanna that Section 13 (c) of the "Statement of Purpose and Charter" should include a reference to Civil Aviation Safety Regulation Part 139 as the regulatory standard for bird and wildlife hazard management.

Action item 5: Anthony to include in next draft.

The Executive Committee will be tasked with setting future meeting dates.

Anthony also said that under the new structure we would need a number of specific interest groups to achieve the ambitious agenda. Anthony said that he thought the following four Interest Groups would be needed, but this would be determined by the Executive Committee at their next meeting:

- Education Forum
- Communications
- Best Practice
- Research

7. ATSB Quarterly Bird and Animal Hazard Report

Anthony presented preliminary data on bird and animal occurrences reported to the ATSB from November 2006 to February 2007. The data recorded 325 wildlife strikes for the reporting period, with 24 strikes resulting in damage to aircraft.

Laurie suggested that it would be useful to have data on the number of rejected take-offs, turn backs, diversions and in-flight shutdowns.

Action item 6: Anthony to approach ATSB to see if the additional data can be included in future reports.

Stephanie suggested it would be useful to have information on bird strike rates at particular aerodromes. Anthony advised that ATSB will provide strike rate data in the annual report.

Dianne Coyne had prepared some material for distribution to the Group which detailed how the ATSB categorises accidents and incidents. The handout also detailed how they prioritise investigations to meet international guidelines and achieve the most important safety outcomes within its given budget. This was in response to a query from the Group about why ATSB classify incidents with significant repair costs as Category 5 incidents.

8. ATSB Annual Bird and Animal Hazard Report

Anthony noted that we are still waiting for the ATSB Annual Report on Wildlife Strikes in Australia. Anthony pointed out that it was fantastic to get the support from the ATSB to do the Report but it was disappointing to have to wait so long for it.

Action item 7: Anthony to speak to ATSB about the timing of the Annual Report.

9. Defence Bird/Wildlife reports

Darren advised that it had been a relatively quiet period for the DDAAFS.

Darren also advised that the DDAAFS now have automatic data transfer with the ATSB, and this would make it easier to provide information on phase of flight, as most military strikes occur at low level.

10. UK CAA Paper: The Completeness and Accuracy of Birdstrike Reporting in the UK

Anthony distributed copies of this paper which was issued in November 2006. The paper highlighted the importance of the completeness and accuracy of the reporting of birdstrikes, sharing of information with industry, interpretation of reports, and the obligations on industry regarding Birdstrike issues.

11. Education and Information Sharing Forum

Anthony distributed an analysis of the feedback on the Forum held in Sydney last September.

Anthony noted that around 90% of attendees at the Forum provided positive feedback, indicating that very useful information came out of the Forum.

Anthony said that it was planned to hold another Forum this year, probably in Melbourne during July. Anthony said that he hoped the Planning Group for the next Forum will be composed of the same people who organised the last one.

Action item 8: Anthony to approach Melbourne Airport to host the next Forum.

Action item 9: Anthony to organise meeting of Planning Group as soon as location is confirmed.

12. Update of the development of an Australian Bird/Animal Strike Risk Model

The current risk model is included in the Bird and Animal Hazard Management Plan template developed by AAA and the Group. Stephanie Bolt said that they use a predictive risk model and believe this as ideal for general use.

Action item 10: Stephanie to organise a presentation at the next Group meeting on the Predictive Risk Model.

Anthony said that there were a number of things needing to be updated in the template, such as the addition of insect hazards to aviation. Anthony asked Stephanie if she would take over ownership of the document on behalf of the Group. Stephanie said that she would be happy to do this.

Action item 11: Stephanie to take over the Bird and Animal Hazard Management Plan template.

13. Bird Detection Systems

Anthony advised that QinetiQ had provided CASA with a demonstration of its Tarsier runway debris detection radar system developed in the wake of the Paris Concorde crash. QinetiQ is also actively pursuing other applications for the radar system, including bird detection.

14. Funding of Research Projects (including DNA database)

The Group discussed the current research projects and determined that the Executive Committee should form a Research Group at the next meeting to take this topic forward.

Action item 12: Research Group to be formed at the next meeting.

15. Logo and Name

By popular vote, the members of the Group resolved to henceforth be known as the *Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group* and adopt the logo show on page 1.

16. Improving Communications within the Industry

David White suggested a range of initiatives, including highlighting the current research projects in progress, and developing an email loop for information to be accessed and distributed. This would require a moderator to keep information up to date and accurate. He said that the AAGSC have a useful system in operation.

Action item 13: David to pursue this idea with Virgin IT experts and distribute information to members.

17. Press articles

Anthony distributed a number of press/magazine articles he had obtained since the last meeting.

18. General Business

Michael Doherty's submission commenting on the definitions of bird and animal strikes has yet to be discussed, as Michael has not been available to speak about his proposals.

19. Next Meeting – to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 4.15pm