

Australian Aviation Bird and Animal Hazard Working Group

Working Policy on Definitions of Bird and Animal Strikes for Australian Airports

1. Background

This policy has been prepared to promote a common approach to defining what constitutes a bird or animal strike at Australian Airports.

International Civil Aviation Organisation standards do not cover this area specifically, however in the Airport Services Manual – Part 3 Bird and Animal Reduction they do emphasise the need to report all bird and animal strikes as well as near misses.

Similarly, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) does not specify standards for reporting and leave it up to the aerodrome or aircraft operator to determine the reporting format, content and context.

Under Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) rules, routine reportable matters for air transport operations include a collision with an animal or bird; and for operations other than air transport include - a collision with an animal, including a bird, on a licensed aerodrome.

2. Policy

The policy of the Australian Bird and Animal Hazard Working Group is to use and promote the use of the following standard definitions:

A **“reported bird or animal strike”** is deemed to have occurred whenever:

- a pilot reports a strike to the ATSB
- aircraft maintenance personnel find evidence of a bird or animal strike on an aircraft
- personnel on the ground report seeing an aircraft strike one or more birds or animals

- bird or animal remains are found on the airside pavement area, or within the runway strip, unless another reason for the bird or animals death can be found

A "**suspected bird or animal strike**" is deemed to have occurred whenever a bird or animal strike has been reported by aircrew or ground personnel but upon inspection:

- no bird or animal carcass is found, and
- there is no physical evidence on the aircraft of the strike having occurred

A "**confirmed bird or animal strike**" is deemed to have occurred whenever a bird or animal strike has been reported by aircrew or ground personnel and upon inspection

- bird or animal remains are found on the airside pavement area or within the runway strip, unless another reason for the bird or animals death can be found
- aircraft maintenance personnel find evidence of a bird or animal strike on an aircraft

A "**bird or animal near miss**" is deemed to have occurred whenever a pilot takes evasive action to avoid birds or animals on, or in the vicinity of an aerodrome.

An "**on-aerodrome bird or animal strike**" is deemed to be any strike that occurs within the boundary fence of the aerodrome.

A "**bird strike in the vicinity of an aerodrome**" is deemed to have occurred whenever a birdstrike occurs outside the area defined as "on aerodrome" but within an area of 15 kilometres radius from the aerodrome reference point (ARP) or up to 1,000 feet above the elevation of the aerodrome.

A "**bird or animal strike remote from the aerodrome**" is deemed to have occurred whenever a birdstrike occurs more than 15 kilometres from an aerodrome or more than 1,000 feet above the elevation of the aerodrome.