



Minutes of

Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group Meeting

Wednesday 7 November 2007

Brindabella Centre – Canberra International Airport

Meeting opened at 12:20 by Anthony Rohead, Chairperson

In attendance:

Anthony Rohead	Civil Aviation Safety Authority – Chairperson
Bob Wickbold	Civil Aviation Safety Authority – A/Secretary
Alison Calvert	Cobham
Dean Stanton	Australian Transport Safety Bureau
David Drynan	Department of Environment and Water Resources
Stephanie Bolt	Australian Airports Association/Adelaide Airport
Laurie Taylor	Qantas
Joe Hain	Sydney Airport
David White	Virgin Blue
John-John Rozells	Directorate of Defence Aviation and Air Force Safety
Charles Robinson	Airservices Australia
Alex Ananian-Cooper	Canberra Airport
Kym Foster	Department of Transport and Regional Services

Apologies:

Mark Farrer	Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council
Terry Wesley-Smith	Regional Aviation Association of Australia
Walter Boles	Australian Museum
Rosanna Martinelli	Qantas

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 13th March 2007 had been accepted and agreed to by members via email. Items for follow up from the last meeting have been included in the agenda for this meeting.

2. Membership

A new member welcomed to the Group was Alison Calvert representing Cobham.

Rosanna Martinelli had volunteered to approach Qantas to take on the Secretarial role for the Group.

Action item 1: *Anthony to follow up with Rosanna.*

3. Correspondence

Anthony circulated correspondence from the AAWHG to Chris Barber, Chairperson of the Australasian Aviation Ground Safety Council (AAGSC), exploring the possibility of running the next Wildlife Forum immediately before or after the AAGSC meeting planned for Sydney in August 2008.

4. Statement of Purpose and Charter

The revised Statement of Purpose and Charter for the Group was to be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to this meeting. The review has not yet occurred.

Action item 2: *Anthony to organise a meeting of the executive committee.*

Action item 3: *Executive Committee to review the Statement of Purpose and Charter.*

5. Update on the ATSB Bird and Animal Hazard Report

The last research paper issued by ATSB in regard to bird hazards was the Discussion Paper titled "*The hazard posed to aircraft by birds*" in March 2003. Dean Stanton advised that although that report covered the previous ten year period, there has not been much analysis carried out since. Dean said ATSB are planning on releasing an updated report for the period 2002-2006, covering mainly birds, but also animals. Dean also said that the initial draft of the report will be sent out for interested party review, and he hoped it would be released before the end of the year.

The Group has been suggesting that an annual report would be useful for providing data on rejected take-offs, turn backs, diversions and in-flight shutdowns, as well as the usual data on number of strikes, species of birds and resulting damage to aircraft.

Dean advised that there has not been any agreement yet to provide an annual report, but they are planning on looking at the value of the currently reported data and being able to relate it to information which may come to hand later on individual strike reports, after the initial notification.

Action item 4: *Anthony, Stephanie and Laurie or David to follow up on the notification/reporting system with Steve Young at ATSB with a view to obtaining better data matching.*

6. Defence Bird/Wildlife Report

John-John distributed a series of charts depicting military birdstrikes for the period April to October 2007 by military airfield location and aircraft type. The data did not provide information on bird species or strikes causing aircraft damage and John-John undertook to provide this information at the next meeting.

Action item 5: *John-John to provide information on bird species or strikes causing aircraft damage at the next meeting.*

John-John also spoke about some current bird hazard management strategies at RAAF Edinburgh, and wildlife (wallaby) strategies at RAAF Tindal.

7. Update of the Development of an Australian Bird/Animal Strike Risk Model

Stephanie gave a presentation on a new predictive risk assessment model for management of birds which was developed for Adelaide and Parafield airports by David Paton from the University of Adelaide. The model makes use of historical data to rank species on the likelihood of being involved in a strike, and also to identify factors that are likely to influence the distribution and abundance of birds on or in the vicinity of the airports.

Stephanie is also updating the AAA Bird and Animal Hazard Management Plan national template, and in particular the risk assessment model and KPI's, with assistance from David Paton.

8. Education and Information Sharing Forum

Anthony distributed feedback data from attendees at the last Forum held in Melbourne during August, indicating that the vast majority gained useful information from the presentations. Anthony proposed that another single day Forum be held next year, preferably in conjunction with the AAGSC, as mentioned in Item 3. This was agreed to by the Group.

Action item 6: *Wildlife Forum Planning Group to organise the 2008 Forum in Sydney in August.*

Anthony also proposed that he contact the Chair (John Allan) of the International Bird Strike Committee (IBSC) to discuss the possibility of bringing him out to Australia for a wildlife risk management workshop.

Action item 7: *Anthony to contact John Allan regarding the holding of a risk management workshop in Australia.*

9. Funding of Research Projects

David Drynan advised that he had investigated the process for applying for research funding. David said that the process was incredibly involved and required linkages to higher education centres. David also said that the proposed research topics must be very specific to be considered, and that any ARC grants must be matched dollar for dollar with industry – (linkage grants). Discussion ensued and it was agreed that:

- David Drynan would contact Walter Boles at the Australian Museum regarding additional research on the bird DNA project
- Stephanie Bolt would liaise with AAA regarding additional funding for the Bird DNA project
- Laurie Taylor would liaise with Rosanna Martinelli at Qantas regarding funding for the Bat research project.

Action item 8: *David to follow up on Bird DNA research project.*

Action item 9: *Stephanie to follow up on AAA funding for Bird DNA research project.*

Action item 10: *Laurie to follow up regarding funding for Bat research project.*

Anthony will also follow up on the matter of insect hazards to aviation for the next meeting.

Action item 11: *Anthony to follow up on insect hazards to aviation.*

10. Communications within the Industry

David White confirmed that he had set up a Google aviation wildlife forum for the group, with 25 people currently signed up. David said that we need to start using the forum to disseminate information. Stephanie Bolt suggested an article in the Airports magazine to publicise the Google forum to the industry.

Action item 12: *David to organise an article in the Airports magazine.*

11. Development of AAWHG Website

Anthony gave a demonstration of the first draft of the Group website which is currently under development.

Anthony said that the website is still password protected and asked for any feedback to him before the site goes live.

Action item 13: *All members to review the website and provide feedback to Anthony.*

Kym suggested a disclaimer at the entry point to the website. The Group agreed with this approach and Anthony will draft something up for consideration.

Action item 14: *Anthony will draft disclaimer at the entry point to the website for consideration by the Group.*

12. AQIS Bird Strike Policy

A letter from AQIS regarding the quarantine requirements for birdstrike remains was circulated for comment.

After discussion the general feeling of the Group was that the requirements were impractical. It was agreed that Anthony and Kym Foster would respond to Helen Gannin at AQIS stating the concerns of the Group. It was also agreed that we invite AQIS to sit down with industry to come up with a workable solution.

Action item 15: *Anthony and Kym to contact Helen Gannin at AQIS regarding their birdstrike remains policy.*

13. Dept of Environment and Water Resources (DEWR) advice on reporting requirements

Correspondence from DEWR dated 6 August 2007 in respect to reporting of wildlife culling data was considered onerous, as the information was already provided to State and Territory Environmental agencies.

David Drynan said that he would follow up with the author of the letter, suggesting that the data be acquired from State/Territory agencies.

Action item 16: *David to follow up with DEWR regarding wildlife culling reporting.*

14. Press Articles

Anthony distributed a range of articles from various media sources in regard to bird and animal hazards in aviation.

15. General Business

Joe Hain asked the Group whether anyone had any information on a stationary pyrotechnic device currently in use at Lismore Aerodrome. No-one in the Group had any information on this so Joe volunteered to approach the aerodrome operator to get feed back on the usefulness or otherwise of the devise for the next meeting.

Action item 17: *Joe Hain to contact the operator of Lismore Aerodrome to get feed back on the usefulness of the pyrotechnic devise for bird harassment.*

Anthony advised the Group that the next Annual IBSC meeting is planned to be held in Brazil in November 2008 and that there was a possibility that Australia may host the 2010 meeting of the IBSC.

16. Next Meeting

It was determined by members that the next meeting would be held in Canberra on Tuesday the 4th of March 2008.

Meeting closed at 4.00pm