



# Canberra International Airport

## *Case study – bird strike data matching*

Australian Aviation Bird and Animal Hazard  
Working Group

Education and Information Sharing Forum

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# Introduction

- Canberra Airport is an inland airport with a history of a low bird strike rate.
- Drought and other factors have led to some increases in bird strikes over past two years.
- There is an increase in reported bird strikes due to improved cooperation between Airport, ATC and aircraft operators (especially airlines).



## A recent bird strike

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# Bird Strike Reporting

- Canberra Airport has always had a bird strike reporting system in place.
- The system is outlined in the Bird and Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, which forms a chapter of the Aerodrome Manual.
- The bird strike form has been recently revised to match ATSB standards.
- All bird strikes or suspected strikes that come to the attention of Operations staff are reported.

# Data matching

- An analysis of past Canberra Airport strike data with official ATSB data found significant inconsistencies.
- Over the past 2-3 years, an ever increasing regime of data matching has been put into place such that ATSB and Canberra Airport data now almost always match.

# Canberra Airport's Notifications

- Agreements are now in place ensuring that all bird strike forms involving a strike to Qantas, Qantaslink and/or Virgin Blue aircraft are sent immediately to that airline.
- All bird strike forms, including suspected strikes, are also provided to the ATSB.

# Operator/Agency notifications

- In return, Qantas Group and Virgin Blue provide monthly bird strike report data to Canberra Airport.
- The ATSB also provide a monthly synopsis of Canberra Bird Strike data.
- CASA provide copies of ESIRs generated by ATC in relation to local bird strikes.

# Data exchange

- Receiving and exchanging data is one aspect.
- However, once data is received, it is important to iron out any inconsistencies. This involves correspondence between the parties (email or phone) to:
  - Add/correct information on bird type/ aircraft type or registration/ providing runway information etc.
  - Clarify details of strikes not recorded by airport staff
  - Attribute only strikes known to be “on airport”

# Bird strike definition

- **Our policy:** report and record ALL strikes. However only those falling within the definition of ‘on-aerodrome’ are attributed as a Canberra Airport strike.
- ‘on-aerodrome’ strike: utilise definition of Bird and Animal Hazard Working Group. This definition to be incorporated into our Bird and Wildlife Hazard Management Plan.
- Liaise with ATSB to ensure strikes listed on the database fall within this definition.

# Conclusion

- Bird strike data matching is not rocket science – it is simply a matter of opening communications channels with ATSB, CASA and aircraft operators.
- The information exchange is beneficial to all parties and ensures at the end of the day a more accurate and complete picture of bird strikes is obtained.



Thank You – Any  
Questions?