# Bankstown Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group Meeting Minutes – 10 November 2025

## 1. Attendees

The Chair opened the meeting at 10am and gave an Acknowledgement of Country to the traditional owners of the land on which Bankstown Airport is located, the Darug people, and paid tribute to their ongoing connection to land, sea and sky.

| **Present** | **Company/Organisation** |
|---|---|
| Deborah Palmer | Chair |
| Malia Corry | Minutes |
| Tom Smith | Aeria Management Group (AMG) |
| Amanda Majarres | AMG |
| Sarah Wills | AMG |
| Peter Munro | AMG |
| Councillor Wendy Lindsay | City of Canterbury Bankstown (CBC) |
| Kyou Won Rhee | CBC |
| Kylie Wilkinson | NSW MP for East Hills |
| Timothy Gill | Airservices Australia (ASA) |
| Annette Dittmar | ASA |
| John Graham | ASA |
| Will Reynolds | ASA |
| Matthew Kline | AirMed |
| Peter Lochhead | AMSL Aero |
| Thien Tong | Georges River Grammar |
| Danial Martin | PolAir |
| Pierce Hanson | NSW RFS |
| Tristan Cheam | SFC |
| Wally Mehanna | Canterbury Bankstown Chamber of Commerce |
| Tony Luck | Padstow Rotary |
| Anders Hallgren | Western Sydney University (WSU) |
| Kate Stevens | WSU |
| Vi Girgis | University of Sydney |

**2. Opening**

- The Chair indicated that Anders Hallgren and Kate Stevens from Western Sydney University would be presenting in relation to their Corporate Research Centres and that Vi Girgis from the University of Sydney would speak about the institution's recent collaboration with AMG to promote net zero.
- The Chair ran through the agenda and invited questions.
- All attendees – in person and online - introduced themselves.
- Actions arising:
    - Department's update about the implementation of the National Airports Safeguarding Framework was carried over
    - Airservices Australia's update on upcoming engagement on Western Sydney International Airport (WSI) is closed.

**3. Community member recruitment**

- The Chair tabled a flyer to encourage community participation in the CACG, noting the importance of having a diverse group of community representatives. Members were asked to spread the word and encourage interested community members to consider joining the CACG. Anyone interested in becoming a CACG Member should contact the Chair at deborah@deborahpalmerconsulting.com.au.
- AMG further emphasised the importance of community representation to better understand concerns and priorities related to Bankstown Airport and noted that CACG members could attend meetings online to make attendance easier.

**4. AMG presentations and updates**

- AMG introduced its new General Manager Aviation Sarah Wills. Sarah is an experienced aviation and safety professional, with more than a decade of senior aviation leadership roles across the emergency and aeromedical services and airport logistics sectors – including at the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Wymap Group.

Community events

- AMG attended PV Industries official launch event and noted that it is proud to welcome the company to Bankstown Airport. PV Industries recycles obsolete and damaged solar panels. Its Bankstown Airport facility is expected to process up to 6000 tonnes of solar panels a year – diverting about 200,000 panels from landfill.
- Congratulations were extended to Australian Aviation Award winners based at Bankstown Airport: Little Wings, Team Global Express, Royal Flying Doctor Service and Angel Flight.
- Pickleball has now been introduced at the Entertainment Park and its eight indoor courts available for customer and community bookings.
- Bankstown Airport's Entertainment Park has successfully hosted a Family Fun Day, giving community members the opportunity to participate in a range of activities, such as tenpin bowling and go kart racing.

Safety and wellbeing

- AMG has launched "Aeria Safe", a new initiative to highlight the importance of safety systems and awareness at its airports.
- Airport Safety Week was recently celebrated at Bankstown Airport. Highlights included two presentations at the airport terminal: one by NSW Police Sergeant Ryan Edwards on counterterrorism and airport security; and one by Captain Richard de Crespigny AM, the lifesaving pilot of QF32, on leadership, teamwork and crisis management.

Developments

- Birdwood Road Mixed-Use Project Major Development Plan (MDP)
    - Approved by the Commonwealth Government in September 2025. The Bankstown Airport development includes new 120-place childcare centre, retail and flexible offices and warehouses, to support multiple sectors, such as general aviation. The development, on vacant commercial land in the north of the airport precinct, will substantially contribute to economic and employment growth across South-West Sydney.
    - Sustainability features include solar roof panels, energy efficient lighting and new and enhanced footpaths and cycleways
    - Construction expected to start in mid-2026 and take about 12 to 18 months to complete.

- AMG commented about the overwhelming support for the development from the community, as well as the NSW Government and City of Canterbury Bankstown. AMG thanked Kylie Wilkinson MP and Councillor Wendy Lindsay for helping to raise community awareness about the project.

- Aviation Hangar Project MDP
  - Approved by the Commonwealth Government in July 2025. The Bankstown Airport development will help meet the needs of general aviation.
  - The $60 million investment will deliver two new aircraft hangar buildings and facilities for up to 10 general aviation operations, such as flight training and emergency services.
  - The plan features significant sustainability elements, such as solar power and rainwater harvesting, and will generate economic and jobs growth.
  - Development will be constructed on a pre-commitment basis.

- AMG welcomed the approval of the two MDPs, which is believed to be the first time an airport has achieved dual MDP approvals in a single year.

- Altitude Gateway
  - Mixed-use development within the Altitude Industrial Precinct, at Bankstown Airport, to support the community, industry and retailers.
  - Small warehouses and light industrial units at the site were completed in October 2025. Retail shops and offices are expected to open from late 2025 / early 2026. The development also features a new childcare centre, which is expected to open in early 2026
  - AMG is working with a range of potential customers to operate at the site.
  - A separate development at the corner of Tower Road and Henry Lawson Drive is expected to be completed in about May 2026. The development will feature a new petrol station and restaurants, with operators including 7-Eleven and Guzman y Gomez.

<u>Leasing opportunities</u>

- Site 606, 26 Miles Street, is part of AMG's Aviation Microsites Development Program, to support general aviation. The site comprises a new hangar, office and lounge spaces and 12 parking spaces close to taxiways and runways.
- Other leasing opportunities:
  - Building H at 361 Milperra Road, a newly refurbished office space with ability to customise fit out and 37 allocated car spaces.
  - 20 Airport Avenue, a high-quality office and warehouse space that is ready for immediate occupation.
  - Site 74S4 at 361 Milperra Road, a functional space suitable for warehousing or for uses such as a dance or fitness studio, which is in a high-exposure location.
- Anyone who is interested or would like to find out more, please email <u>development@aeria.co</u>.

<u>Infrastructure works and upgrades</u>

- Major intersection upgrades
  - Major intersection upgrades at Henry Lawson Drive / Tower Road and Henry Lawson Drive / Milperra Road are now complete, on budget and nine months ahead of schedule.
  - The upgrades improve access, connectivity and safety at Bankstown Airport and saw AMG make a $16m contribution to the project.
  - AMG commented that it was terrific to work with the NSW Government on these road infrastructure projects.
  - AMG is continuing to work with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport and Transport for NSW to commence the upgrade of the Murray Jones Drive/ Milperra Road intersection.

- Runway upgrades
  - Following the successful completion of major taxiway upgrades at Bankstown Airport in 2024, AMG is now undertaking significant runway upgrades to enhance safety and conditions.
  - AMG is committed to minimising any negative impacts on airport operators.
  - One CACG member commented that AMG is putting a lot of effort into new or upgraded hangars and taxiways but should also consider a runway extension, to enable larger aircraft to operate out of

Bankstown Airport. AMG responded that they would be happy to work with a smaller group of operators to explore this topic.

- Aviation fuel provision
    - AMG is considering options for future fuel provision and infrastructure at Bankstown Airport, in consultation with customers.
    - Priorities are ensuring choice, cost effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, while also minimising damage to airfield infrastructure.
    - AMG is currently assessing initial proposals from several fuel operators, with the assistance of a specialised consultant. AMG will shortly select a shortlist of applicants and anticipates deciding on future fuel arrangements by early 2026.

<u>Airport and industry news</u>

- Bankstown Airport Master Plan
    - AMG has commenced work on the next Bankstown Airport Master Plan, which will set out a 20-year vision for airport operations and development. Bankstown Airport is required to renew its Master Plan every eight years. The 2027 Master Plan – which will replace the 2019 Master Plan – covers multiple areas, such as aircraft movements and types, noise, environmental sustainability, land use and development plans. When ready, a draft Master Plan will be on public exhibition for 60 business days and there will be opportunity for the community and operators to provide feedback, including via meetings and community pop-up sessions. AMG will also provide the CACG with a detailed look at the draft Master Plan. All feedback received during this process will be considered in the preparation of the final draft Master Plan, which will be submitted to the Commonwealth Government for approval. AMG hopes to have an initial draft ready in the first half of next year, with the public exhibition period expected to commence in mid-2026.

- Western Sydney International Airport
    - AMG noted that WSI will require facilitated changes to airspace and flight paths for Bankstown Airport (and Camden Airport). These changes (commencing in June 2026) will have significant safety, operational and economic impacts on general aviation operators, particularly flight training schools at Bankstown Airport.
    - AMG continues to engage the Commonwealth Government and regulators about the need to minimise operational, economic and safety impacts on general aviation operators.
    - Such mitigation measures include the proposed Southeast VFR Corridor – a new flight corridor south of Bankstown Airport – and a separate proposal for a new flight training aera, being prepared by AMG and UNSW Aviation. CASA will provide a briefing to all Bankstown Airport and Camden Airport operators about the Southeast VFR Corridor in November.

**5. Airservices Australia presentation and update**

- Aircraft movements: Bankstown Airport air traffic movements in April and May 2025 remained relatively stable.
- Complaints: Between June to Sep 2025, there were:
    - 42 individual complainants (including 25 new complainants). In total, those complainants made 2524 complaints
    - Complainants lived across 32 different suburbs, with the most represented suburbs being Wentworth Falls (4) and Panania (3)
    - 25 suburbs recorded a single complaint
    - Most complaints related to circuit training and essential nighttime movements by emergency services, which are outside ASA's remit. A CACG Member asked if the circuit training complaints suggested that training was occurring in the wrong place. ASA responded that complaints were often made by people working from home, who were more aware of noise generated by flight training operations during the day.
- A CACG Member asked if there is a legal requirement to action any such complaints. ASA responded that there is a Ministerial Directive requiring all individual concerns to be addressed. However, if a complainant receives a response but continues to raise the same issue without any material change in information, their subsequent complaint is recorded but there is no requirement to provide a further response to the complainant.

- Most recent complaints relate to fixed-wing circuit training.
- Online noise reports were recently revamped and CACG Members are encouraged to review and provide feedback https://aircraftnoise.airservicesaustralia.com/.
- ASA also provided a summary of its detailed design engagement on WSI airport flight path detailed designs, which took place from July to September 2025. A report outlining the engagement undertaken and feedback received has been submitted to CASA.
- Engagement focused on in-person events, with more than 4000 people participating. Advertising took place over traditional and digital media
- ASA said it had received a good response on noise monitoring, with many community members volunteering to have noise monitoring equipment installed on their properties.
- Aircraft noise was cited by community members as the top reason for attending engagement events.
- Noise monitoring will start in early 2026. ASA will focus on assisting parliamentary offices and local councils to raise awareness about WSI and guide communities to where they can find more information and make a complaint.
- ASA held an information session with operators at Bankstown Airport about airspace and flight path changes. An industry engagement report was developed in August 2025, setting out ASA's response to the feedback provided. As a result of such feedback, a slight change over Bankstown Airport airspace was made in October 2025. Industry engagement will continue through to mid-2026. Operators can also subscribe for project updates.
- ASA commented that the engagement with Camden Airport and Bankstown Airport operators had been positive and thanked AMG for its support in facilitating such engagement.

**6. Airport operator presentation by NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)**

- AMG has responded to CACG Members' feedback in a survey this year about wanting more information from operators on what is happening at the airport. AMG arranged a presentation by Bankstown Airport operator NSW RFS about its operations and focus.
- The RFS presentation stated that it is the world's largest volunteer firefighting organisation and serves as the lead combat agency for bushfire response in NSW. The service operates nearly 4000 fire appliances across the state and maintains an extensive aviation capability that supports firefighting, rescue and emergency operations. The RFS' fixed-wing fleet is based at Bankstown Airport.
- The RFS aviation fleet includes 11 NSW Government-owned aircraft. The RFS also has access to National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) aircraft and a "call when needed" register of 226 contracted private aircraft, which are available for transport, aerial work, pest management, survey and training operations.
- The RFS' fixed-wing capability includes aircraft used for transport, scanning, aerial supervision and firebombing, with capacity to carry up to 15,000 litres each of firefighting agents, such as water, retardant or gel. These aircraft also provide infrared and colour imagery for mapping, surveillance and fireground intelligence.
- Rotary-wing capability includes:
    - CH-47 Chinook helicopters based at RAAF Richmond, used for firebombing (11,000L capacity) and logistics transport.
    - Bell 412 helicopters, based at Dubbo, Coffs Harbour, Bankstown and Cooma, which are used for rescue, intelligence, firebombing and incendiary operations.
- NSW RFS also maintains strong night operations capability, including night search and rescue, aerial observation and firebombing support, with live-streamed infrared imagery and hotspot detection technology.
- NSW RFS frequently supports other emergency agencies, including the State Emergency Service and NSW Police, such as by providing air support for search and rescue and flood response operations.
- NSW RFS has around 40 staff located at Bankstown Airport, as well as several aircraft and a dedicated maintenance facility.
- A question was asked in relation to emerging vertical take-off-and-landing aircraft. NSW RFS responded that they have a fleet of drones that is utilised across NSW for aerial inspections and logistics. It was noted that this is an evolving space and NSW RFS is considering how to move forward with unmanned assets.
- AMG noted that several operators at Bankstown Airport use drones in essential operations. NSW Police agreed that their agency is also considering the way forward, including the use of surveillance drones.

**7. Updates from local council and state and other MPs**

- City of Canterbury Bankstown (CBC) update: The Campsie Master Plan has now been adopted and CBC is in the process of socialising the new plans, which include changes to allowable building heights. On Beam Street, Campsie's main commercial corridor, building heights of up to 20 stories will be permissible. Feedback in relation to the Master Plan can be provided until 19 December. In Belfield, a smaller town centre, heights of up to seven

stories will be allowed on Punchbowl Road. The Belfield Master Plan is open for public consultation until 15 December

**8. Other attendee updates and general business**

- Western Sydney University (WSU) provided an update on the university's research, education and industry collaboration activities related to Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) – which includes emerging electric- and hydrogen-powered aircraft.
- WSU said it had developed a strong education and research profile through sustained industry engagement over recent years, resulting in formal Memoranda of Understanding with several major partners, including Lockheed Martin Australia, Apple, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services. WSU is also closely aligned with an AAM Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) bid for government funding – of which AMG/Bankstown Airport is also a partner.
- On 4 December, WSU will launch a Discovery Centre at its Bankstown campus showcasing robotic, digital and mass manufacturing technologies, which will support education, research translation and workforce training.
- The AAM CRC was launched in 2023 to advance Australia's capability in next-generation aviation technologies. The priorities of the AAM CRC include the need to address regional connectivity challenges by developing safe, sustainable and socially acceptable air mobility solutions.
- WSU emphasised that community engagement will be essential to developing public trust and understanding about AAM, particularly around noise, privacy and safety considerations. WSU expects to be advised of the outcome of the CRC bid in early 2026.
- A CACG Member asked whether sustainability and net zero considerations were being incorporated into such work and noted that these areas are often underweighted in government tenders. WSU confirmed that achieving net zero outcomes is a key focus and they are actively engaging with government to align their work with national decarbonisation goals.
- WSU also acknowledged the work of AMSL Aero in this field and noted that organisations such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and NSW RFS are already operating or trialling AAM aircraft. CACG Members noted that there are strong opportunities for ongoing collaboration and knowledge sharing in this rea, across academia, industry and the aviation sector.
- University of Sydney update: 42 students from across the university chose to work with AMG on proposed measures to develop a net-zero airport precinct at Bankstown Airport. The students delivered presentations to AMG – which noted that it was impressed by the quality of the students' work. The university thanked AMG for its support and time, confirming that the students and academics enjoyed the experience. The university invited other CACG members to consider similar partnerships, which offer opportunities for students to develop practical solutions to real-world challenges.
- The university also spoke about the Innovate Western Sydney forum, which also includes WSU. The forum is an opportunity for representatives from business, government, industry and academia to discuss and celebrate innovation in Western Sydney. Members were invited to register if they would like to attend. Attendance is free.
- Padstow Rotary update: Padstow Rotary will host Christmas Carols for the community on 14 December. The event generally attracts around 5000 people from the local area. Separately, Padstow Rotary will in March 2026 hold its annual Service Officer of the Year awards. The awards celebrate emergency services personnel in the local area, including those operating from Bankstown Airport.
- AirMed advised that it operates its own jet maintenance facility at Bankstown Airport, which has the capacity to provide maintenance services to other airport tenants.
- Georges River Grammar update: The school thanked AMG and ASA , along with Bankstown Airport operators, for their support in minimising noise during the recent HSC exams.

**9. Meeting close**

- The Chair acknowledged and thanked members for their valuable contributions to the CACG over the past year.
- Members were invited to contact the Chair or AMG with any topics or issues they would like included in future meeting agendas.

**10. Next meeting**

Next meeting of the Bankstown Airport CACG to be held on Monday 9 March 2026.

**11. Meeting close and lunch.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

| Item | Meeting arising | Action | Responsibility | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| National Airports Safeguarding Framework | November 2024 | Department to update the CACG about recommendations for further action in the implementation of the NASF | Department | Open |
| Runway upgrade working group | November 2025 | Establish a small working group to discuss options that would enable larger aircraft to use Bankstown Airport | AMG | Open |
| Draft Master Plan | November 2025 | Present the draft Master Plan to CACG. | AMG | Open |