Mr Gerhard Visser  
Principal Strategic Planner  
Northern Territory Department of Lands and Planning  
GPO BOX 1680  
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Mr Visser

Subject: Greater Darwin Regional Plan consultation paper

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Greater Darwin Regional Land Use Plan – Towards 2030 (the Plan) consultation paper.

As you appreciate, Darwin Airport is an important national infrastructure asset. It is an essential transport hub for the local region and contributes significantly to the national economy as well as to the economy of the Northern Territory.

The Australian Government, in its 2009 National Aviation White Paper, Flight Path to the Future, identified the development of a national land use planning regime for land near airports and flight paths as a priority.

Pursuant to the White Paper, the Government has established the National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) – comprising Commonwealth, State and Territory transport and planning officials in order to safeguard airport operations, protect future communities from undue exposure to aircraft noise and ensure that the economic viability of key Australian airports is not constrained by incompatible development. The Northern Territory Department of Lands and Planning is represented on NASAG by Mr Mark Meldrum.

NASAG is currently considering a number of principles to guide a national approach to planning for land near airports and flight paths. A key objective of this partnership is to improve land management and land use planning around airports and, ultimately, to establish a national land use planning regime near airports and under flight paths.

The consultation paper makes reference to future land releases and residential infill, some of which is in the vicinity of Darwin Airport. This Department believes it is important to ensure that future residential development is consistent with Australian
Standard AS2021 (2000) and Clause 6.9 of the Northern Territory Planning Scheme 'land in proximity to airports'. The aims of this clause being:

- to minimise the detrimental effects of aircraft noise on people who reside or work in the vicinity of an airport; and
- prevent any new use or intensification of development on land that would prejudice the safety or efficiency of an airport.

In conclusion, the Department is available to the Northern Territory Department of Lands and Planning should it wish to seek further advice or information regarding the impacts of aircraft noise and the practical application of the ANEF system and other aircraft noise metrics.

The relevant contact officer in the Department is Mr Adam Sutherland. He can be contacted by telephone 02 6274 6959 or by email adam.sutherland@infrastructure.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

/Scott Stone
General Manager
Aviation Environment Branch
Aviation and Airports Division

10 May 2011