
[SEC=OFFICIAL] Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) Guidelines

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Dear Aviation Policy Team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the revised draft **Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) Guidelines**, as part of the Australian Government's broader vision for aviation outlined in the **Aviation White Paper – Towards 2050**. Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI) commends the Department for its commitment to strengthening community engagement mechanisms in the aviation sector. The proposed updates to the CACG Guidelines reflect a thoughtful response to community expectations and evolving best practices in participatory governance.

As you would be aware, WSI launched its CACG in September 2025 under Independent Chair, Professor Peter Shergold AC and Deputy Chair, the Hon Peter Lucas. We are pleased that the terms of the group align with the objectives as set out under the new guidelines.

We have included further comments for your consideration on the proposed updates as following:

General Support for the Revised Guidelines

WSI supports the intent and direction of the revised Guidelines, particularly the emphasis on:

- **Greater transparency** in CACG operations and decision-making processes.
- **Improved accessibility and inclusivity** in membership recruitment and meeting participation.
- **Clearer reporting and communication pathways** between airport operators and the broader community.

These changes are essential to ensuring CACGs remain relevant, trusted, and effective in representing community interests.

Specific Feedback and Recommendations

1. Membership Structure and Diversity

- We consider that **diversity in representation** is important - including how best to include First Nations voices, youth, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

- Consideration should be given to **term limits** and **rotational membership models** to encourage fresh perspectives and broader community involvement.

2. Reporting and Accountability

- The proposed reporting requirements are a positive step. We suggest including a **standardised template** for CACG annual reports to ensure consistency and comparability across airports.
- Reports should be made publicly available.

Strengthening CACGs is a vital initiative to ensure that aviation development aligns with community values and expectations. I encourage the Department to continue fostering a culture of **collaboration, transparency, and responsiveness** in the sector.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this important consultation.

Kind regards,

Matt Martyn-Jones

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