



Communique

Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control Working Group

28 August 2026

The Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control Working Group met on 28 August 2026 to continue collaborative engagement on the service disruptions and recent safety occurrences relating to Airservices operations at Sydney air traffic control.

Key messages

Safety remains the highest priority for all members of the Working Group. The aviation safety system is designed to manage operational risks through multiple safeguards and, based on the information currently available, the recent occurrences do not indicate an immediate safety risk to the travelling public.

The service disruptions and recent safety occurrences relating to air traffic control at Sydney Airport, which are being investigated by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, reinforce the need for coordinated action to address complex workforce pressures and operational challenges at Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control (ATC).

The Working Group noted that successful implementation of Airservices Australia's plans to improve the resilience of the Sydney Airport ATC will be critical to addressing these challenges and maintaining confidence in the safety, resilience and efficiency of the aviation system.

Members acknowledged that every organisation represented on the Working Group has an interest in Airservices' success in implementing this plan, and that the Working Group will provide an ongoing forum to support this outcome.

Members reiterated the importance of independent oversight of Airservices' actions to ensure implementation of the Sydney service resilience plan remains on track and addresses the identified issues in a timely and enduring way. The Working Group is one mechanism to provide a level of independent oversight.

The Working Group acknowledged the Civil Aviation Safety Authority's work to look closely into air traffic control at Sydney Tower which will focus on whether there are any underlying operational or system issues that could affect safety.

Members acknowledged the constructive and collaborative approach taken across the Working Group to support Airservices in addressing the workforce pressures and operational challenges affecting Sydney Airport ATC.

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The Working Group also acknowledges the professionalism and commitment of the staff on the front lines of aviation, including those in the air traffic control tower and terminal control unit, whose work is critical to maintaining safe and reliable operations for the travelling public.

Rachel Parry

Chair, Sydney Air Traffic Control Working Group

Deputy Secretary, Transport

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