



Communique

Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control Working Group

28 September 2026

The Sydney Airport Air Traffic Control Working Group met on 28 September 2026 to consider progress on Airservices Australia's Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport air traffic control resilience planning and school holiday resilience measures. Members also received updates from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) on its investigation processes.

Key messages

Safety remains the highest priority for all members of the Working Group. Members acknowledged the strong commitment across government, industry and workforce stakeholders to maintaining safe and reliable air traffic control services while addressing the complex operational pressures at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport.

The Working Group continues to provide an important forum for coordinated engagement, practical feedback and shared visibility of Airservices Australia's progress to develop its Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport Air Traffic Control Resilience Plan.

Members welcomed the addition of airline risk expertise to the Working Group and the participation of the ATSB. This broader participation strengthens the Working Group's consideration of operational, safety and resilience issues from multiple perspectives.

The Working Group acknowledged Airservices' continued focus on workforce planning, recruitment, training, roster resilience and system improvements. These measures are important to restoring service consistency and supporting enduring operational resilience at Sydney Airport.

Members noted that the investigations and reviews being undertaken by the ATSB and Civil Aviation Safety Authority, together with the work of this group, provide complementary mechanisms to support confidence that Airservices' response remains focused, transparent and evidence-based.

The Working Group recognised the professionalism and commitment of frontline aviation staff, including air traffic controllers and operational teams, whose work remains central to safe and reliable services for the travelling public. Members reaffirmed their commitment to sharing feedback, identifying practical improvements and supporting Airservices to address the resilience challenges in a sustained way.

Rachel Parry
Chair, Sydney Air Traffic Control Working Group
Deputy Secretary, Transport
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts