



Meeting Minutes Sydney Airport ATC Working Group FINAL

Sydney Airport ATC Working Group

Date: 28/08/2026
Time: 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Chair: Rachel Parry, Deputy Secretary Transport
Location: DITRDCA, 7 London Circuit, Canberra; LC-4-138-NULLARBOR (VC)

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Title / role
Rob Sharp	Airservices Australia	Chief Executive Officer
Peter Curran	Airservices Australia	Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Beckett	Airlines for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ)	Chief Executive Officer
Pip Spence	Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)	Chief Executive Officer / Director of Aviation Safety
Scott Nugent	Civil Air	President
Adrian Witherow	Sydney Airport	Chief Operating Officer
Edward Nell	Transport Workers Union	Industrial Coordinator – Aviation
Rachel Parry	DITRDCA	Deputy Secretary Transport; Chair
Richard Wood	DITRDCA	First Assistant Secretary
Jee Karunarathna	DITRDCA	Assistant Secretary
Patrick Abromeit	Minister King's Office	Senior Advisor, Aviation

Key discussion points

- The Chair outlined the proposed approach for the Sydney Air Traffic Control Working Group (Working Group), including publication of agreed meeting minutes and the Terms of Reference on the Department's website. The minutes of the 13 August 2026 meeting were endorsed, and the proposed Terms of Reference were accepted.
- Airservices presented the Sydney service resilience plan as a baseline plan for the next 18 months, outlining the current operating environment, workforce pressures and planned measures to improve

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operational resilience. Members discussed recent workforce pressures, training and rostering constraints.

- Members acknowledged that successful implementation of the plan would be critical and requested ongoing reporting on progress, risks and dependencies.
- Members emphasised the importance of a shared, transparent evidence base on operational performance, safety occurrences and delay impacts to support informed discussion, accurate public reporting and confidence in the aviation system.
- Members noted that the recent occurrences did not indicate an immediate safety risk to the travelling public, while reinforcing the need for coordinated action to address workforce and operational challenges.
- CASA noted it is undertaking 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 reiterated the importance of independent oversight of Airservices' actions and noted that the Working Group would provide an ongoing forum to support implementation of the plan.
- Members acknowledged the professionalism and commitment of frontline aviation staff, including those working in the air traffic control tower and terminal control unit.
- Members acknowledged the constructive and collaborative approach being taken across the Working Group and were invited to provide further questions and feedback through the Department.

Actions and next steps

Action item	Timing	Responsibility
Members to provide questions, feedback and suggestions for additional Working Group expertise through the Department.	Within one week	All members
Airservices to report on implementation of the Sydney service resilience plan, including progress, risks and dependencies.	Ongoing; at future meetings	Airservices Australia
The Chair to invite the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) to brief the Working Group on its investigations	Before the next meeting	Chair
The Department to update members on the Minister's consideration of independent oversight arrangements	Ongoing	Chair