Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Sydney Airport ATC Working Group Meeting

Date: 28/09/2026
Time: 11:00 – 12:30
Chair: Rachel Parry, Deputy Secretary, Transport Group
Location: DITRDCSA 7 London Circuit, Canberra; LC-4-138-NULLARBOR (VC)

Attendees

Organisation	Title / Role
A4ANZ	Chief Executive Officer
Airservices Australia	Chief Executive Officer
Airservices Australia	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Airservices Australia	Head of Strategic Operational Delivery
Civil Air	President
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	Chief Executive Officer /Director of Aviation Safety
Qantas Airways	Group Chief Risk Officer
Sydney Airport	Chief Operating Officer
Transport Workers Union	Industrial Coordinator – Aviation
Virgin Australia Airlines	Chief Risk Officer
Minister King's Office	Senior Advisor Aviation
DITRDCSA	Deputy Secretary (Chair)
DITRDCSA	First Assistant Secretary
DITRDCSA	Assistant Secretary
Australian Transport Safety Bureau	Chief Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer (Guest)

Key discussion

Welcome and introductions

- The Chair welcomed members, including new members Andrew Monaghan from Qantas and Stuart Aggs from Virgin Australia, and guest Angus Mitchell, Chief Commissioner and CEO of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).
- Members supported continued coordinated engagement through the Working Group and reaffirmed that safety remains the highest priority.

Previous meeting outcomes and follow up actions

- Members endorsed the minutes of the 28 August 2026 meeting. Members noted progress against the agreed actions, including the addition of airline risk expertise to the Working Group, Airservices' ongoing reporting on the development of its Sydney Service Resilience Plan and the ATSB briefing at this meeting.

ATSB investigations briefing

- The ATSB outlined its investigation process for the six occurrences relating to Sydney Airport air traffic control in July and August 2026. Four preliminary reports were scheduled for release on 30 September 2026, with two further preliminary reports to follow. The ATSB explained that preliminary reports present factual information established during early evidence gathering and do not contain findings or recommendations.
- The ATSB advised that its investigations would consider the circumstances of each occurrence and whether broader patterns or systemic factors were evident. Matters under examination included the operation of safety defences, resourcing, fatigue, concurrent operations, training, reporting practices and technological change. No conclusions had been reached.

Airservices Sydney Service Resilience Plan

- Airservices presented an update on its development of the Sydney Service Resilience Plan covering workforce planning, recruitment and training, rostering and enterprise agreement interactions, immediate stability measures, and systems and technology. Airservices advised that governance arrangements had been established to oversee delivery and report progress.
- Members discussed Airservices' approach to workforce resilience and operational continuity, including staffing capacity, rostering, training, data reporting and coordination on options for operational changes.

Stakeholder feedback and updates

- The department advised that the Minister had approved the establishment of a three-member Sydney Airport ATC Independent Assurance Panel. The Panel will provide confidence to the Minister that Airservices is appropriately identifying and responding to workforce resilience and operational issues. The Panel will report to the Minister through interim and final reports.
- Members welcomed the complementary work being undertaken by the ATSB and CASA, the Independent Assurance Panel and the Working Group. Members acknowledged the professionalism and commitment of frontline aviation staff and agreed to continue sharing feedback and identifying practical improvements to support safe, reliable and resilient services.

Actions and next steps

Action	Owner	Timing/status
Airservices to further develop Sydney Airport (KSA) resilience planning.	Airservices	Next meeting
Members to provide feedback on Airservices' resilience planning, including the presentation at the last meeting.	Working Group members	Ongoing
Identify the approvals and consultation required for any changes to over-night tower operations.	Airservices and relevant stakeholders	Progress to be reported at next meeting
Airservices to provide an overview of its reporting processes on delays (deferred from previous meetings).	Airservices	Next meeting
Airservices to provide an update on its resilience measures for the Christmas period at the next meeting.	Airservices	Next meeting
Schedule meetings for two hours at a 4-weekly cadence which follows Airservices data availability.	Secretariat	Next meeting