



Adam Petherick
Nicole Tolbot

11 APR 2012

Your Ref:
Our Ref: 2427840

4 April 2012

Mr Scott Stone
General Manager Aviation Environment
Department of Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Via email: safeguarding@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Mr Stone

Consultation: Draft National Airports Safeguarding Framework

Thank you for your letter dated 20 February 2012 informing us and seeking comments on the draft National Airports Safeguarding Framework.

Given the timeframe to provide comments by 15 March 2012, the comments dated 15 March were from council staff and had not been approved by the Elected Members of Council.

Council at its meeting held 3 April 2012 reviewed a report and the submission dated 15 March 2012 on the draft National Airports Safeguarding Framework. Council endorsed the submission with some minor amendments and now requests that this letter replace the previous submission.

For background information and context, the City of Onkaparinga contains two airfields, a small recreational airfield at Seaford Meadows (known as Old Noarlunga Airfield and used by South Coast Flying Club Inc and Noarlunga Model Aero Sports Inc), and the privately owned Aldinga Airfield.

Council at its 19 July 2011 meeting approved a 12 month trial period for Pulse Aero to carry out maintenance on aircraft that are not permanently located at Aldinga Airfield, in accordance with an authority permitted under an existing Land Management Agreement (LMA), subject to a number of conditions. This 12 month trial period for Pulse Aero and other recent developments at the Aldinga Airfield have been of local community and media interest.

At its 7 February 2012 meeting, Council resolved to establish an Aldinga Airfield Reference Group, comprising representatives of Council, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and Environment Protection Authority (EPA), to:



City of Onkaparinga
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Noarlunga Centre
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Noarlunga office
Ramsay Place
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Telephone (08) 8384 0666
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Aberfoyle Park office
The Hub
Aberfoyle Park
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Facsimile (08) 8382 8744

Willunga office
St Peters Terrace
Willunga
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- i) provide advice to council on matters requiring a decision of Council relating to Aldinga Aviation
- ii) understand each regulatory authority's roles & responsibilities & identify areas that may require change
- iii) report outcomes of meetings to Council.

Terms of reference for the Aldinga Airfield Reference Group were approved by Council at its 6 March 2012 meeting. The agenda reports, attachments and minutes for these Council meetings are available on our website www.onkaparingacity.com.

Meetings of the Aldinga Airfield Reference Group are proposed to be held on a three monthly basis, unless urgent matters arise that require additional meetings. Outcomes of meetings will be recorded and published on our website. It is proposed that the reference group provide advice to Council in relation to matters requiring a decision of Council, such as in relation to LMAs and development policy issues.

Operational matters dealt with by staff under delegation, such as environmental health issues, will continue to be dealt with operationally and the reference group advised. The exception proposed is development applications subject to public notification, which would be referred to the reference group for comments as part of the public notification process. Meetings of the group will be of a 'workshop' nature and include an agenda with items for discussion/decision.

We have not yet received a response from the EPA or CASA to our request for them to nominate two members for the Aldinga Airfield Reference Group.

As we progress with the reference group and consideration of matters relating to the Aldinga Airfield, we will have regard to the draft National Airports Safeguarding Framework and any subsequently endorsed versions.

The state government's Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) has also advised us that the draft Framework will help form the basis of a future planning module when they review the Airfield Zone module for the South Australian Planning Policy library. We understand that DPTI will undertake further consultation with us on the planning module and on this basis, the Aldinga Airfield Reference Group (once formed) will be able to provide advice to Council in relation to matters on development policy.

We are aware of the potential for conflicts between the airfields and existing and future development surrounding airfields primarily due to aircraft noise. We believe that development at our airfields must be planned, and communities properly consulted. Any investment at our airfields needs to continue to meet the needs of the aviation industry but also must fit strategically in with development of the region and allow for proper consideration and recognition of the impacts on local communities. As such, we support transparent policy developed consultatively that clearly outlines the requirements for development controls in and around airfields.

Our understanding of the draft Framework is that it aims to ensure an appropriate balance is maintained between the social, economic and environmental needs of the community and the effective use of sites around airports. Your clarifying email of 8 March 2012 advises that the principles essentially support the identification and appropriate management of airports and the surrounding environment, and are intended to be useable for any size airport but would apply differently at different airports. You also suggested the plan for an airport the size of Aldinga should include:

1. *A decision or statement from the Council that it supports the airport and what functions it supports (e.g. charter, sightseeing, training, employment).*
2. *A policy about the environmental aspects the airport is trying to manage and how it seeks to do this.*
3. *The roles of the various stakeholders in coming up with operational procedures, hours of operation, fly neighbourly agreements etc that would balance the value of the airport with its environmental impacts.*
4. *Ongoing community management and consultation arrangements.*

These are points that can be considered by the Aldinga Airfield Reference Group, and then ultimately Council, in terms of reviewing the current LMA and development policy issues.

The Aldinga Airfield is within and immediately surrounded by the Willunga Basin and is located in the Rural Zone in our Development Plan. The Rural Zone has no specific policies regarding the airfield but does limit opportunities for conflicting development around it by preventing land division creating additional allotments or more than one dwelling per allotment.

In late 2011 the state government produced the Character Preservation (McLaren Vale) Bill 2011 in order to maintain the character of the Rural Zone and Willunga Basin. The Bill is also supported by the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale Protection Districts Development Plan Amendment (DPA). The Bill and DPA re-enforce the existing policies that limit housing and development opportunities on land around the airfield as well as development within the airfield itself.

In the wider locality, the suburb of Aldinga Beach has an existing Residential Zone approximately 1.8km to the west-northwest and also land identified by the state government for future urban development within 1.5km. Again, any decisions to rezone this land in proximity to the Aldinga Airfield should also consider the existing and potential future impacts of the airfield, and have regard to the Framework.

The reference group and Council are likely to consider in the coming years whether our Development Plan should be amended with some specific policies for the airfield, and this consideration will have regard to the Framework.

Accordingly, we support the intent of the draft National Airports Safeguarding Framework and the initiatives being undertaken by the commonwealth government, which provides greater encouragement to airfield operators and surrounding communities to how airfields and potential impacts to and from airfields are managed.

Further, we seek support from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG), to encourage CASA's support for the monitoring of small airfields like Aldinga and Seaford Meadows.

Please contact me on 8384 0792 if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Sutcliffe', written in a cursive style.

Terry Sutcliffe
Director City Development