National Emerging Aviation Technologies Consultative Committee Meeting

July 2023

The National Emerging Aviation Technologies Consultative Committee (NEAT CC) met on 25 July 2023 to discuss drones and cyber security, working groups, the APEC noise report and the Aviation White Paper.

Drones and cyber security

The Department presented on challenges and opportunities with drones and cyber security, and considerations for future regulation of cyber security in the sector. It was noted that most cyber security obligations for emerging aviation technology industry are based on broader government cyber security policies managed by the Department of Home Affairs.

Working Groups

Membership

The group discussed membership across the NEAT CC and Advanced Air Mobility Consultative Committee (AAM CC) and noted that the Department will be reviewing the Terms of Reference to ensure the NEAT CC is still fit for purpose and has a good representation of various industry perspectives in the meetings.

Members supported the proposal for the aviation agencies (Airservices and CASA) to provide updates to members as a regular agenda item, and also for there to be joint meetings with NEAT CC and AAM CC where topics overlap.

>   **Action**: Department to review Terms of Reference (TOR) and membership of the NEAT CC.

>   **Action**: Secretariat to add a regular agenda item for Airservices and CASA to provide updates to members at NEAT CC.

Uncrewed Aerial Systems Traffic Management (UTM) Industry Working Group update

The UTM Industry Working Group has met several times this year to discuss a range of topics including automated approvals and authorisations, services and mandates, and encouraging outcomes-focused regulations which don't 'lock in' certain technologies.

The department updated NEAT CC on the UTM Action Plan under development, noting that it will now be tied into the Aviation White process. Although this means the Action Plan will be slightly delayed, the delay will allow UTM to be considered and developed in the context of broader aviation policy.

Industry raised the following:

- That progress/outcomes from the NEAT UTM Industry WG need to be clear how they fit together (e.g. RemoteID, etc.) and that there is a growing need for clear policy decisions before implementation got too far ahead.
- It was significant that the UTM Action Plan is being tied to the Aviation White Paper, although there was a prospect of a further delay to the NEAT UTM Policy.
- There is a continuing need to ensure alignment between NEAT policy development activities and implementation activities led by Airservices Australia.

APEC noise report

The Department updated NEAT CC on the APEC noise report, which it expects to be soon published.

The APEC Project *Comparison of International Frameworks Measuring Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Noise* was established to compare approaches to the measurement, policy, procedures and regulations of RPA noise in APEC economies and identify best practices.

- Australia is one of the few economies to have any oversight in place.
- Our current approach is very much risk-based, as we target restrictions to those operations that are likely to have significant or repeated impacts on noise sensitive areas.

The final report has been submitted to APEC for consideration and publication. Once published, the department will provide a link to NEAT CC members.

Action: Secretariat to provide link to published APEC Noise Report.

Aviation White Paper update

Stephanie Werner presented an update on the Aviation White Paper.

After the green paper is released (currently expected to be around September), there will be extensive consultation and online focus groups.

The emerging aviation technology community is a critical component of future aviation and the government wants to foster its growth. Members also discussed decarbonisation and the journey to NetZero, and that "social licence" to operate is important. Members discussed infrastructure, creativity, jobs, efficiency gains, manufacture gains, privacy, noise, and security issues.

The Aviation Green Paper will be released shortly for public comment.

Members update and close

Members then provided updated on their own activities and the meeting closed. The next meeting will be scheduled for October or November.

Attendees

Name	Organisation/position
Naa Opoku	Department/Acting First Assistant Secretary, International Aviation, Technology & Services Division (Chair)
Russell Hoore	AMSL Aero
Reece Clothier	Australian Association for Unmanned Systems/President
Adam Welsh	DJI/Head of Public Policy, APAC
Meg Kummerow	National Farmers Federation/CEO of Fly the Farm and member of the NFF
Jackie Dujmovic	Hover UAV/CEO
Natasha Santha	LEK Consulting Australia/Partner
Nuria Ruiperez	Minerals Council of Australia/Principal Adviser Skills & Innovation
Terry Martin	Revolution Aero/Queensland University of Technology/CEO/Professor
Clem Newton-Brown	Skyportz/Director
Marion Hiriart	Swoop Aero/Aviation Strategy and Government Relations Manager
Jesse Suskin	Wing/Head of government Relations and Public Policy
Benedict Lyons	Department/Acting Assistant Secretary, Safety and Future Technology Branch
Ross Slater	Department/Acting Director, Safety and Future Technology Branch
Stephanie Werner	Department/First Assistant Secretary, Domestic Aviation & Reform
Kai Everist	Department/Assistant Secretary, Aviation White Paper and Reform Branch
Katherine Bryant	Department/A/g Director, Domestic, Aviation & Reform
Danika Thomas	Department/Safety and Future Technology Branch
Sarah Lewis	Department/Assistant Director, Secretariat, Safety and Future Technology Branch
Jenny McGann	Department/Secretariat, Safety and Future Technology Branch
Observers	
Luke Gumley	Airservices Australia
Pradeep de Silva	Department/CASA Secondee