

# **Terms of Reference for the Airspace Review within 40 Nautical Miles of Darwin aerodrome, Northern Territory.**

## **Background**

Section 13 of the Airspace Act 2007 requires the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to conduct regular reviews of Australian-administered airspace. The Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) is responsible for conducting these reviews on behalf of CASA. The OAR determines the need and priority for an airspace review based on information provided in a Quarterly Risk Indicator Report. The report of 2010 indicated that Darwin airspace was adequate in addressing the level of risk that exists. The airspace review will assess the suitability of the airspace from ground level to 6500ft. AMSL within 40 Nautical Miles (NM) of Darwin aerodrome and review risks related to aircraft incidents.

The previous airspace review of Darwin aerodrome was conducted in 2010.

## **Objectives**

The objective of the airspace review is to determine if the current airspace structure around Darwin aerodrome is appropriate and safe for aviation activity. The review will also consider:

- efficient use of the airspace;
- equitable access to the airspace for all airspace users;
- national security issues
- environmental issues
- appropriateness of the airspace classification; and
- appropriateness of the services and facilities provided by the air navigation service provider (ANSP).

Where required, the review will:

- Conduct a brief comparison of risk of other Australian and/or foreign aerodromes with similar movement and passenger numbers;
- Assess the ability of a service provider to deliver services to support changes in airspace classification or structure.
- Assess the possible implications of future aerodrome and local infrastructure developments that may change the nature of aviation activity at Darwin.

## **Scope**

The scope of the review includes:

- A risk assessment of the airspace within 40 NM of Darwin aerodrome;
- Consultation with stakeholders to gather and validate data that will inform the airspace review. These may include (but not be limited to):
  - Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
  - Department of Defence;
  - Airservices Australia;
  - Australian Transport Safety Bureau;
  - Local Council;
  - Aerodrome operators;
  - Domestic passenger transport and freight operators;
  - Charter operators;
  - Resident aircraft maintenance organisations;
  - Both resident flying training organisations and those within the 40NM Radius
  - Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia (AOPA);
  - Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA);
  - Recreational Aviation Association of Australia (RA-Aus);
  - Australian Parachute Federation (APF);
  - Australian Balloon Federation (ABF);
  - Gliding Federation of Australia (GFA);
  - Australian and International Pilots Association (AIPA);
  - Australian Airports Association (AAA);
  - Civil Air; and
  - The local RAPAC.
    - Review and update recommendations from the previous Airspace Review;
    - Identify possible options to adjust or amend current airspace arrangements.

## **Outside Scope**

- On and off-airport infrastructure developments that will not impact current or future airspace arrangement.

**Duration**

The Airspace Review report is to be available to industry for final consultation within two months of the review being approved. Target date for the Darwin airspace review is end of June 2019. The draft report is to be provided to the OAR Manager at least two weeks prior to the target date.