

Media Release

Friday, 4 April 2025

Australian Airports Association Northern Territory Division Meeting: Out of Isolation and Into Innovation

Airport Development Group (ADG) was pleased to host the Australian Airports Association (AAA) Northern Territory Division Meeting on Thursday, 3 April, bringing together airport operators from across the Territory. The event provided a valuable platform for industry leaders to engage with the AAA on strategic priorities, policy updates, and advocacy efforts that shape the future of aviation in Australia.

AAA Chief Executive Simon Westaway, along with members of the AAA policy and management team, provided updates into the association's national strategy, industry trends, and key policy developments affecting airports across the region. The theme of the forum, *Out of Isolation and Into Innovation*, resonated strongly with attendees, highlighting the importance of connectivity, collaboration, and forward-thinking solutions in the aviation sector.

Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with Ms Hayley Richards, Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations, to gain insights into the Northern Territory Government's economic and trade initiatives.

Airport Development Group provided an update on major airport infrastructure projects, including the Darwin runway rebuild, as well as developments at Darwin International Airport, Alice Springs Airport, and Tennant Creek Airport. A dedicated session on managing isolated airstrips and implementing innovative solutions was well received, with participants discussing strategies to enhance connectivity and operational efficiency across the Territory.

Tony Schulz, Manager of Alice Springs Airport and Chair of the AAA NT Division, highlighted the success of the forum: *"This event has been a fantastic opportunity to bring together airport operators, industry experts, and government representatives to discuss innovative solutions that will strengthen our critical infrastructure. The variety of presentations and the quality of discussions reaffirm the essential role our airports play in connecting communities across the Northern Territory and beyond."*

AAA Chief Executive Simon Westaway reinforced the significance of the Division forums: *"AAA Division meetings are held in each State and Territory annually and provide a great opportunity for members to hear first-hand about industry developments. These forums ensure we remain closely connected to the needs of our regional airports and continue advocating for policies that support their growth and sustainability."*

The AAA Northern Territory Division Meeting reaffirmed the importance of collaboration, innovation, and strategic investment in the aviation sector. As the industry continues to evolve, forums like this will play a crucial role in shaping the future of airport operations across Australia.