



International Civil Aviation Organization

Sixth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Wildlife Hazard
Management Working Group (AP-WHM/WG/6)

Bangkok, Thailand, 14 to 17 May 2024

**Agenda Item 3: Global, Regional and National Guidance/Best Practices on
Wildlife Hazard Management**

**UPDATE FROM
AUSTRALIAN AVIATION WILDLIFE HAZARD GROUP (AAWHG) 2023/24
AND
INTERNATIONAL FORUM – 13-15 AUGUST 2024, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

(Presented by Chair AAWHG/Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of the key achievements of the AAWHG since AP-WHM/WG/5 (2023/24) and advises details of the upcoming International Forum planned for August 2024 in Melbourne, Australia on 13-15 August 2024.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group (AAWHG) is formally designated as the primary aviation wildlife hazard management reference body in Australia. The AAWHG has been established and active since 2003 and fulfils Australia's commitment to have a national bird strike committee as recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); and is a key hazard specific working group of the Australian Aviation State Safety Programme (SSP).

1.2 As part of its active engagement with the various parts of the aviation industry, the AAWHG holds two different types of externally interfaced, massed events each year and alternates between the two types. The first being known as a *Forum* (much like a conference) with a formalized agenda, theme, topics and list of speakers and the second being a *Workshop*. As the name suggests, the Workshop is more focused on facilitating an all of industry, engaged development of supporting materials, guidance and Recommended Practices.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 **2023/24 Update.** Following a very successful Forum held in September 2022 and briefed at AP-WHM/WG/5 (*see* AP-WHM/WG/5 – IP/04; *Summary of Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group (AAWHG) Forum – 14-15 September 2022, Adelaide, Australia*), 2023 was a Workshop year.

2.2 The 2023 Workshop was held at Gold Coast Airport, Queensland in October and focused on updating and finalising several of our Recommended Practices (RPs). The RPs worked on during the workshop were:

- ‘Wildlife strike reporting and record keeping’,
- ‘Wildlife Strike Minimisation (aircraft-based mitigation)’ and
- ‘Training and competency for ATC’.

An existing RP, ‘Training and competency: flight crew’ was reviewed and updated.

2.3 The workshop was highly successful and brought together subject matter experts across the whole spectrum of the aviation industry from flight operations, ANS providers, aerodrome operators, airworthiness, Regulators, Investigators and experts in science, biology and animal behaviour.

2.4 The AAWHG intends to showcase the work associated with the Workshop and the newly developed and updated RPs in the lead up to and at the 2024 International Forum (*see below* for more information).

2.5 **2024 International Forum.** Normally held every two years (alternating with a workshop), the AAWHG Forum is a highlight of the aviation wildlife hazard management calendar, attracting industry representatives from around the world to discuss best practice aviation wildlife hazard management and safety.

2.6 The forum attracts professionals from across the aviation industry, including airport operators and ground crew, airlines, pilots, service and equipment suppliers, wildlife specialists, trainers, ATC/ANSPs, accident investigators and regulators.

2.7 In 2024, the AAWHG International Forum will be held in Melbourne, Australia and hosted by the Melbourne Zoo from the 13-15 August 2024. (*See [AAWHG 2024 Forum](#)*). The theme for the 2024 event will be ‘*Sharing the Responsibility*’, and as such will feature presentations and speakers from all facets of the aviation industry. Additionally, it is expected we will be hosting speakers from North America, Asia and Pacific, Africa and Europe.

2.8 A Call for Speakers has recently closed but given the close relationship that the AAWHG has with the AP- WHM/WG, should any members have the support of their State to attend and wish to present, this may be able to be facilitated. Please advise the Chair of the AAWHG ASAP if this is the case.

2.9 Additionally, for planning purposes, any international attendees should note the intention to have a dedicated, invite only day immediately preceding the Forum on the 12th August, where all international guests, be they presenting or not, are able to meet, network and informally discuss their successes, challenges and opportunities.

2.10 The event is expected to be attended by more than 100 participants (the largest event of its kind for the AAWHG yet) with representation across the full range of technical domains in aviation relevant to WHM, including aerodromes, air operators, ANSPs, State Safety Programme partner agencies and senior management.

2.11 At the conclusion of day-one of the event, Industry Excellence Awards and Certificates of Commendation will be presented.

Conclusion

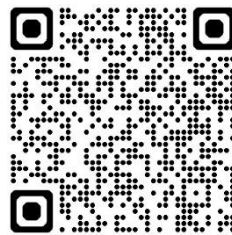
2.12 The risk posed to aviation through realization of wildlife hazards is one that reaches all aspects and domains of the aviation system. The hazard is not uniquely an aerodrome problem but is a system-wide problem and through the understanding of this and the integration of the management of this hazard and the associated risk truly effective outcomes can be realised in even the most challenging of environments and across all aviation domains.

2.13 The AAWHG annual events, Workshops and Forums bring together all aspects of the aviation system, to share experiences, knowledge and understanding and ultimately achieve a greater level of effectiveness in the management of the ever-present risk posed by wildlife to aviation.

2.14 More information and Registration details can be found at:

[AAWHG 2024 Forum](#)

or via



3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper
- b) advise of interest to attend &/or present; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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