



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

The Eighth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Wildlife Hazard  
Management Working Group (AP-WHM/WG/8)

*Bangkok, Thailand, 25 to 28 May 2026*

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

**2025/26 UPDATE FROM AUSTRALIAN AVIATION WILDLIFE HAZARD GROUP  
(AAWHG) AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – 1-3 SEPTEMBER 2026,  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

(Presented by Chair - AUSTRALIAN AVIATION WILDLIFE HAZARD GROUP (AAWHG))

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents a summary of the key achievements of the AAWHG since AP-WHM/WG/7, and advises details of the upcoming AAWHG Conference planned to occur in Sydney, Australia 1-3 September 2026.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group (AAWHG), established in 2003, is formally designated as the primary aviation Wildlife Hazard Management (WHM) reference body in Australia. It fulfils Australia's commitment to establish 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 events, alternating each year. The first is a Conference with a formalized programme, theme, topics and list of speakers and the second is a Workshop. As the name suggests, the Workshop is more focused on facilitating industry engagement and education. It is also used to develop supporting materials, guidance and Recommended Practices relating to WHM in Australia.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2025-26 update

2.1 Following a very successful Conference held in 2024, the AAWHG facilitated an aviation industry Workshop in 2025. The Workshop was held in Sydney, Australia on 12 – 13 August, and was attended by over fifty members of the aviation industry, including airlines, environmental consultants, airports and government.

2.2 The Programme provided learning opportunities through the presentation of case studies and group discussion. Topics included collaboration with government, information sharing, Australia's National Airports Safeguarding Framework, and emerging technologies. Two evening field-trips were included, one involving observation of a flying fox camp fly-out.

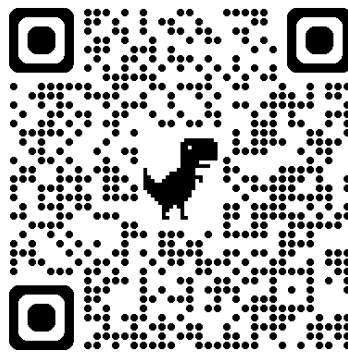
### 2026 AAWHG Conference

2.3 Following on from the successful Workshop in 2025, the AAWHG is scheduled to host an International Conference in 2026. This Conference will be held on 1 – 3 September in Sydney, Australia at the Qantas Group Headquarters, not far from Sydney International Airport.

2.4 The event is expected to be attended by over 100 participants with representation across the full range of technical domains in aviation relevant to WHM. AAWHG has secured the well-known wildlife management expert Dr Richard Dolbeer as key-note speaker for the Conference.

2.5 The theme of the Conference is ‘The jigsaw: bringing the pieces together’ and will bring together international and national subject matter experts from across the aviation industry – flight operations, ANS providers, aerodrome operators, airworthiness, regulators, investigators and experts in science, biology and animal behaviour as well as land-use planners and local government authorities with the aim of encouraging a wholistic safety system centric approach to WHM.

2.6 The 2026 Conference does not require an invitation to attend and is open to all who are interested; please note – registration in advance is essential. Full details of the event can be found on the [AAWHG website](#) or at:



### **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 and/or present at the AAWHG Conference; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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