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Agenda Item 5: ATFM/SG - MET SG Joint Session

METEOROLOGICAL COLLABORATIVE DECISION MAKING

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on MET Collaborative Decision Making (MET CDM) process in support of Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) at major capital city aerodromes in Australia.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Airport arrival rates (AARs) at four major aerodromes in Australia (Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth) through Ground Delay Program (GDP) are currently determined by referencing the Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) and a set of pre-determined business rules to determine future runway configurations and expected AAR. However, the TAF is not ideal for this application because some ATFM decisions require more tailored meteorological information.
- 1.2 MET CDM is now being introduced to support optimisation of planned AARs by taking into consideration more detailed and relevant forecast weather information.
- 1.3 MET CDM Phase 1 was trialed in Brisbane and Melbourne and has proved that the MET CDM capability would benefit Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) at these major airports. Brisbane and Melbourne have recently transitioned to as Business as Usual (BAU) MET CDM, with real time monitoring.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 MET CDM PROCESS

- 2.1.1 The MET CDM process involves a collaboration of Airservices Australia (Airservices) operational staff, Australian Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) meteorologists and major airline meteorological specialists to generate products suitable for better pre-tactical traffic management strategies and optimised use of available runway capacity.
- 2.1.2 MET CDM improves the process to meet the ATFM requirements for the major airports through the combination the Bureau's meteorologists embedded in Airservices National Operations Centre (NOC MET), Airline MET units, Qantas Mets and Virgin Australia Mets known as AVMETs and Airservices NOC.

- 2.1.3 The meteorologists use Reference Cards, mutually determined business rules and regular consultation with Airservices personnel to determine a proposed AAR taking into consideration all relevant ATFM factors and having collaborated between Bureau centres and AVMETs. The combination of meteorology and relevant ATFM factors combined with a formal collaborative process is a critical success factor for MET CDM. See **Attachment 1** for an example of Brisbane Airport Reference Card.
- 2.1.4 This new MET product has resulted in significant traffic flow efficiencies including better AARs in marginal forecast conditions, reduced AARs when more significant events occur and a combination of reduced holding and better recovery times after significant event.

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF MET CDM CAPABILITY

2.2.1 Capability

MET CDM provides additional capability for the GDP airports via:

- enhanced weather forecast products providing more detail of weather phenomena of importance to ATFM at the airport;
- more accurate prediction of AARs;
- automated and standardised interpretation of the TAF based on agreed MET CDM business rules for AARs;
- incorporation of manually input forecast variances by the NOC MET team based on advice from the Regional Forecast Centres, Sydney Airport MET Unit (SAMU) and the MET CDM process;
- consideration of non-weather impacts on runway selection, e.g. runway works; and
- automated determination of anticipated runway configurations and AARs.

2.2.2 Process

MET CDM enhances existing ATFM procedures as seen by the:

- provision of additional meteorological information to enhance collaboration with CDM Participants;
- introduction of a MET CDM AAR Calculator, a tool developed in Microsoft Excel (the MET CDM "Calculator") that applied a set of agreed business rules to produce a matrix of AAR and associated forecast information (see **Attachment 2**);
- NOC MET provides better accountability on the calculator proforma for the rationale behind AAR decisions;
- Airservices managers gain a more comprehensive meteorological briefing relevant to GDP airports;
- Provision of a process to continuously improve, refine and document MET CDM.

2.2.3 Relationship and Communication

The communication and collaboration process is as follows:

- NOCMET monitors forecast products TAF, TTF, Aerodrome Briefing, Warnings etc;
- NOCMET discusses any underlying issues with the forecasters for the major airports;
- NOCMET generates an acceptance rates matrix using MET CDM AAR Calculator based on the forecast and using the rates tables in the MET CDM Reference Cards. Matrix would be hour/weather phenomena of importance/acceptance rate to whatever the forecast timeline required;
- NOCMET convenes a MET CDM conference with AVMET units and modifies rates accordingly. Notes key points in discussion and the final decisions;
- MET CDM rates table passed to Airservices Traffic Management for discussion and final decision on acceptance rates by Airservices / Traffic Manager; and

• NOCMET liaises with Airservices and AVMET units regarding changes to forecasts that might impact the MET CDM rates. Conducts further MET CDM discussions as appropriate.

Figure 1 and 2 summarises the MET CDM process and the review cycle.

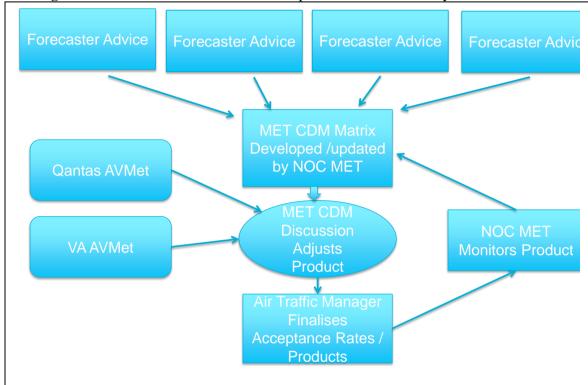


Figure 1: Met CDM Process

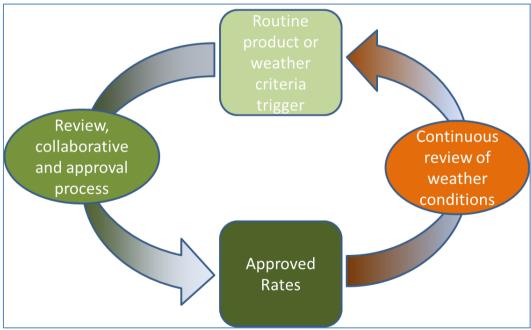


Figure 2: Continuous review cycle of the MET CDM workflow

2.3 MET CDM TRIAL AND OUTCOMES

2.3.1 Trial Process

The trials are broken into three stages:

- Ghosting
- Operational trial
- Business as Usual (BAU) transition

During the ghosting and operational trial stages the MET CDM process runs in parallel with "business as usual" activities.

Trial results are compared with the BAU results and evaluated to determine the level of confidence in the process. This stage lasts about six weeks.

When sufficient confidence is achieved, the parallel activities revert to the MET CDM process. The MET CDM calculator has been updated as process refinements are identified.

2.3.1 Outcomes

The outcomes of MET CDM include:

- Recovery of arrival slots in the shoulder periods of a TS;
- Reduced ground delay of GDP;
- Better balance of demand and capacity during periods of TS;
- Better predictability of the impact of weather events; and
- Better appreciation of airline expectations from TCU Managers.

3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) note the information contained in this papers; and
 - b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.



YBBN Air Traffic Operations

Brisbane is the third busiest international airport in Australia consisting of two converging runways in the direction 01/19 magnetic and 14/32 magnetic.

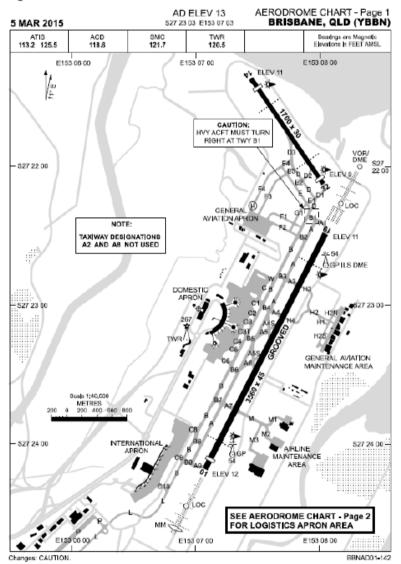


Figure 1: Brisbane Airport Aerodrome Chart

(Source: Airservices Australia)

Noise Abatement

There is no curfew at Brisbane airport. However, noise abatement procedures apply.

From 10.00pm to 6.00am, providing wind and traffic management safety requirements permit, Reciprocal Runway Operations (RRO) are used to enable aircraft to depart and land over Moreton

Bay. The preferred runway mode is Runway 19 for arrivals and Runway 01 for departures.

At other times, the preferred runways are, in order: Runway 01, Runways 14/32, and Runway 19.

(Changes to the previous version have been highlighted in yellow)

Version 8.0



Terminal Area (TMA)

This term is used to describe the designated area of controlled airspace surrounding a major airport where there is a high volume of traffic. The Terminal Area (TMA) is a 30nm radial area surrounding Brisbane Airport.

The TMA is divided into segments called corridors for arriving and departing aircraft. For Brisbane Airport the main airport arrival corridors are to the N and S which are estimated to be used by approximately 45% of traffic each.

Airport Acceptance Rates (AAR)

Runway configurations allow up to 59 movements (arrivals plus departures) per hour at Brisbane Airport. A maximum planned airport acceptance rate (AAR) of 28 can only occur during the use of both runways for arrivals (refer to section below on CROPS).

METRON - Ground Delay Program

Airservices Australia run a Ground Delay Program (GDP) at Brisbane Airport. The new application called Harmony (produced by Metron Aviation) is an advanced Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) application capable of simultaneously managing traffic flows at multiple airports.

Essentially, when delays are foreseen to occur because of capacity and demand imbalances, these delays are assigned to the aircraft at their location of departure, rather than in the air in the vicinity of their destination.

An aircraft that departs significantly before their assigned Calculated Off-Blocks Time (COBT) will be given enroute delays to meet their programmed time of landing. Aircraft that complied with their assigned COBT will be given priority. The maximum benefit of the system will only occur if all users comply.

The Harmony application is run at the Airservices National Operations Centre (NOC) based on the 06Z TAF to plan rates for the subsequent day. The Bureau's NOCMET staff are co-located at the NOC and supply additional information critical to decisions surrounding the running of the Ground Delay Programs.

The ground delay program can be revised at any time.

Runway Direction

It is important to remember that although runway direction is annotated in magnetic co-ordinates, wind direction is reported in degrees true. The conversion for Brisbane Airport is as follows:

Table 1: Brisbane Runway Direction Conversion Table

| CONVENSION TUDIC | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Magnetic | True | | | | | | |
| 010 | 027 | | | | | | |
| 190 | 207 | | | | | | |
| 140 | 146 | | | | | | |
| 320 | 326 | | | | | | |

*Please note that you refer to a runway direction as it is being travelled on. Using RWY19 means landing and departing towards the SSW. As opposed to how meteorologists report wind direction.

Nomination Of Runways

The nomination of runway is determined by Air Traffic Control (ATC) using a preferred landing or take-off direction. ATC shall not nominate a particular runway for use if an alternative runway is available, when:

Table 2: Runway Wind Thresholds

| Crosswind >20kts >20kts | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Downwind >5kts >0kts | |

(*Please note that thresholds relate to sustained wind gusts as well as mean wind speeds.)

If possible, aircraft will take off and land with a head wind. A tail wind on landing is acceptable up to 5 knots, or not at all when the runway is wet. When departing with a tail wind, the Take-off Distance increases so the runway length is important. With a cross wind component exceeding 20 knots, an alternative landing runway will be planned. It is important to note that departures and arrivals do not have to occur on the same runway.

The MET CDM Calculator uses 0kt downwind as a filter for initial selection of RWY 01 or 19. For wind within the arc 286 - 106° nominate RWY 01. If wind is VRB or excessive crosswind, nominate RWY 19.

One other thing to keep in mind is the length of the runway. Landing and take-off distances differ per aircraft-type, weight, atmospheric pressure and temperature; the active runway will have to be able to accommodate the majority of traffic. This is a significant constraint on the use of the short runway (14/32) at Brisbane. Thus, RWY 01 or 19 must always be nominated as not all aircraft can land on 14/32

Forecasting for Brisbane Airport

Forecasters for Brisbane Airport have the ability to contact NOCMET for information on the operational effect caused by a TAF amendment. Alternatively, forecasters may contact Brisbane Centre directly if the need arises.

(Changes to the previous version have been highlighted in yellow)



It is expected that forecasters can provide meaningful information to Air Traffic Controllers regarding Brisbane Airport when requested.

Peak Times

Generally peak demand for traffic movements at Brisbane airport occur between Sunday to Friday 5-10pm, and Monday to Saturday 7-11am. Additional loading occurs on both a Monday morning and a Friday afternoon.

The forecasting of holding near or during these hours must be considered carefully. The removal or movement of holding that affects these periods should prompt a call to NOCMET prior to the TAF amendment.

Wind Forecasts

The TAF can be used by forecasters to routinely provide information about wind speed and directional changes that affect ATC decisions about runway changes.

Accurately forecasting a strong cross wind on a runway is important in planning. Instances can occur where a strong cross wind component is forecast on both runway directions. Air Traffic Control has a process of dealing with this issue.

Thunderstorms at YBBN

Thunderstorm cells within 5-10nm of Brisbane Airport affect the ability of aircraft to land and the provision of services to aircraft once on the ground. The movements of aircraft into and out of bays are affected due to ramp closures and the removal of ground staff from the tarmac.

Airline WHS regulations require the removal of ground staff from the tarmac when a thunderstorm is within 5nm, with an 'on-alert' status for a thunderstorm within 10nm. This decision is an important part of the duties of the Virgin and Qantas meteorologists.

In prolonged thunderstorm events this can lead to a backlog of aircraft waiting on the ground to be handled. By accurately forecasting thunderstorms on a TAF the planned acceptance rate at Brisbane is dropped thereby mitigating airport concestion.

Additionally the ability of forecasters to predict or recognise wind outflow from nearby thunderstorms is important in the management of tactical runway changes.

Thunderstorms in the TMA (30nm)

Thunderstorms within the Terminal Area (TMA - 30nm) also affect operations. Specifically thunderstorms in the entry corridors to the northwest and southeast of Brisbane airport have major impacts on traffic flow.

Thunderstorms to the south and southeast have a particular effect on Brisbane airport. The main departure corridor for Brisbane lies to the south and the main arrival corridor lies to the southeast. Organized thunderstorms that occur to the south and southeast and stalls near the ocean represent a major complication for air traffic both arriving and departing Brisbane.

When the weather falls below the minima at YBGC, aircraft will often divert to Brisbane. This potential for conditions to be observed below the minima at Gold Coast is important to capacity planning at Brisbane and needs to be highlighted in the METCDM process.

The ability to forecast organized thunderstorms in these areas can provide Airservices the capability to open additional corridors and re-route aircraft to minimise delays.

Within the TMA, any thunderstorms within 10nm present a specific problem for aircraft trying to join the initial approach for an ILS runway.

Fog

Fog can occur at Brisbane Airport at any time of the year but is more typical between April and October. There are around 7 events on average annually, lasting between 2-4hrs.

The inclusion of a PROB30 for fog onto the YBBN TAF does not trigger a revision of the arrival rates into Brisbane Airport. However a forecast on the TAF of PROB40 is treated as if the fog will occur and the planned arrival rates are dropped to 12 (or as negotiated).

The planning of arrival rates surrounding the cessation of fog at the airport is dependent on the timing on the TAF and TTF. It is critical that forecasters amend the fog period or remove fog from the TAF when appropriate.

Cloud/Visibility

Low cloud and/or reduced visibility on approach will necessitate the use of an instrument approach when a visual reference with the runway is not available. Any instrument approach has a specified decision height (landing minima) at which a 'missed approach' must be initiated if the required visual reference to continue the approach still has not been established.

This decision height (DH) will depend on the available equipment that is available for the runway and can vary widely, but is of the order of 250ft AGL for an Instrument Landing System (ILS) category 1, the most common instrument approach on runways at Australian major airports. Brisbane currently has ILS



category 1 approaches available for runways 01 and 19 only.

Visibility and cloud are less critical during take-off, with most commercial jet aircraft allowed to depart with visibility over 550m.

Cloud and visibility have a large effect on airport acceptance rates at Brisbane Airport. Scattered or more cloud below 2500ft can effect operations, as seen in the Table 3 and 4 below.

CROPS

Converging Runway Operations (CROPS) procedures at Brisbane Airport were developed by Airservices Australia to enhance the capacity of the airport. This allowed for simultaneous approaches, or arrivals and departures, for certain runway configurations in visual conditions. This mode of operation is available between first and last light only with arrivals on RWY14 or RWY32 converging with the use of RWY01. When available, this mode permits the aircraft arrival rate to be increased by around three to five aircraft per hour.

Weather and air traffic permitting, RWY 32 can also be used for departing smaller aircraft, operating independently of arrivals and departures on RWY01. This mode is generally used during periods when there are more departures than arrivals and can reduce delays.

Figure 2 below illustrates the modes possible when CROPS are in operation.



Figure 2: Depiction of Converging Runway Operations (CROPS) Modes

Forecast meteorological conditions that may prevent CROPS procedures include:

- · cloud amounts of scattered or more below 2500ft;
- visibility below 8km;
- · reported or forecast moderate/severe turbulence on final;
- · reported windshear; and
- · thunderstorms;

Aircraft are required to be clear of cloud and in sight of ground or water. These criteria are in addition to the wind thresholds for the runways.

Specifically a forecast wind from the NE quadrant producing <5kts downwind on the runway is optimal for CROPS. The CROPS mode is not available outside of Visual Meteorological Conditions (VMC) or outside daylight hours.

DROPS

Dependent Runway Operations (DROPS) procedures at Brisbane Airport were established on 15th December 2014. The procedure was developed by Airservices Australia to enable near simultaneous approaches on Runways 19 and 14 in visual

(Changes to the previous version have been highlighted in yellow)



meteorological conditions. DROPS is not currently in use at Brisbane and this section is

Separation of aircraft for wake turbulence is not required in this runway configuration. Additionally, the aircraft arriving RWY19 will always be broken off the procedure when there is a doubt that required spacing will not be achieved. (Aircraft break out procedures vectors aircraft off the approach path in response to aircraft penetrating minimum spatial separation standards).

This procedure will not be operated where its operation would reduce the Airport Acceptance Rate (AAR) below a single runway rate.

Figure 3 below illustrates the modes possible when DROPS are in operation.



Figure 3: Depiction of Dependent Runway Operations (DROPS) Modes

Forecast meteorological conditions that may prevent DROPS procedures include:

- · cloud amounts of scattered or more below 3000ft;
- · visibility below 8km;
- · reported or forecast moderate/severe turbulence on final;
- · reported windshear; and
- thunderstorms;

Table 3: Summary of Decision Point Triggers

| Phenomena | Criteria | Potential Effect |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Cloud (>3octas) | <4000ft | Instrument approach on RWY01 |
| | <3000ft | Instrument approach on RWY19, no DROPS |
| | <2500ft | Reduced rate, no CROPS |
| | <1500ft | Reduced rate, Instrument approach |
| Visibility | <8000m | Reduced rate, no CROPS/DROPS |
| | <5000m | Reduced rate, Instrument landing |
| | <1500m | Reduced rate, Fog |
| X-Wind | >20kts | Change of runway |
| Downwind | >5kts/0kts (dry/wet) | Change of runway |

(Changes to the previous version have been highlighted in yellow)



Summary - Weather Effects on Runway Modes

The effect of weather on the availability of runway modes at Brisbane Airport is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4: Airport MET CDM Weather Criteria & Transitional Runway Rates at YBBN

| | Table 4. Airport MET CDM Weather Chieffa & Transitional Runway Rates at 1 BBN | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------|--|--|---|
| | RWY | Config | Cloud Ceiling (ft) | Cond | Visibility (m) | Exclusions | Rate | MET CDM: Application | Acceptance Rate Bracket | Rationale |
| T . | 01 | VMC | >4000 | VIS | >5000 | | 24 | | | Assessment of likely timing and impact on ATFM within a probabilistic event. |
| F M | | | | | | | | Thunderstorms | 18-22 | Thunderstorm rates can be applied if the MET |
| | 01 | IMC | >1500 | VIS | >5000 | | 24 | | | CDM process estimates a significant risk and there are no TS on the TAF. |
| B | | | | | | | | CROPE PROPE From | Single runway rates from business rules. | Factors affecting CROPS / DROPS that may |
| s | 01 | ILS | <1500 | VIS | >1500 | | 21 | CROPS/DROPS from business rules but MET | | not be conveyed in the TAF. |
| i | 19 | VMC | >3000 | VIS | >5000 | | 24 | CDM estimates No | | Ie. Wet runway and tail wind component, moderate turbulence, X-wind Gusts 20kts+. |
| e e | 19 | IMC | >1500 | VIS | >5000 | | 24 | CROPS /DROPS | ousiness rules. | SCT cloud below 2500ft, any other factors. |
| S | 10 | | -1500 | 7770 | . 1500 | | 21 | No CROPS/DROPS | CROPS/ | TAF change groups may not reflect |
| | 19 | ILS | <1500 | VIS VIS | >1500 | | 21 | from business rules but MET CDM estimates CROPS/DROPS possible 25-28 +2 to -2 Positive numbers cannot be applied to exceed the | DROPS | availability of CROPS/DROPS due to change group criteria. |
| R | 14 | VMC | | VIS | >5000 | | 12 | | | Ie. Wind direction changes, reduction in cloud. |
| u. | 14 | IMC | | **** | | | 12 | | | Late afternoon reduction in wind. |
| 1 | 32 | VMC | | VIS | >5000 | | 12 | | | |
| e | | FOG | | | <1500 | | 12 | | | There may be phenomena that affect traffic flow that are not conveyed in the TAF or are not part of the business rules. |
| , | 01/14 | CROPS | >2500 | VIS | >8000 | HN,TS | 28 | | | |
| Ш | 01/32 | CROPS | >2500 | VIS | >8000 | HN,TS | 26 | | | |
| П | 19/14 | DROPS | >3000 | VIS | >8000 | HN,TS | 25 | | | i.e. TMA thunderstorms, thunderstorms with probs below 30%, low level wind shear and other met factors. |
| П | RWY | Config | Cloud Ceiling | Cond | TAF info | Exclusions | Rate | | cannot be | |
| | * | TS1 | | TS | INT30 | | 22 | | ** | |
| | * | TS2 | | TS | INT40 | | 21 | | maximum rate | 2. Certainty in a severe event. |
| | * | TS3 | | TS | TEMP30 | | 20 | | | 3. Transitions between closer acceptance rates. i.e. 26, 24, 22 instead of 26, 22, 22 for a 3 |
| | * | TS4 | | TS | TEMP40 | | 19 | | | |
| Ш | * | TS | | TS | * | | 18 | | | hour period. |

Note 1: IMC refers to sig cloud to west below 4000FT and/or sig cloud to east below 3000FT. Vis 5km or more

Note 2 ILS refers to cloud below 1500FT and/or vis less than 5km.

Note 3: Specific meteorological conditions required for CROPs: visibility, cloud, etc

(Source: Airservices Australia)



This is a reference card intended to educate users on the phenomena that affect Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) and is based on information obtained from Airservices Australia. The card was accurate on 02/09/2015 – Version 8.0, but may be subject to short term changes that are not reflected in this document. There may also be other factors beyond the meteorological conditions affecting ATFM on any particular day. Airservices Australia, NOC should be contacted for all day of operations information related to arrival/departure rates and runway configurations. Please email any feedback, corrections or comments to SRAT@bom.gov.au.

www.bom.gov.au

ATTACHMENT B - Example of Melbourne MET CDM Matrix

