

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Wildlife Hazard Management Essentials online training course launched**

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has launched a new online education program to help airport and aerodrome operators around Australia manage the risk to aviation safety caused by wildlife.

According to data from the Australian Transportation Safety Board (ATSB), most of the wildlife hazard risk comes from flying animals such as bats and flying foxes, swallows and martins, kites, and lapwings and plovers. Strikes involving ground-based animals were relatively rare, although the most common ground animals involved in wildlife strikes were hares and rabbits, kangaroos, wallabies, and dogs and foxes.

As part of its commitment to providing development and training opportunities for those working in the Australian airports industry and its focus on improved safety at our airports, the AAA has today released its latest online education program which is focused on Wildlife Hazard Management Essentials.

The course includes four modules including wildlife hazard management; development and monitoring a wildlife hazard management plan (WHMP); the identification of different wildlife hazards and control measures; and, wildlife strike reporting.

The AAA has taken the lead in developing industry-relevant online education materials to improve the knowledge and skills of those working in airport management and operational roles.

‘We have worked closely with airport operators to develop training programs relevant to their needs, especially airport operators in regional and remote areas who might not otherwise have easy access to the latest industry training and education opportunities,’ said AAA CEO, Caroline Wilkie.

‘Given the number of wildlife incident reports made to the ATSB each year and the potentially serious consequences for aviation safety, the AAA is pleased to be able to offer this training program on wildlife hazard management which will help airport operators to better manage the wildlife hazard risks at their aerodrome,’ Ms Wilkie said.

The Wildlife Hazard Management Essentials program was launched at the Victorian Division meeting of the AAA which is being held in association with the 2017 Airshow at Avalon Airport and attended by more than 60 airport industry representatives.

More information on the Wildlife Hazard Management Essentials program is available from [www.airporteducation.asn.au](http://www.airporteducation.asn.au)

### ***About the Australian Airports Association:***

*The Australian Airports Association has been representing airports across the country for the past 30 years. It represents 260 airport members, including all the capital city airports through to the small regional aerodromes of rural Australia. [www.airports.asn.au](http://www.airports.asn.au)*

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