A heads up that following the ABC reporting on Uber Elevate today https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-02-28/uber-air-plans-for-1000-strong-melbourne-helicopter-fleet/12007092, I understand there may be a series of radio interviews this afternoon. Uber hasn’t commented thus far but I understand they’ll very shortly (i.e. next few hours or on the weekend) be going on the front foot from this evening with some positive news items. The Department hasn’t been approached for comment. I’m in contact with both Invest Victoria and Uber. One of the key sources for the radio interviews is Clem Newton-Brown (former Member for Prahran in the Victorian Legislative Assembly) who has been very active in seeking commercial opportunities for drones/UAM in Australia, and who we know quite well.

With kind regards
Simon

Simon Moore
General Manager
Airspace Policy & International Programs
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications
t: 02 6274 7892
Hi Simon

Would 10am on Thursday work for a call?

Otherwise I'm free most mornings next week after the Easter break.

Thanks

Uber

On Sat, Apr 04, 2020 at 11:50:40, MOORE Simon <Simon.Moore@infrastructure.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Thanks for the update

Have you time for a chat this week at all, mostly just to touch base about timelines and if there’s any scope for Commonwealth action at this point?

With kind regards

Simon

Simon Moore
Assistant Secretary, COVID Aviation Assistance Package

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications
t 02 6274 7892 | m

OFFICIAL

Subject: Changes to Uber Air operational structure in Australia

Hi Simon

Hope you are keeping safe and well.

I wanted to provide an update on the operational structure of Uber’s Elevate team here in Australia.

[Name], who has for the last nine months been spearheading the Uber Air program in Melbourne, has announced her resignation. Her final day is today (April 3).

As you know, [Name] has been a staunch advocate for urban air aviation in Australia on behalf of the Uber Air program and will be missed. Despite this change, Melbourne remains a key part of the global launch plan.

[Name] will assume operational responsibility of the project in Melbourne and to assist partners with a smooth transition my team will be increasing our support of key stakeholders including the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications.

For any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly and I look forward to connecting with you in the near future.

Thanks

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Disclaimer

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If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the Department on (02) 6274-7111 and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.
Hi

Hope all is well and thanks for the heads up. I’ll let you know if we’re contacted also.

Separately, please don’t hesitate to let me know if you need anything Government-wise.

With kind regards
Simon

Simon Moore
Assistant Secretary, Airspace and International Programs
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications
t 02 6274 7892
deploying innovative solutions to make meaningful progress amid the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19

Thanks

Uber
Hi Simon

We have had a follow up enquiry today, and I just wanted to share what we have passed on to the journalist as additional detail (along with the original line on our commitment to Melbourne).

Thanks

On the record and attributable to an Uber spokesperson,

**When does Uber Air intend to run its first trial flights in Melbourne?**
“As Uber is not building and certifying vehicles ourselves, we must work with our vehicle partners for any test or demonstration flights. Most of our vehicle partners are developing their aircraft in the US, so we anticipate public demonstrations will happen there first.”

**Will noise from Uber Air flights be a major issue?**
“We believe that noise management is one of the most critical factors in public acceptance of aerial ridesharing. That’s why we’ve established noise targets for our partners’ vehicles that are 15-20dB lower than that of an equivalent helicopter.”

**On background:**

**Does it have any approval from CASA or Airservices yet to do so?**

**Does Uber Air intend Sydney to be the next city where a trial takes place after Melbourne?**
We haven’t announced any further intentions, but we believe that aerial ridesharing can ultimately provide benefits in many of the major cities in Australia, including Sydney.
Hi Elanor

Hi Elanor
Hope you're keeping safe and well and enjoying the long weekend.

We have had a recent media enquiry about Uber Air in Australia. I wanted to share the statement we'll be providing:

Uber remains committed to Melbourne as our first launch city outside of the United States. The Uber Air team will continue to work closely with our partners and assess the impact of this global health crisis to our timelines and adjust accordingly. We are currently focused on deploying innovative solutions to make meaningful progress amid the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19.

Thanks
Hi

Hope all is well and thanks for the heads up. I’ll let you know if we’re contacted also.
Hi Simon

Hope you're keeping safe and well?

As a heads up, I wanted to let you know we've had an enquiry over the weekend about the status of Uber Air in Australia. We'll be providing the following statement:

Separately, please don’t hesitate to let me know if you need anything Government-wise.

With kind regards

Simon

Simon Moore
Assistant Secretary, Airspace and International Programs
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Communications
t 02 6274 7892 |
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Hi Richard, Dace

I just now finished a long chat with Uber who kindly provided an early heads up on a planned Friday announcement that there won’t be UAM public demonstrations or test flights in Melbourne in 2020.

At the launch last year Uber foreshadowed test flights in 2020.

I’d be pleased to discuss any of this further, including what lessons there are here for other emerging aviation technologies to be attracted to Australia – electric motors for traditional aircraft being perhaps the most pressing and prominent example.

I’ll give [redacted] in the DPMO some visibility of this. Perhaps the Secretary may also find of some interest?

Simon

Hi Simon

Commercial in confidence
I wanted to provide an update to our public timelines for Uber Air in Melbourne, amid the continuing global impact of COVID-19, and give you a heads up on some proposed media we're planning on this to land on Friday.

Melbourne remains Uber’s first international expansion market for Uber Air beyond the United States. At all three levels of government, Melbourne is an ideal partner for Uber Air, with a forward-looking approach to ridesharing and future transport, a culture of innovation and technology and unique demographic and geospatial factors.

However, there will not be any public demonstrations or test flights hosted in the Victorian capital this year.

I have attached a proposed media release confirming this, which we've lined up with the Victorian Government on.

We will be undertaking an exclusive interview with David Swan at the Australian with Eric Alison, our Head of Elevate to support this, and are hoping to land it for Friday.

As always, feel free to give me a call with any questions.

Thanks

Uber
DRAFT Uber Newsroom Post

COVID-19 update to Uber Air timeline for Melbourne

Uber Air has met with Australian-based partners to provide an update on local timelines amid the continuing global impact of COVID-19.

With the ongoing support of our partners, Melbourne remains Uber Air’s first planned international expansion market beyond the United States but there will not be any public demonstrations or test flights hosted in the Victorian capital this year.

Just as we don't build cars to run on the ridesharing app, the Uber Air network requires partners to lead the construction and certification of eVTOL vehicles for Uber Air operations.

There are eight partners working to create the types of quiet, electric vehicles that will make aerial ridesharing a success and we have been encouraged by the progress of their advance towards flight test programs prior to COVID-19. However, the restrictions on international travel, quarantines, guidance preventing mass public gatherings and a rolling wave of infections has impacted timelines.

The Uber Air team remains focused on piloting the core technology in the United States first, because it is where most of our vehicle partners are already developing their aircraft and where many plan to receive certification.

All of the Uber vehicle partners are expected to progress initial vehicle certification in their home jurisdictions. Accordingly we anticipate public demonstrations will happen in North America first, but will not speculate when that might be as the ripple impact of COVID-19 has not yet been fully realised.

Uber Air is continuing to progress a safe, reliable, clean, quiet, and affordable air mobility service and will remain working with local partners to bring this vision to life.
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