



The Hon John Anderson MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader National Party of Australia

Senator Helen Coonan
Chair
Sydney Airport Community Forum
PO Box A301
Sydney South NSW 1235

Dear Senator Coonan

Thank you for your letter of 24 May 2001 conveying the outcomes of the meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum held on 16 May 2001.

It is disappointing that a number of members of the Forum have decided to resign in recent months as a result of their dissatisfaction with the outcomes of SACF. I fully support your view that residents of the areas formerly represented by these members should continue to have the opportunity to have their concerns and ideas presented to the Forum. I would therefore be very happy to receive nominations for persons to represent the communities who now find themselves without a member.

I have noted the Forum's concerns about incidences of more than 80 movements an hour occurring at Sydney Airport. I look forward to receiving further advice from you on this issue once the Forum has received briefing from the Department and Airservices Australia.

The Government remains committed to noise sharing under the Airport's Long Term Operating Plan. As you know, very strenuous efforts have been made since 1997 to reach the LTOP targets. I would encourage the Forum to put forward ideas on ways in which progress can be made toward reaching the targets without compromising the safety or efficiency of the Airport.

The Forum's resolutions concerning the sale of Sydney Airport have been noted.

I recognise the Forum's support for the construction of a new airport at Badgerys Creek. The Government has given lengthy and careful consideration to finding the best way to meet Sydney's future airport needs and concluded that it would be premature to build a second major airport at this time. However, the Government will retain ownership of the Badgerys Creek site and will legislate to protect the site from incompatible development in surrounding areas.

The Government has implemented a comprehensive regime to address the Airport's noise problems and I can assure you that LTOP, the movements cap and the curfew will not be altered.

In the context of the prospective sale of the Airport, I have recently advised Sydney Airports Corporation Ltd that the Airport will be required to submit a draft Master Plan by 31 January 2003. This extended deadline has regard to the anticipated complexity of the Airport's master planning process given the range of competing industry and community interests that will need to be balanced.

I have noted SACF's resolution that certain Government decisions in relation to Sydney Airport should be referred under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. I can assure you that I am mindful of my responsibilities under the Act and will continue to take all steps necessary to ensure that the legislation is fully complied with. I note that SACF's resolution has also been conveyed to the Minister responsible for the Act.

I am advised that the Minister for Environment and Heritage is still considering the use of the Precision Runway Monitor for landings from the north. I will take the views of the Forum into account when I consider the advice from the Environment Minister.

I welcome the Forum making a submission to the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning concerning the proposal to approve a residential subdivision in the Kurnell Sandhills. I have recently advised the NSW Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning of my very great concern about this project proceeding.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Minister Anderson 14 June 2001

JOHN ANDERSON