



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 10 July 2001 conveying the outcomes of the 30th meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum.

The Forum asked whether I intend to refer to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act), the decision not to proceed with a second Sydney airport at this time and the decision to make amendments to the Sydney Slot Management Scheme. As I do not consider that either of these actions may be or are controlled actions under the EPBC Act, I have not referred them to the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

I understand Members' concerns about the number of occasions when there are more than 80 movements per hour at Sydney Airport. While no more than 80 slots are being allocated for each hour, the practicalities of operating an airport dictate that from time to time there will be a transfer of movements from one hour to the next which takes the total movement numbers for a particular hour to over 80. As you know, this can be caused by a very slight variation in aircraft operating times.

I have noted that the Forum is continuing to examine this issue and I look forward to receiving further advice. I would welcome any practical suggestions from the Forum on ways to improve the administration of the Airport's Slot Management Scheme.

The proposed investigation into LTOP has the potential to be very useful. Clearly it is important that the Forum continues to press to find practical measures that can be implemented to improve the extent of noise sharing without compromising the safety or efficiency of the Airport.

Past practice of successive Governments has been to review the boundaries for eligibility for insulation under the Sydney Airport Noise Amelioration Program based on changes in aircraft operating patterns as reflected in the annual Australian Noise Exposure Index for the Airport. I can see no reason why this arrangement should not continue in the future and any necessary administrative arrangement be put in place to cater for the outcome of such reviews.

You indicate in your letter that the question of including Kurnell in the Airport's insulation program has been examined before. Despite a number of attempts, it has not been possible to arrive at a noise indicator which differentiates Kurnell from other suburbs around the airport which are also not eligible for insulation. I am very willing to consider Kurnell as a special case for insulation if you can provide evidence which demonstrates that Kurnell is being unfairly treated compared to other suburbs.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Minister Anderson 8 August 2001

JOHN ANDERSON