



## Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald

Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone 02 6277 7060 Facsimile 02 6273 7112 Email [MinRegion@dotrs.gov.au](mailto:MinRegion@dotrs.gov.au)

24 January 2001

Senator the Hon Robert Hill  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Qantas and Ansett recently wrote to Minister Anderson and you seeking to trial a new a Standard Terminal Arrival Route (STAR) procedure as part of the Precision Runway Monitor (PRM) Trial at Sydney Airport. The proposal would test whether 'power off' approaches as a part of PRM operations can lead to reductions in noise and emissions as aircraft manoeuvre to land at the Airport.

You may be aware that representatives of Qantas and Ansett provided a briefing on the proposed STAR to the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) at its meeting on 16 October 2000. You may also be aware that public concerns have emerged that the new procedure proposed by the airlines would lead to a concentration of flight paths. In addition, concerns have been expressed that amending the existing trial methodology at this relatively late stage would add further complexity to the process and 'muddy the waters' on the fundamental question of whether PRM should proceed.

The Chairman of SACF, Dr Brendan Nelson MP, has now written to Minister Anderson advising that SACF does not support a STAR evaluation being included in the existing PRM Trial.

Given the strong SACF stance on this issue, I believe that the best approach for us to adopt would be to defer conducting an evaluation of the STAR until after your Department has completed the PRM trial so that the two issues can be treated separately.

I believe that there is merit in exploring the potential for introducing 'power off' approaches at Sydney Airport. Indeed, I am advised that this is one of the remaining elements of the Sydney Airport Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) that has yet to be implemented. I therefore envisage, subject to your view, that the airlines, Airservices Australia and Environment Australia will, in consultation with SACF, examine ways in which these approaches can be integrated into the operations of the Airport without compromising the noise sharing principles of LTOP.



I have also written to Dr Nelson, Captain Trevor Jensen of Ansett, and Mr David Forsyth of Qantas, conveying my views.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Acting Minister 24 January 2001
--

Ian Macdonald  
Acting Minister for Transport and Regional Services