



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

Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Sydney Airport Community Forum
PO Box A301
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter of 15 August 2002 in which you conveyed the outcomes of the thirty-second meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF). I am pleased to hear that the meeting went well.

The delay in my reply to Senator Coonan's letter of 10 September 2001 was due to a number of significant factors, mainly the election with its extensive lead up period, the caretaker period and then settling the Government's administrative arrangements once the result was known.

I understand your concerns regarding the timeframe between the SACF meeting held on 12 July 2002 and the previous meeting in August 2001. I understand that the Department is intending to ensure that the meetings are held quarterly, in accordance with SACF's terms of reference.

In relation to the sale of Sydney Airport, I would like to reassure Forum members that the sale has not changed the Government's noise management policies in any way. The Government retains full regulatory control. The Airport is still subject to the 80 aircraft movements per hour planning cap, the curfew from 11pm to 6am, and the noise sharing policy implemented through the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP). In addition to this, the *Airports Act 1996* requires an airport operator to submit an airport Master Plan and Major Development Plans for my approval, following a minimum 90 day public comment process. This means that there can be no major development occurring on the Airport site without the community being fully consulted.

The decision to sell Sydney Airport was a whole of Government decision, in line with the previous decision to privatise Australia's major airports for a range of economic and operational benefits. The LTOP has made considerable inroads into solving the noise problems at Sydney, with three out of the four noise sharing targets for aircraft landing and taking off having been met and in some cases exceeded. Further delay of the sale would not have produced any more significant benefits.

In relation to the LTOP review, I understand we will be discussing this at our proposed meeting in the near future.

Regarding the slot allocation issue raised by the Forum, I understand that my Department is addressing this issue and will report to the Members at the next meeting.

I have been advised that officers of my Department met with Mr Kevin Hill in early August and are waiting on a written submission from him, in relation to Kurnell being considered as a special case under the noise amelioration scheme.

I appreciate the importance of the Forum in ensuring that competing demands of different communities are taken into account and that the effects of aircraft noise on Sydney residents are minimised.

Thank you for raising these matters with me and I trust that the next meeting set down for 20 September 2002 will run just as smoothly.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED BY MINISTER 16 September 2002

JOHN ANDERSON