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**The Hon Mark Vaile MP**

**Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Transport and Regional Services  
Leader of The Nationals**

*Reference: 08700-2007*

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

19 SEP 2007

Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter dated 28 August 2007 conveying the outcomes of the 50th meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum held on 8 June 2007.

I was pleased to note the appointment of Mr Pinney as Technical Adviser for Task Force 3 by Airservices Australia. I also note the Forum's continued interest in the recommendations made in the Australian National Audit Office's recent report on the Sydney Airport slots management scheme.

In reference to the motion requesting the introduction of ICAO-A departure procedures I am informed that Airservices Australia did introduce ICAO-A procedures following the Minister's 1998 media release. As Forum Members may be aware, ICAO subsequently replaced these departure procedures in November 2001 with new procedures known as Noise Abatement Departure Procedures (NADPs). The NADPs do not directly relate to the old procedures and this has caused some confusion.

I am advised that Airservices Australia is now working with Implementation and Monitoring Committee members to ensure that current NADP requirements mirror the original ICAO-A characteristics. The Australian Government remains committed to the implementation of effective aircraft noise procedures and Airservices Australia will implement any necessary changes to give effect to the Minister's August 1998 requirements.

Your efforts in facilitating a resolution of the appointment of the Aviation Community Advocate are appreciated. I was pleased to appoint Mr Williams to the position and look forward to his assisting the Sydney community in resolving environmental problems associated with the operation of Sydney Airport.

Thank you for keeping me informed of the interests of the Forum.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Vaile', written in a cursive style.

MARK VAILE