



**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Minister for Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development  
and Local Government  
Leader of the House

*Reference: 05974-2009*

01 SEP 2009

Mr Barry Cotter  
Chair  
Sydney Airport Community Forum  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Cotter *Barry,*

Thank you for your letter of 28 July 2009 conveying the outcomes of the meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) held on 10th July 2009.

In relation to the location of a second airport for Sydney, I restate the Australian Government's position put forward in the media statement released at the time I approved the Sydney Airport Master Plan: the national interest dictates that Sydney will need new airport capacity. A joint study between the Federal and NSW governments will be carried out to identify options, potential sites and evaluate investment strategies for delivering this additional airport capacity. The study's final terms of reference will be outlined later this year.

SACF members' positive comments on the level of noise sharing achieved through the use of Mode 15 and SODPROPS during the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) project are appreciated. I have noted the Forum's support for the continuation of the use of Mode 15 following the completion of the RESA project. As you know, this is a new mode that was specifically brought in to assist noise sharing during the RESA project. However, I am advised there are questions around the environmental implications of adopting this mode on a permanent basis. I am now seeking advice on this from my Department and Airservices Australia.

I recognise the Forum's support for the continuation of the Aviation Community Advocate (ACA) position and note the request for government funding for an ongoing Community Advocate position and for future SACF access to additional expert advice in the form of an established panel when the need arises. The creation of the Advocate position, and the contribution made by Mr Tony Williams, have clearly brought benefits for SACF members and in a number of cases, the airport community. While I recognise SACF's strong arguments for the position to continue, given the Government's current constrained budgetary position resulting from the global financial crisis, I regret there are not sufficient funds for the Australian Government to provide further funding for this position. It is of course open to SACF members to consider other mechanisms for

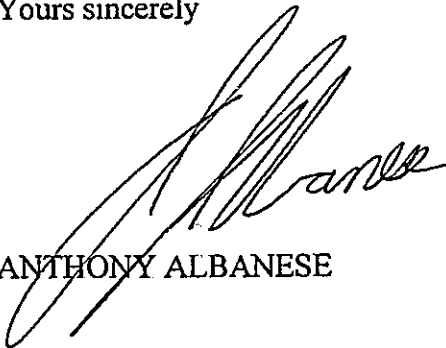
alternative sources of funding which could enable the services provided by a Community Advocate to be continued.

From time to time, as specific projects arise, there will be a need for the Forum to receive specialist expert advice. In such circumstances I am prepared to consider requests for assistance on a case by case basis. I also encourage SACF to avail itself of the technical and environmental resources of my Department, Airservices Australia and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. I look forward to SACF community representatives and the specialists in my portfolio agencies continuing to work together within the Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) to address the technical issues that arise out of the implementation of LTOP.

In an earlier letter you sought my agreement to appointing a community representative from the east to the Forum. I am considering this issue and will advise you of my decision in due course.

I thank SACF for its continued efforts in working with the airport to manage the impacts of noise and other operational issues on the Sydney community.

Yours sincerely

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

ANTHONY ALBANESE